

CITATION FOR RUTH SHANNON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2016

Ruth Shannon has had an extremely diversified, time consuming career as a volunteer, all the while fulfilling her roles as wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, friend and farmer. Her marriage in the mid 1970's and subsequent partnership in the family dairy farm have presented opportunities to offer her services in various capacities to the Frontenac Federation of Agriculture, the Frontenac Plowmen's Association and the Agriculture in the Classroom Program, as well as her children's schools and her church. In recent years, Ruth's energy has been directed towards fundraisers for Cheryl Dickson, a fellow dairy farmer seriously injured in a tragic farm accident, and McKenna's Dream, the project of a young cancer survivor aimed at helping families like her own through the difficulties of a life threatening disease.

For over 40 years, the one volunteer opportunity which has been a constant in Ruth's life is her commitment to the 4-H program. Many a child has spent Saturday mornings in the Shannon kitchen, not only learning to cook and sew, but how to be responsible, to help others to realize that few mistakes are made that cannot be corrected if you only try. Ruth has filled many local 4-H Association executive positions over the years, and has represented the Frontenac 4-H at the regional and provincial levels. Each October she organizes the Frontenac 4-H Annual Pork Barbeque, which for 20 years has been the major fundraiser for the 4-H Association. She always has time to mentor new club leaders and to offer advice to more seasoned volunteers, sharing her wealth of knowledge and experience.

Ruth Shannon possesses all the qualities an excellent volunteer should: dependability, organization, dedication, responsibility, genuine kindness. The members of the Frontenac 4-H Association are very appreciative that Ruth has chosen to share these attributes with them. The residents of this community are most fortunate to have Ruth Shannon call South Frontenac "home".