



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Municipality of Mississippi Mills
3131 Old Perth Rd · Almonte ON · K0A 1A0

Phone: 613-256-2064

Fax: 613-256-4887

E-mail: clowry@mississippimills.ca

August 25, 2022

Community Builder Award – Sherryl Smith

This nominee is a force to be reckoned with. She is a tireless community advocate and a bold and compelling leader. Sherryl Smith is driven by her desire to help people. As a trained nurse, she was a practitioner, educator, policy maker and builder of networks designed to facilitate access to resources.

In retirement, Sherryl has used these same skills and knowledge as a community champion with a long list of community activities and ways she is involved in bettering our community.

In 2015 she co-founded Bridging Generations, an organization whose goal is to advocate for Pakenham to become an age-friendly community. Part of her role is to liaise with Pakenham Public School and help ensure a healthy relationship with the young families in the village.

With her public health background, Sherryl has an interest in the environment, including clean drinking water and wastewater facilities. This led her to organize an open house featuring a panel of experts to inform residents about alternative wastewater systems, improved systems, rules and regulations in the industry and what homeowners' should consider for their properties. At the Pakenham Fair in 2017, she organized a trade show with vendors demonstrating new wastewater systems and functionality. Sherryl also facilitated a child-friendly, interactive and experiential program which provided a hands-on approach to learn about water and watershed health.

Sherryl is a member of the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust and spearheaded the Festival of the Wild Child held annually at the High Lonesome Nature Reserve. She is also Board member of the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit. Earlier this year she worked with the Health Unit to host a COVID vaccination clinic in Pakenham to make it easier for residents to access vaccine appointments. She volunteered to become a member of the Lanark Ontario Health Team organizing committee on behalf of Bridging Generations to advocate for age-friendly services.

One comment from her nomination form shares that,

“[Sherryl] has been contributing to this community for many years and is likely just hitting her stride. She is a leader, a visionary, a hard worker and a very positive and sharing person.”

Another statement reads: “I want to acknowledge Sherryl for her activities in the health sector that she carries out on behalf of our community – the equity issue is front and centre – ensuring that rural residents have access to health care and community resources that are available to others across the province. Sherryl’s efforts on both the LGL District Health Unit and especially the Ontario Health Team will have long term effects on residents in Mississippi Mills, will enrich the lives of many and impact the community for the better.”

Another support letter states: “Sherryl is a focused individual; she displays leadership and a commitment to change but is not afraid to put in the work to make it happen. Pakenham is privileged to count Sherryl Smith as one of our own and I encourage Mississippi Mills Council to celebrate her active involvement and contributions.”

On behalf of Mississippi Mills Council, I’d like to recognize Sherryl Smith for her years of dedication and leadership and present her with the Community Builder Award.

Sincerely,



Christa Lowry
Mayor of Mississippi Mills