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# Having way too much fun to quit Jean Whitall lends a helping hand

NOT FOR CIRCULATION

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Staff Writer

Rain or shine, wind or snow, there's one thing that never changes at the corner of Mississauga and Lakeshore Rds. — a reliable fixture named Jean Whitall, who for 20 years now has been helping youngsters cross roads safely in the Port Credit area.

While Jean has worked most corners in Port Credit, she has manned her current post for 12 years, giving her ample time to watch youngsters grow from tiny tots to mature young people.

"It's strange seeing them grow up over the years," said Jean. "I watch them from kindergarten right through to high school."

Jean says that to enjoy working as a crossing guard you have to love children.

"You have to enjoy the kids," she said. "If you haven't got the patience you might as well forget it."

The kids at Jean's crossing reciprocate these feelings of friendship by giving their crossing guard school artwork, hockey cards, stickers and pin-on buttons.

"They keep me up on the

latest hockey scores and TV shows," said Jean. "The odd one will even stand and talk to you for quite a while."

Jean's job as a crossing guard began in October 1964 when she applied to the Port Credit Police Department for the job.

"It kind of interested me because I like kids, it was close to home, and I would be off work when my own kids were off," she said.

The only thing that angers Jean about her work, is the thoughtlessness of some drivers who refuse to stop or who speed through red and orange lights, endangering the lives of both the crossing guard and children.

"I just get so mad at them sometimes," she said. "Can't they read my sign?"

In her private life, Jean has been married to husband Jack for 37 years, has five children, six grandchildren, a dog named Suzie, and a cat named Boots.

At times, Jean considers giving up her job and is tempted by the easy life of retirement.

"I always say I'm going to quit — but I enjoy it too much."



Jean Whitall considers helping kids across the road every day the perfect job. Enjoying the spring sunshine and the company of young kids is everything Jean wants from her task.

(Staff photo by Tim Chevrier)