

Joyce Loreen (MacDonald) Vaughan

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. Welcome to our Annual Citizen of the Year which has been going on for the past 17 years. This is the community's opportunity to thank those people who work quietly for the benefit of our community both publically and privately.

This year we are recognizing and thanking Joyce Vaughan who has earned the title of "Good Will Ambassador" and whose reputation is known among the 3 Great Lakes and beyond. Joyce promotes the Town of Bruce Mines and the area where she goes. Not only was this lady recognized and one of the best if not the best Marina Manager in the area but she has developed a reputation for community spirit and getting involved in community affairs. When Joyce sees a job to be done, she does it. When Joyce is asked to help with a project, Joyce travels that extra mile to make certain that job is done well.

Joyce is known for her work with the Union Library, the Medical Centre, the Museum, the Simpson Mine Shaft to name a few. Joyce can be the diplomat, the gracious hostess, a mentor of students, not afraid to get her hands greasy with motor repairs, sets high standards for her students and in turn for herself and is never afraid to take on something new and challenging. Joyce also has her private generous side as she is always there for those who need her help.

Yet this lady has talents we haven't seen yet. Joyce has been around the block more than once and her experiences in life have made her very sensitive to others needs and concerns. Her modesty hides her very broad life experiences and what we see is only a scratch on the surface.

So where did this lady hail from and how is it that we are so fortunate to have her in our community.

Going back to Joyce's paternal grandparents:

Grandparents: Alex MacDonald - a small time logger
Mary (MacKenzie) MacDonald formerly of Poplar Dale.
- lived in Thessalon
- had 7 children including John Alexander MacDonald

Parents: John Alexander MacDonald - a logger since age 13 + farming
Gertrude Eveline Moor of Ophir
- lived in Ophir
- had 11 children - 10 daughters and 1 son
- they farmed the Moor farm along with their logging and working for Canada Post as a Mail Carrier.

Children:
The eldest of the 11 children is:
Joyce Loreen MacDonald Vaughan d.o.b. June 18, 1938
- born in the Thessalon Hospital
- the eldest of 11 children, 10 girls and 1 boy

Joyce's siblings include:

Reta Pecora
Hazel Evans
Gladys MacMillan (dec'd in 1984)
Jean Durling
Shirley Rice
Donna White
Darlene LaBelle
Garry MacDonald
Glennis LeSuik
Betty Lou MacDonald

Joyce's comments about her childhood were: "had a really happy childhood"; "had no idea they were poor" and "was really pleased with being part of 10 girls and 1 boy. Enough kids for a ball team with their very own bat boy" (Mother was not impressed). That in a nutshell will give you some idea of the person we are talking about tonight - a very happy and positive person.

In addition to the above, wise Grandmotherly advice came to Joyce early in her life: "Joyce, you will not get anywhere in life unless you learn some manners, quit smelling like a horse, comb your hair and do something about the bad temper!" Joyce did much more and better than grandmother's advice!

Youth (Pre Public School):

That reference to smelling like a horse had some merit as horses were the focus of Joyce's young life. Joyce started riding by herself when she was 4 years old. Joyce started out with a Clyde type, whose name was Dick, and over the years there was Dan, Silver, Tootsie and Bing with a bronco or two thrown in for good measure.

In her youth instead of taking the big work horse over to the fence in order to climb upon the fence and then onto the horse, Joyce would usually mount her hefty steed by running up to it from the rear, placing her hands on the rump and raise herself up and over the rear of the horse onto its back and with Joyce on its back the horse would break into a gallop. Joyce would dazzle the other kids by having the horse rear up on its hind legs with Joyce on its back in full control.

Being the eldest of 11 children, it has been said that Joyce was the great protector for the middle children. Those with the middle children syndrome would be, on occasion, disagreeable for the sake of being disagreeable and Joyce would always come to their protection.

Competitiveness in Joyce can be seen in her involvement with cousin Ronny MacDonald from that big city place called Thessalon. This country girl had to best him at everything they did. When those 2 got together, trouble had to be close behind them and Joyce has scars to prove it. Trouble - like the time the MacDonald family visited a circus in Bruce Mines and upon their return home, Joyce put on her prettiest bathing suit and posed along the barn wall while cousin Ronny MacDonald threw knives at her just like they did at the circus. Don't let anyone tell you

that Ronny is an accurate knife thrower and thank God for father John A. being around to stop that little exercise.

