

Citizen of the Year honoured

By JULIA LE
Staff

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Dorothy Tomiuk says she received some good advice from Mississauga builder Harold Shipp when he called her last month to congratulate her on being the recipient of the Gordon S. Shipp Memorial Award, named after his father.

"He said when the sun shines on

you, smile," said Tomiuk in delivering her acceptance speech at the 2012 Civic Awards yesterday afternoon in the Civic Centre's Great Hall.

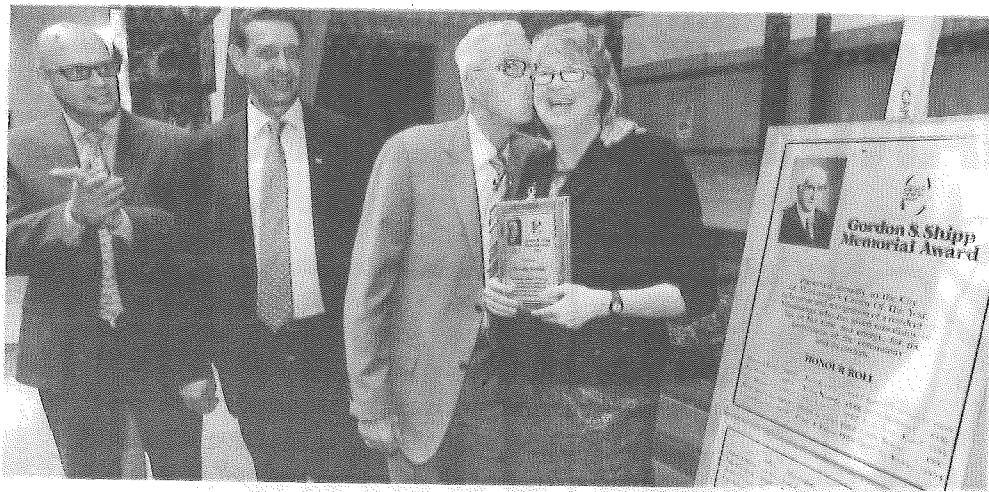
Mississauga's newest Citizen of the Year told a crowd that included some of Mississauga's most influential and prominent residents that she certainly feels like the sun is shining on her — and she's definitely smiling

from ear to ear.

Tomiuk received a standing ovation when she was presented with the annual award, which recognizes a Mississauga resident who has given their time and energy for the betterment of the community.

Her tireless efforts as a grassroots activist for nearly 10 years were applauded, as well as her genuine

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Mississauga's newest Citizen of the Year Dorothy Tomiuk is congratulated by Harold Shipp during the 2012 Civic Awards Reception held yesterday in the Great Hall of the Civic Centre. With them are, from left, *The Mississauga News* general manager Rob Leuschner and Mississauga Real Estate Board president Fawzi Mattar.

Staff photo by Rob Beintema

Resident 'proud' of award

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love of the city and the people who call Mississauga home.

The grassroots activist, best known as the voice of MIRANET (Mississauga Residents' Associations Network), said she's had a lot of help along the way, particularly from mentors (and past Gordon S. Shipp Memorial Award winners) such as Ward 1 Councillor Jim Tovey and Hugh Stewart. She also credits Janis Alton, who started the community group, the Port Credit Village Project.

"I know how to be a positive, productive citizen thanks to them," Tomiuk said, adding she's part of a group of citizens dedicated to making Mississauga the best city in which to live and raise a family.

Tomiuk, who's also involved with the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee and Town of Port Credit Association, said it's energizing and inspiring knowing people who can work collectively, in a positive and constructive manner, "with the City and other levels of the government to promote the inter-

ests of Mississauga residents and contribute to the city's success."

Tomiuk also thanked her family for being there for her time and again.

She said she doesn't take winning the award lightly.

"I've been asked many times what this award means to me and what I'll do now, and I'll tell you this is the most encouraging thing that could ever happen to me and I will do my very utmost to live up to it," she said. "Everyone sees this as affirming the role of citizens in the life of the city. It's recognition of the volunteer civic work that so many of us do and I'm so very proud to accept this award in that spirit."

The awards ceremony, hosted each year by *The Mississauga News* and the Mississauga Real Estate Board, also honoured Dave Evans as Mississauga Firefighter of the Year, John Raposo with the Police Merit Award and David Mosley with the Ronald E. Sanderson Community Service Award.

jle@mississauga.net