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**Mrs. Gayle Lawr**

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 **Ms. Barb Carscadden**

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Celebrate Erin, April 23, 2016

It is our pleasure to nominate Gayle Lawr for a Shamrock Award of Merit with the Town of Erin.

Gayle has been a volunteer at East Wellington Community Services for the past 18 years. She works one day a week with us and spends her mornings working the front reception. She is always reliable making sure to never miss her shift. Most mornings you can catch her whistling a tune while she enters stats for the foodbank. She knows all the clients by name and is always engaging them in conversation to make them feel welcome. In the afternoon she works in our used clothing store, New to You. She sets up displays, sorts clothing and helps customers with their purchases. Her effort in keeping the store tidy and organized and her friendly smile give the customers a pleasant atmosphere to shop in while in turn helping to increase store sales. The revenue from the stores goes back into the operations of our programs and services.

On Sundays you will find Gayle at the Bethel House Hospice in the kitchen helping prepare meals for the families and patients. She delivers the meals to the rooms and sits and talks with the patients to offer them comfort during their last stages of life. When I asked her how she copes when dealing with end of life situations at the hospice she responded by saying “it is the BEST thing I have ever done in my life”. She has been with Bethel House since it opened 5 years ago.

Gayle also volunteers her time at the Belfountain Cemetery. She stepped into this role after her husband passed away 13 years ago. She looks after every aspect from selling and arranging burials, placing headstones as well as holding the position as Secretary and Treasurer.

Just when you think she could not have any spare time left, Gayle lends her beautiful voice to the Young at Heart Choir. She sings for various different groups in the community like Arc Industries, Bethel House, at the Town of Erin’s yearly tree lightning, for the Legion at the Remembrance Day ceremonies as well as at East Wellington Community Services seniors’ programs.

Gayle was a dedicated person in her professional life; working for Bell Canada for over 30 years and remains dedicated in her numerous volunteer positions. She is an absolute pleasure to work with and is an inspiration to us all.

Thank You Gayle for giving so much of your time to the community and making the difference in the lives of so many people.