Adventuresome, Joyce loved Dale Evans and for hours Joyce would practice roping and lariat throwing both off and on the horse and frequently catching only herself.

If you are going to be something to somebody then you must promote yourself and make yourself known. This came to Joyce at an early age. To Joyce, wherever there were cattle, there was a ranch. Since the MacDonald's had cattle, then they must be a ranch. Ranch's have neat names the most common being the "Double X Ranch". Realizing the importance of presentation, Joyce found an old board and some brown paint and made a sign "XX Ranch". Mother gave slight notice to the Ranch sign. Joyce then went out into the barn with a pair of scissors and clipped away until every cow had XX on her flank. Now that caught mother's attention and anger. That whole summer Joyce had to take the cows to the farthest field every morning and fetch them every night as mother was terrified that someone from the community might see them. This was totally beyond Joyce. At least she didn't brand them with a red hot iron !

Joyce has a vivid imagination - on occasions Joyce would stay overnight at Elsie Moor's place (about 100 yards away) and the 2 girls would spend the evening chatting and giggling before going to sleep. If the coal oil lamp was still lit, the girls would look at the water stains on the ceiling and pick out recognizable shapes or duck under the covers if they spotted something really scary.

Joyce knows how to present herself, or a project and this was also evident at an early age. Joyce would perform ballet, tap-dancing, a shatees demonstration and concert after concert in the comfort of the MacDonald Living Room before the family. Joyce would glide down the staircase with great scarves of flowing material billowing around and behind her in the performance of her own production.

Ophir Public School

1944 at age of 6 years, Joyce started school at the Ophir Public School where Laura McKay taught grades 1 to 8.

Ophir Public School is now the Ophir Community Centre

Joyce was born with the love to learn. Living across the road from the school young Joyce was anxious to start school before her time. Joyce would often wander over to the school and mingle with the grade ones and would slip into school only to be sent home by Mrs. MacKay.

Laura MacKay would allow preschoolers to come to school on Fridays. Laura MacKay was so smart and so sharing. Mrs. MacKay would read all the classics to the students and they would laugh along with her when Anne of Green Gables got tipsy on homemade wine, they cried over Black Beauty and Beautiful Joe and they were held in suspense when Jim had to deal with

Long John Silver.

Twice a week Laura MacKay would make hot meals for the students maybe pork and beans, sometimes soup. It is widely suspected that the School Board paid very little if anything for these special meals and that these special events were paid for by Mrs. MacKay personally.

(The wonderful influence Laura MacKay had on those fortunate people of Ophir and the area was recognized by the Chamber as Laura and the late Herb MacKay in 1991 as Citizens of the Year.)

There is no question that Laura MacKay had a tremendous influence on Joyce which gives us this wonderful lady we have here today.

Joyce's competitiveness was apparent as Joyce and her 2 contemporaries, Margaret McPhee and Jack MacKay jockeyed for first position in everything at school. Joyce would compete in school fairs in the various events.

A sense of community involvement comes early to country dwellers. Joyce's first volunteer work would be waiting on tables and doing dishes at the Ophir Fowl Suppers.

Likewise the value of hard work and being financially independent came early to Joyce.

In her pre-teen years, Joyce would trap with her father and the rabbit skins were hers to sell. Joyce's really big money maker was collecting and selling horse hair from the manes and tails to a company who repaired antique furniture. The MacDonald horses had the best combed tails in the area. Joyce hit the jackpot when the Portelance Lumber Company would use the MacDonald barns as a rest stop for 2 or 3 days when they were taking their horses in to Camp 1 in the Fall and bring them back in the Spring. There were always 22 to 30 horses and Joyce would comb them until she thought her arms would drop off. That money was always good for at least 2 or 3 pairs of shoes.

Even at an early age, Joyce was not afraid of hard work and this independent gal went to Thessalon, lied about her age and started work at the Sinton Coffee Shop. Joyce roomed and boarded in Thessalon at this young and tender age.

1952 Joyce graduated from grade 8 at the Ophir Public School.

After graduation, Joyce walked into Steel City Transport's office in Sault Ste. Marie sat down in front of the owner, Jim Young and asked for a job and got it. That took confidence and courage !

