

CARMELA ZITA KAPELERIS WINS RONALD E. SANDERSON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Lenora Farrell photo

Carmela Zita Kapeleris is this year's Ronald E. Sanderson Community Service Award winner, presented by The Mississauga News and Mississauga Real Estate Board.

AWARD HONOURS REALTOR WHO GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND IN COMMUNITY

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In Carmela Zita Kapeleris' opinion, she has just joined some elite company.

The Mississauga Realtor is this year's Ronald E. Sanderson Community Service Award winner, presented by The Mississauga News and Mississauga Real Estate Board as part of the annual Mississauga Civic Awards of Recognition ceremony.

Each year, the award is presented to a member of the Mississauga Real Estate Board with more than five years experience and whose exceptional volunteerism in the city has had a positive impact on the community.

"From the feedback I'm getting from my peers and colleagues, it's one of the highest awards a Realtor can get in their local community," said Zita Kapeleris, a ReMax Realty broker, who cited her nominators, Helen Goljak and Asha Singh as previous winners. "It's very coveted, I would say. I know it's been around for a long time."

Zita Kapeleris will be recognized - along with several other Civic Award winners - at this

year's reception on Thursday, April 25 at the Mississauga Civic Centre.

Throughout her career, Zita Kapeleris has been committed to countless volunteer efforts, including ones with World Vision, Million Dollar Smiles, Basket Brigade Canada, Children's Miracle Network and Adopt-A-Senior for LOFT Community Service.

Last year, she was named among REP Magazine and Key Media's Top 20 Elite Women, received the philanthropist of the year award from Brilliant Minded Women Organization, ran for separate school trustee in Ward 4 and was nominated for business person of the year by the Mississauga Board of

Trade.

She's passionate about giving back to the community in any way she can and credits that to her father, Liberato Zita, for instilling that value in her at a young age.

Before he died in 2007, Liberato was heavily involved in the community, raising funds for ShareLife and United Way among his many endeavours.

"It resonates with my own ethical beliefs because it's the way I grew up," Zita Kapeleris said.

"My family was like that and my father was a leader in the community. It's just something that comes natural to me, a passion that's straight from the heart."