

IN PRAISE OF FIONA COWLES, 1939-2013

Fiona's numerous and varied contributions to our community, including KTHS, would fill many newsletters. Here is the citation for her successful nomination as King Township's 2013 Citizen of the Year.

A group of King Township leaders wishes to suggest the naming of Fiona Cowles as 2013 Citizen of the Year and we have assembled below a statement in support of this nomination which incorporates the opinions and observations that underline Fiona's many activities and personal attributes which qualify her for this honour. The group represents many members of the former King Heritage Committee, the CCKT, the King Township Historical Society, The Oak Ridges Trail Association, All Saints' Anglican Church, Friends of Shift, the Special Olympics, and individuals from all walks of life who admire and respect Fiona Cowles' continuing contributions to keeping King Township green, alert and flourishing.



Fiona Cowles passionately believes that the preservation and celebration of our township's history contributes to a rich, well-balanced, and livable community. As former co-chair of Heritage King, Fiona guided the Committee through a wide variety of projects while always upholding the goal of heritage preservation. She demonstrates unusual skill in persuading those who do not share her vision to understand the importance of heritage to the well-being of King.



Fiona's unique ability to build consensus appears in other spheres of her life, including her devoted service to All Saints' Anglican Church. As church warden she has been called upon to navigate many personnel, building and financial issues, and she does so with unfailing grace and diligence. Fiona has always been involved in planning consultations and many of her astute suggestions have been included in the finished documents. Fiona has served as both Secretary and Chair of Concerned Citizens of King, and she emphasizes clear and effective communication in documents as well as in oral presentations.



On the environmental front, Fiona utilized her training as a geographer as a member of the original steering committee "that gave life to the concept of ... public recreation trails across the Moraine." Fiona took part in the formation of the Oak Ridges Trail Association, and she became the first Chair of the King Chapter. Fiona has applied her cartographic experience to the production of the very successful ORTA Guide-book, and she contributed an article to the milestone volume, Oak Ridges Moraine, published by the STORM Coalition in 1997. Most recently Fiona rallied influential support for the township's designation of Richard Serra's internationally renowned installation, SHIFT, which was built on privately owned farmland in 1972.

Ever persevering and altruistic, Fiona is truly the quintessential volunteer. No one is more deserving of the township's accolade, Citizen of the Year.

