

**CITATION FOR TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH FRONTENAC
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR
STORRINGTON DISTRICT 2005**

Awards like this honour individuals who are a privilege and a pleasure to be around. Volunteers are that uncommon phenomenon – true individuals who see themselves as lending a hand side-by-side with neighbours and friends. Of course, that is genuine leadership. Volunteer's lead by example, and no one more so than Sharon Freeman.

Volunteers like Sharon excel in the Shoulder- to-the-Wheel Department. She puts her shoulder to the wheel and the wheel moves – and the job gets done. So what may have began as a backyard party at the house of Sharon and the talented Will Freeman many moons ago is now the fun-and- funds generating family get together known as The Battersea Pumpkin Festival. 2006 will be the eleventh festival in Battersea Park.

Another wheel bearing the imprint of Sharon's dedicated shoulder is the Pumpkin Pie Live Music Series which is held in co-operation with the United Church Women in Battersea and which is about to begin its seventh season bringing people together for six great shows a year. Sharon was a charter member of the organizing committee of this series. Another wheel: the fabulous Feast of Fields, of which Sharon was the co-chairperson for the first two years. In 2006 she is also the chairperson of the Logo Design Committee for local foods, promoting our health and the environment for local farmers too. Here's a fifth wheel: Sharon has been an active volunteer at Storrington P.S. for eight years and there appears to be no end in sight. And the wheel just keeps on turning and that shoulder just keeps coming back for more. Volunteers like Sharon play the game of community building skillfully, effectively, fairly, compassionately, humbly and humorously.

This volunteer award is in recognition of all of this. Sharon Freeman is a type of artist, “not in the community” but “of it”, able to imagine a saner, healthier, happier, more equitable world and to actively strive to bring it about in a way that inspires each of us to be everything we can be. And to honour Sharon today is to honour that resilient volunteer spirit within us all. She instinctively acts in such a way that anybody in the vicinity can catch a spark from her creative fire. That is the essence of community service.

It's one of the remarkable things about a colourful, funky, feisty and dynamic person like Sharon that she seems to act so confidently out of a deep sense of life's abundance and bounty. We're fortunate that she is more than willing to share the wealth of spirit and enthusiasm, determination and grit within her. Our community is enriched in untold ways, Sharon, because you are always there for us.