

Louise Goldsmith picked citizen of the year

April 6, 2011
By Francis Baker - News Express Staff

Dancer, artist, and longtime volunteer Louise Goldsmith has been named Centre Wellington's Citizen of the Year.

Goldsmith was "ambushed" Monday afternoon by Chamber of Commerce representatives, township Mayor Joanne Ross-Zuj, and media during a singalong in the main lounge at Wellington Terrace, where she now lives.

"This is a big surprise," she said as chamber reps presented her with various gifts, including a commemorative afghan showing scenes from Centre Wellington life.

"Well I'm thrilled of course," she said later. "Today is absolutely wonderful, thank you so much."

At 98, Goldsmith remains an active member of Wellington Terrace's volunteer team, teaching two art appreciation classes to residents and visiting one-on-one, writes volunteer co-ordinator Mary Black Gallagher.

Goldsmith started her own art program at the Terrace soon after moving there in 2006. She gently encourages other residents to take part, spends time with each student to encourage them while teaching, and sketches all the pictures residents paint, Black Gallagher says.

For the past four years, she's planned and organized her students' annual Art Exhibit in the Terrace's main lounge, showcasing the work of residents as well as her own.

"Louise is an inspiration to others, with her ongoing positive and hopeful manner in every aspect of her life," Black Gallagher writes. "It is truly a joy to meet and get to know Louise, and we are very proud of, and thankful for her fundamental participation as a member of our volunteer team ... Louise has a love and exuberance for life that many others 60 or 70 years younger struggle to muster up on a good day."

A "volunteer extraordinaire" with the Wellington County Museum, Goldsmith participated in all levels of the museum's education program, special events and feature days. She also volunteered with the Groves Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary and Groves Volunteer Association, and other groups. With four degrees from the Royal Academy of Dance, Goldsmith operated three different dance studios in Toronto, and was one of four Canadians who became fully trained and certified Children's Graded Examiners - while pursuing hobbies of ballet, piano, organ, classical music, swimming, horseback riding, travelling and painting. Her original artwork graced a commemorative bookmark for the 85th Arts Anniversary of the Royal Academy of Dance, and became a Heritage Day poster.

After retiring, she moved to Fergus in 1992, expecting to stay for about five years - and is still here, she said.

Described by one friend as a "paragon of courage," she was determined to walk again after one leg was amputated below the knee - and succeeded. A second amputation prompted her move into the Terrace, where "she can be seen zooming around ... on her electric cart" - although she still walks short distances with the aid of a cane.

"I'm quite happy here," she said of the Terrace.

"I was just writing a letter to a friend in Kingston and said nothing much exciting had happened here," she said as local media took pictures of her posing with friends, Terrace staff, and well-wishers. "This is the most exciting thing that's happened to me."

Font Size [S](#) [M](#) [L](#)



BLOWOUT AUCTIONS TODAY



Nikon Coolpix 12.1 MP Camera

Retail: \$115

Bid: **\$10.96**

00:09

Save: **92%**



32 GB Apple iPad 3Gs

Retail: \$649

Bid: **\$30.67**

00:10

Save: **71%**



Beats by Dr. Dre Headphones

Retail: \$295

Bid: **\$12.76**

00:09

Save: **87%**



13.3" Apple MacBook Pro

Retail: \$1250

Bid: **\$156.51**

00:08

Save: **74%**

Don't Get Ripped Off
Save up to 90% Off

BID NOW

QuiBids

SouthwesternOntario.ca

Site Specific

[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[Corporate Sales](#)
[Feedback](#)
[Site Map](#)
[Subscribe](#)
[Terms of Use](#)
[Work For Us](#)

Local Sites

[Arthur Enterprise News](#)
[Elmira Independent](#)
[Exeter Times-Advocate](#)
[Fergus-Elora News Express](#)
[Listowel Banner](#)
[Minto Express](#)
[Mount Forest Confederate](#)
[Regional Country News](#)

Affiliates

[InsuranceHotline.com](#)
[Save.ca](#)
[Toronto.com](#)
[Workopolis.com](#)

Partners/Daily Newspapers

[DailyWebTV.com](#)
[Goldbook.ca](#)
[MyHolidayHomeRental.com](#)
[The Guelph Mercury](#)
[The Hamilton Spectator](#)
[The Toronto Star](#)
[The Waterloo Region Record](#)
[OurFaves.com](#)

metrolandmedia

torstar digital

SouthwesternOntario.ca
St. Mary's Journal Argus
Stratford Gazette
Walkerton Herald-Times
WinghamAdvance-Times

© Copyright Metroland 2010 | Metroland Media Group Ltd. | Corporate Privacy Policy