Bruce Mines Continuation School

1952 at age 14 Joyce went to the Bruce Mines Continuation School from grades 9 to 12 and commuted daily with bus driver, Johnny Singleton.

* was a member of Young People's called the "Rydal Bank Northernlights"

In Grade 10 Joyce won the Junior Girls Competition in Track & Field held in Massey. The officials misspelled Joyce's name on the trophy which bothered her. So she returned the following year after practicing hard all year and won the Senior Girls Competition and this time the trophy has the correct spelling.

Throughout her high school years, Joyce worked on the High School Newspaper

Joyce's awareness of other's needs came early and an example of Joyce's thoughtfulness is seen in the helping of Jack McPhee. Rudy and Ethel McPhee of Ophir had a physically handicapped son called 'Jack'. As a teenager, every day, Joyce would get up early and harness her pony to the sleigh and pick up young Jack McPhee and teacher Laura McKay and take them to the local 'pick-up spot' to meet the bus. Joyce would then return home to put away her pony and sleigh and then go to school

Not only did Joyce handle a full school term but she would work with Charlie and Kathleen Robinson of Rydal Bank being the first girl gas jockey in Rydal Bank as well as do oil changes on vehicles.

Her search for employment took her to Keetch's Copper Kettle where she worked in the kitchen and lived at Eva Wing's Home for Young Ladies. Joyce in later years would board at the Mac and Anna Mackenzie Home for Young Ladies where many of the Bell operators lived.

1955 at age 17 years Joyce graduated from Bruce Mines High School

1955 to 1957 Joyce went to Toronto for summer school at Teacher's College for 2 summers

During one of Joyce's summers in Toronto, Joyce would visit with Elsie Moor where she was living in a rooming house. A man who lived there told Elsie and Joyce that he could hypnotize people. He agreed to hypnotize Joyce, if Elsie would stay in the room. He proceeded just like a professional, which included giving her a post-hypnotic suggestion (which was, when he said a certain word, she would take three steps and then not be able to move.) He talked to Joyce about fishing and what a wonderful time they were having pulling in the fish and she was doing just that with great enjoyment. He talked to Joyce about watching cartoons and Joyce was watching the screen as if it were right before her. So she had a good time at the movies without leaving Elsie's room. Later Joyce did not remember anything about being hypnotized but she did try to cross the room the look of bewilderment on her face when she took three steps and then couldn't go any farther. That was one of the few times Joyce did not have control of the situation.

1955 to 1957 Joyce taught 2 years at the Poplar Dale School

1957 at the age of 19 years Joyce married Chuck Robinson of Rydal Bank, the son of Charlie and Kathleen Robinson.

1959 Joyce, Chuck and son Bradley moved to the Soo and for the next 8 - 10 years had 2 more sons. - had 3 sons

Bradley Robinson	born in 1958
Perry Robinson	born in 1960 & who drowned in 1979
Kelly Robinson	born in 1961

While living in the Soo Joyce concentrated on raising her 3 sons but she would take on home tutoring as well as some supply teaching usually grade 8s at many public schools - supplemented her income by selling Avon

Even while they lived in a small house and were working on a small budget, Joyce's home was always open as a refuge. When Elsie had to stay in the Soo to look after her mother (Eveline Moor) she would stay with Joyce and upon her return to Toronto Joyce would always pack a meal or two to help Elsie on her way for there was no money for restaurant meals.

Late 1960ies, Joyce and Chuck separated and Joyce taught in the Thessalon Public School as Principal's Supply for Blair Sterling

1968 - brief employment at the Carolyn Beach Motel

1969 obtained employment teaching at the Manpower Centre now Continuing Education of Sault College. There Joyce met a bright and dashing math and science teacher, named Bill Vaughan Bill invited Joyce to a Staff Christmas Event and that started it all.

1971 Bill and Joyce decided to be practical and they took up residency together. For the next 7 - 8 years Joyce taught English as a Second Language - then went into the English Department of Literature and Composition mostly for grades 9 and 10. By the mid 1970ies Joyce was given the position as Coordinator of Academic Assistance and later became Coordinator of Academic Upgrading and Non Traditional Trades for Women.

