

Head, Clara & Maria Townships' Senior of the Year for 2022 – Cathy Sutherland

I would like to nominate Cathy SUTHERLAND for SENIOR OF THE YEAR. I think 'senior of the year' should be a person who, unsolicited, and unremunerated, works to improve the lives of all in the community by sharing gifts and talents to make our space a better place for all. I believe Cathy to be that person.

Her many hours and dedication to her volunteer commitments have enriched my life and I assume many others also not only in our townships but far further afield.

Cathy was born and raised here, moved away and raised a family. Then later, as an empty nester, she and her husband 'Suds' moved back here to spend their retirement in our little piece of paradise. Sadly, her beloved died prematurely of complications from kidney disease and Cathy was left alone on the family homestead. Besides being a loving and caring mom and grandmother, she is fiercely independent and even splits and piles her own wood!

Cathy has incredible organization skills and a quiet unassuming leadership style that have made all of her endeavors here in our Township beneficial for all. She has served tirelessly on the library board using her background in accounting and economics to balance the books and keep everything (and everyone) organized. She has been the lead in all the fundraiser activities making it possible for us all to enjoy a local library that is well equipped way beyond the provincial funding available.

Cathy is the contact person for our local history project which entails receiving, recording, collating and storing data that is archived to help future and former residents researching their roots in HCM.

She has also been a major contributor to the success of the local snowmobile club. She volunteered her time and offered her financial expertise for the Missing Link Snowmobile Club "BowTie Classic", counted all the money and balanced the books. She worked 'draw nights for the 'catch the ace' fundraiser for the DRDH foundation tabulating the money so that it corresponded with the ticket sales.

She also was instrumental in introducing and running a weekly fitness program in the town hall that had to be discontinued due to covid 19 protocols.

Cathy and her family support and organize the Annual Sutherland Slo-Pitch Tournament and kidney walk in Pembroke to raise funds for the Kidney Foundation. She is a gem in our midst and I believe is well deserving of this special recognition. I hope the committee agrees.

Respectfully,
Dianne Murphy

