

Citizen of the Year

Edna Toth is tops

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Edna Toth

A tireless advocate for the city's most vulnerable and down-trodden residents has been named as Mississauga's 31st Citizen of the Year.

Octogenarian Edna Toth, chair of the volunteer-based Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG), will receive the Gordon S. Shipp Memorial Award, in recognition

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of her efforts and achievements on behalf of Mississauga's hungry and homeless, at a Civic Centre ceremony on May 19.

Toth was selected from among a list of nominees that included builders of seniors' homes, concentration camp survivors, environmental advocates, little league coaches and long-time church volunteers.

Previous winners include developer Ignat Kaneff, realtor Diane Kalenchuk, businessman Laurie Williamson, Dr. Colin Saldanha

and the late Sam McCallion, former publisher of *The Mississauga Booster*.

Toth, who celebrated her 80th birthday at the Knight's Table, a Peel food bank, by raising more than \$2,000 for "the people I work with and represent," said she wasn't looking for recognition when she began volunteering to help women, children and families who had little hope and fewer opportunities.

"It just seemed to be the sensible thing to do," said Toth, who feels "honoured" to be included among the 31 volunteers who have been named

Citizen of the Year since 1980.

"Her efforts to make life better for people who require assistance are very time-consuming, but Edna's no quitter," said Sherway resident Irene Gabon in nominating Toth. "She knows and she believes that a remedy and a cure (for hunger and homelessness) will be found."

Praising Toth's "consistent perseverance and positive attitude," Gabon defined the former journalist as "a great ambassador for the poor and a champion for those who have no voice."