

NOMINATION PROCESS

All nominations will be reviewed by a Selection Committee and the successful candidate will be presented the award at the MS Society of Canada, Ottawa Chapter's MS Appreciation Brunch in February 2012.

NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

All nominations must contain the following information:

- A detailed outline of the nominee's accomplishments as per the award criteria
- Two (2) letters of support from members of community groups or individuals
- A completed application form
- All nominations must be received by **January 13, 2012**

For further information:



Ottawa Chapter
1826 Woodward Drive
Ottawa, ON K2C 0P7
WWW.MSSOCIETY.CA/OTTAWA
613-728-1583

MS SOCIETY OF CANADA
OTTAWA CHAPTER

THE AVRIL GUNTER
LEADERSHIP IN
ADVOCACY AWARD

2011



WHO WAS AVRIL GUNTER?

In 1977, Avril Gunter was embarking on an exciting career as a geologist and professor. The following year, she was diagnosed with a chronic progressive form of multiple sclerosis (MS).

Living with MS exposed Avril to the barriers that face persons with disabilities. Over the next thirty years, the scope of Avril's volunteer activities was panoramic. She was one of the founding members of the Ottawa Chapter's Social Action Committee where, through her leadership, she tirelessly worked to improve accessibility, healthcare and transportation for persons living with disabilities for 27 years.

As a very strong communicator, Avril continually sustained partnerships and formed alliances between organizations to achieve goals. Her collaborative approach led her to membership on many Boards such as; the CCAC, the In Community, the Health and Social Services Advisory Committee with the City of Ottawa, MS Society of Canada, (Ontario Division and the Ottawa Chapter) and the Visiting Homemakers Association.

Avril was a decorated volunteer. She was honoured with the MS Society

of Canada's President's Award, the Sir David Flavelle Award, the Rick Hansen Rehabilitation Award and the United Way's Community Builder Award.

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

Recognizing and honouring exceptional volunteers sets a standard for community service, encourages a sustained commitment to civic participation, and inspires others to make community service a central part of their lives.

This award is a tribute to Avril Gunter's legacy and is intended to recognize the efforts of other exceptional volunteers who demonstrate the same level of commitment to their community.

The Avril Gunter Leadership in Advocacy Award is intended to recognize a person who has demonstrated leadership in the area of social advocacy; a person who inspires a shared vision, is forward thinking and truly envisions an all-inclusive society with equal opportunity for all citizens.

Individuals or organizations may nominate an individual that meets the award criteria by completing an official nomination form and submitting a nomination package that details the candidate's distinguished leadership accomplishments and clearly identifies how the nominated individual meets the award criteria.

AWARD CRITERIA

The nominee must meet the following criteria to be eligible for consideration:

- Has been continually active in the area of advocacy for at least five (5) years in the Ottawa community
- Be a resident of Ottawa
- Has worked in the area of disability advocacy
- Has demonstrated a conciliatory approach to advocacy.

Please refer to the enclosed nomination form for more details.



"I learned a great deal from Avril: about MS, about how to better connect health and social services, about how to make care more patient-centred. But most of all, I learned about courage, integrity and principled advocacy. She was a rare and special community champion. I am happy her spirit lives on with this award."

*-Alex Munter, CEO
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario*