



Mississauga South MPP Doug Kennedy (left) looks on as Lieutenant-Governor John Black Aird pins the Medal for Good Citizenship on Mississauga resident Gene Walser. Walser was one of 13 Ontarians who received the award last Wednesday. (Staff Photo by Tim Chevrier)

Good citizen receives award

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A Mississauga man was one of 13 Ontario residents who last Wednesday received the Ontario government's Medal for Good Citizenship in recognition of their outstanding contributions to society.

Gene Walser, who spends most of his spare time working to help the disabled, was awarded a silver medal by Lieutenant-Governor John Black Aird at ceremonies that took place in the Legislature building.

The judges, a nine-member advisory council chaired by Professor Andrew MacFarlane of the University of Western Ontario, said Walser was one of those chosen because "he has over the years eased in significant ways the lives of many people in wheelchairs, or who are deaf or dumb."

Walser has invented several devices, one of which was designed to help quadriplegics eat and drink on their own and was also made a member of the Rehabilitation Engineering Society of North America for his contributions.

Under the Community Service Order program of the Elizabeth Fry Society, Walser draws on young offenders who might otherwise be in jail as his assistants to help the handicapped.