

Let Big Bk.
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HW
Helen Tucker on a peace mission

Tucker, Helen

Mississauga's global granny goes to Moscow

World citizen No. 20727 on the go again

By MIKE BEGGS
Special to *The Mississauga News*

For the past 50 years, Helen Tucker has waged a relentless fight for world peace.

Next month, the 84-year-old Mississauga peace activist is off to the Soviet Union as part of a Grandmothers For Peace mission.

Tucker, who refers to herself as world citizen No. 20727, was the only Canadian woman invited to join the group of about 40 grandmothers from around the world. They'll leave May 28.

"Canadian women have done this before. We toured 10 countries in Europe in '65. I'm going back to my beginnings," she says.

Tucker founded the Voice of Women peace group in 1960 and took the group to Moscow and other major cities in 1965. Eleven years later they took part in the March Of The Boyne peace rally in Northern Ireland.

Tucker says she is encouraged by the work of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, and hopes to meet with

him on the trip. "I would say, 'We appreciate your Glasnost up to this point, but let's go all the way together. Let's make (Earth) flag our common flag,'" The Earth Flag stands for "One flag, one people, one planet," she says.

Tucker says she saw some of her campaigning pay off recently, when the City joined the United Nations in raising the Earth flag on March 20. But for Tucker, founder of World Citizens-Canada and director of the International Citizens Registry of Canada, it was only a first step.

She says she will continue to fight to see the Earth flag installed as a permanent fixture in every local school and at the Civic Centre, to be raised daily.

To that end, she spoke to students at Clarkson Secondary School last week. "That's the next step. We're going to organize the youth of this country so they'll preserve the earth.

"We need some contemporary hippies," she says.



HELEN TUCKER
granny on the go