

Volunteer at forefront of helping to keep seniors active and healthy during pandemic



Isolation has hit all of us during the global pandemic, with our eldest family members, friends and neighbours often the hardest hit.

This is a reality that has been recognized by the Aurora Seniors' Centre throughout the pandemic, and they have been diligently working to ensure their programs can continue virtually and, wherever and whenever possible, in person.

Jane Snape has been integral in their efforts. A volunteer with the Aurora Seniors Association, she was recognized by the Town of Aurora with its 2021 Senior Volunteer Award for her efforts to keep the Centre up and running.

The Award is presented each year through the Town's Community Recognition Awards program, to a citizen aged 55 and older who has made a significant contribution to the community through their volunteer work and has demonstrated their commitment to being a positive leader today and in the future.

Jane is organized, efficient, and can always be seen with a smile on her face, said Mayor Tom Mrakas who presented the award virtually. As a pickleball volunteer, she's responsible for the coordination of their schedule, keeping players and staff informed, and teaches new players the game. She can also be found at the reception desk or in the kitchen of the Centre where she is happy to assist members with anything they need.

During the pandemic, Jane has spearheaded a new puzzle delivery program for the Aurora Seniors' Centre and sits on the Aurora Seniors' Association's Reopening Committee. If this wasn't enough, Jane has also given her time to create and donate nearly 100 masks to older adults in the community. These efforts have made a significant impact to these individuals' lives. Whether they are grateful to receive a puzzle or have a quick chat, or are crying tears of gratitude for helping keep them safe, it's all thanks to Jane and her unwavering support.

On her part, Ms. Snape said it didn't feel right to receive an award for things I really enjoy doing.

I have Karie (Papillon) and the Aurora Seniors' Centre team to thank for nominating me and creating a warm, creative and active place to spend many volunteer hours, said Ms. Snape. I am proud to be a member of the Reopening Committee of the Seniors' Association and with the backing of the Board of Directors, we will ensure our Centre, which plays a huge part in the social life of the seniors of this area, will be safe and welcoming when it is permitted to open again.

This will be a reward in itself for me, but I sincerely thank the Town for the award.

By Brock Weir Editor Local Journalism Initiative Reporter