After 7 years of living with a guy she loves, and realizing that down deep it is really a lifelong commitment and you know everything you need to know about each other, and both of them have good secure financial positions as teachers Joyce and Bill decided to be married on June 30, 1978. Whereupon Bill decided to take a career change and left Sault College, bought a skidder to work in the great outdoors that he loved. There that goes to show ya....never trust a man!..... I will admit I am taking some artistic licence here but we have to thank Bill for he was the one who brought Joyce back to us.

1980 Joyce also left Sault College, sold her house in the Soo and moved back to Ophir where they lived in a trailer on the MacDonald Farm.

1981 father John MacDonald died and Joyce and Bill moved in with mother, Gertrude, renovated the house and developed a very special relationship with her mother.

With the death of father John A. MacDonald, Joyce and Bill moved in with Gertrude and

a special relationship developed among the 3 of them, particularly between mother and daughter Joyce

During the next 8 - 9 years Joyce worked at a variety of jobs all of which were considerably different from that of teaching.

- tree planting for the MNR
- a packer operator as well as a flagger for several construction companies that were rebuilding Hwy. 638 through Leeburn.
- belonged to the Havilah Fire Department
- pasted all her tests except the "blind search" I leave it to you to ask Joyce what a "blind search" consists of.

1988 Joyce answered an ad for Student Supervisor for the Town of Bruce Mines. Joyce was hired on to look after the summer students hired by the town to care for the Marina, Tourist Park, Museum and Town Cleanup Crew

1989 - Joyce and Bill moved to Bruce Mines to be closer to the amenities of a slightly larger community.

During this time Joyce's other talents come forth.

1992 Joyce and Elsie Moor went to New York to see a huge Matisse show in the Museum of Modern Art. While so many of the people around them were puzzled by the broad aspect of Matisse's work, Joyce was just soaking it up and having a wonderful time even though it took them 2 full days at the Museum of Modern Art to cover it all.

Joyce has a real appreciation for art. Joyce has insight into artistic purpose and understands how it should be woven into the fabric of our lives to give it meaning, rather than hung on the edge like a fringe benefit. Joyce understands that art takes many forms.

Joyce enjoys the theatre and is no stranger to the Royal Alexandra Theatre, The Winter Garden Theatre, The Elgin Theatre and The Royal City Music Hall in New York City.

Ask Joyce what she thought about the performance "Forever Plaid"!

Joyce shares her joy and zest for life with others. On one occasion Joyce accompanied Elsie Moor (a newly emerged widow) to Australia and Joyce was a constant joy while Elsie rode the waves of emotion. Joyce was a tremendous comfort and took Elsie on experiences she never thought possible. At no time did Joyce ever say "Oh don't be silly, that's a stupid thing to do!" Joyce had Elsie living her life to its fullest and has pictures to prove it.

Joyce's concern and consideration of others follows her everywhere. On the Chicago trip Joyce and Elsie took in some of the local food. They visited a place for its pizza and even though Elsie told Joyce that all the guide books warned about the giant size of the establishment's pizza,

she would order large. When it arrived it looked like a wagon wheel sitting on the table. The ladies could not leave it behind, so after making a small dent in it, they took the rest 'to go' even though they were going to their hotel. After a bit of cold pizza for breakfast, they decided the rest had to go. The night before, they had noticed that there were street people near the hotel, so they went down and handed this huge culinary disk to an overwhelmed and grateful recipient. (Joyce probably reminded the ol' fella that she was from Bruce Mines - the best little place on the north shore of the Great Lakes and he should come and visit sometime.)

There are so many great stories about Joyce that I don't have enough time but this one I would like to mention.

Joyce's way with animals is becoming rather well known. On one occasion when Joyce's niece, Ila Barber, came over to the Vaughan residence for a visit. Ila started to make coffee when Joyce abruptly stated that she had to take her little dog for a walk. Ila thought the timing of this walk was a little ill timed but proceeded to pick up her coat to walk with Joyce and the dog. There was Joyce standing at the doorway with a flashlight shining the light on the driveway and moving the light beam up and down the driveway while the little dog was chasing it. Exhausted the dog had its run and returned indoors for the evening. If we all could train our dogs like that, it would be such a treat !

