

CITATION FOR MARY- JO DOWKER VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR FOR 2017

Mary-Jo Dowker is well known in Verona, especially in the softball community, having been involved for 11 years, most as convenor. This is a time consuming role that begins long before the softball season, usually in January or February and continues until fall. As convenor, Mary-Jo liaises with and represents Verona at the Frontenac County Minor Softball Association. She takes care of all the registration, recruiting of coaches, equipment and uniform maintenance, purchasing and organization. She also does all the scheduling for Verona/Hartington Softball and coordinates with the Frontenac County Minor Softball Association and the Inter-Community Softball Association to avoid conflicts.

Mary-Jo organizes umpires through the Limestone Umpire Association, acts as the Treasurer and fundraises too! Field maintenance, washrooms and clubhouse are all taken care of by her, in coordination with the Lions Club who owns the facilities. She has also been the Treasurer and Secretary of the Frontenac County Minor Softball Association. She has been a member of the Portland District Recreation Committee for 10 years and has been involved with minor hockey too!

In addition to all her work in local sports, she has been a member of the Christmas for Kids Committee in the Verona area for 10 years. When her children were young, she was an active member of Parent Council, holding the positions of Treasurer, Secretary and Vice-Chair.

As any volunteer knows, time is a precious commodity. Volunteering with a young family as Mary-Jo has, adds another layer to her commitment. It is with heartfelt thanks that the community relays their appreciation on behalf of the many children and families who have benefitted from her time and dedication.