

2005 AJAX CIVIC AWARD

All of the nominees for the Ajax Civic Award were of the highest caliber. The Selection Committee hope that they will be nominated again in future years.

The 2005 Ajax Civic Award recipient is WILLIAM PARISH.

It is significant that in this 50th Anniversary Year of the Town of Ajax, the Ajax Civic Award is presented to Bill Parish, Chairman and Founder of the Ajax Citizen Group formed to incorporate the "Improvement District of Ajax" into an official Town. Since 1952, Bill has called Ajax home and has continually dedicated himself to the betterment of his community. His long history of community involvement mirrors the historical progress of our community and his selfless devotion as a politician, volunteer and citizen has truly made Ajax a better place to live.

Bill Parish was elected to the first Ajax Town Council and topped the polls for six years, when municipal elections were held every year. He was the third Mayor of Ajax, elected yearly, from 1958 to 1963. As Mayor, in 1963, he attended the commissioning of the last HMS Ajax and extended the invitation for veterans to visit Ajax, and this stands as a lasting bond today. It was Bill's idea to name the Ajax streets after veterans of the HMS Ajax, a policy which stands today.

A lover of history, Bill was Chairman of the Historical Board and served on the Committee that wrote the first book - the "Pictorial History of Ajax 1941-1972".

Bill has received many honours over the years:

- He was awarded both the Silver and Golden Jubilee Medals by Queen Elizabeth 11
- In 1990- the Environment Award from PACT
- The Ontario Government Award for successive service as a member of Regional Council.
- The Ontario Association of Education Administrative Officials Award for services rendered to the educational community as Chief Executive Officer in the Ontario School System.
- Ajax Public Library Friend of the year Award in 1999.
- Friend of the Hospital Member.

And recently, the new Carruthers Creek Public School Library was named in his honour. For over 20 years, Bill has volunteered to help children read at Carruthers Creek, Lord Durham and Bolton C. Falby Public Schools. He has also given lectures on current affairs, history and politics to Ajax seniors for the past two decades.

In this 50th year of the Town of Ajax, it is only appropriate that we as a community recognize a person who, since even before the creation of Ajax, has served us so faithfully and effectively.