Never being able to sit still for very long Joyce became involved in the community. This is where we reap the benefits of Joyce's imagination, courage, competitiveness, ingenuity, and her high standards on doing a job well.

* when working on town projects, the town had no tools with which to do the job. Bill had a rather well stocked workshop and over the years Bill has gradually lost most of his tools many of which could probably be found around the Town workshop.

* when in charge of the Bruce Mines Marina, Joyce would lend her vehicle to visiting yachtsmen to run to the Soo for parts and repairs without giving it a second thought

* as a marina manager, Joyce was on duty 24 hours a day. She would conduct the late night check of all water craft to make certain everything was secure and there were no loitoters.

* During a Canada Day fireworks celebration the red hot cinders were falling on very expensive sailboats and yachts and Joyce spent the night hosing down the boats to minimize the scorch damage. Numerous of irrate visiting boaters were voicing their anger at this senseless damage and Joyce was in the midst of the turmoil long after closing hours trying to comfort and reassure the visitors to the Town.

* one year Joyce was supervisor for the Marine, the Park and the Mine Shaft.

- * whether or not it was on her job description Joyce has been seen pulling a little wagon with containers of water along main street watering the flowers and keeping the town beautiful.
- * has been a summer employee with the Town for 14 years
- * a volunteer at the Library circulation desk for 7 years
- * a dessert caller for the Gala for about 5 - 6 years
- * a volunteer where needed with the Journey of Love since its inception
- * a member of the Chamber for about 8 years
- * a member of the Museum Board and was a past chairman
- * very active on the Simpson Mine Shaft Committee
- * Joyce has been known to open up the Museum and Simpson Mine Shaft, when they were closed, to give visiting families a tour of the 2 establishments creating a lifetime of memories for those families and good will toward the town.
- * Joyce is upbeat and positive in her life, with others and with our community.
- * Joyce does not distinguish between the well to do yachtsman who needs a vehicle to go to the Soo to get a machine part and the less fortunate who needs a ride to town..
- * Joyce treats everyone around her as a work of art - she sees qualities in people that others may not see.
- * Likewise, Joyce loves her community for she sees great qualities that need attention and care to grow and flourish.
- * Joyce lives by example.
- * Joyce loves the youth for she sees them with experienced eyes of a teacher and one who has experienced life from one extreme to the other.
- * Joyce has the talent, the skills and the power to be a valuable contributing member of any city organization but she has chosen a small community to be the focus of her energies. There are organizations in the Soo that would love to have someone of Joyce's calibre with them and we have her for free.

In closing I would like to read to you a Letter to the Editor of the North Shore Sentinel published on May 05, 1999 titled "More Good Wishes for Bruce Mines Dockmaster". This letter was written by Shelley Miller of the Bluewater Yacht Club. It is as true today as it was 3 years

ago.

“On behalf of the Bluewater Yacht Club, we would like to recognize a North Shore treasure and ambassador of good will for the Town of Bruce Mines and in particular the Bruce Mines Marina dockmaster who decided to retire and enjoy her summers.

Joyce Vaughan’s hard work, professional attitude and wonderful warm personality has made docking at the Bruce Mines Marina a pleasure not only for the Blue Water Yacht Club members who hail from Wawa to Drummond Island, but for all the transient boaters as well.

It has been a tremendous relief to know that Joyce and her crew were on hand to meet our boats and efficiently and properly catch and ties our lines to ensure a safe docking. Joyce and the many dock attendants she has trained over the last 11 years were responsible for maintenance at the marina, which included cleaning the washrooms and attending to the grounds. Both of which were always impeccably clean and lovely looking.

The friendly impression Joyce has left with so many boaters over the years has been the main reason for many to come back again and again. All in all, it has been a pleasure for boaters to spend time in such a tidy, picturesque, cheery marina - the result of Joyce’s efforts and dedication.

We will miss you very much - Joyce.

The Blue Water Yacht Club.”

I might add the marina has never been the same since Joyce retired as dockmaster.

Joyce, we are very fortunate to have you in our midst and we want to tell you this evening how much you are appreciated and how much you mean to all of us.

Joyce, we love you and we are glad you are with us !

Respectively Submitted

Larry D. Peterson
February 22, 2002