

Alexander Macomb Historical Award
Individual



Year Award Given: 2010

Awarded to: Margaret Roets – St. Clair Shores, Macomb, MI

Nominated by: Mary & Rich Jacobs

Presented Where: St. Clair Shores Memorial Park / Michelob Ultra 2010 Music on the Lake Concert Series

Presented By: Macomb County Historical Commission

89 years young when she was honored as the recipient of the 2010 Alexander Macomb Historical Award, Margaret, said it completely surprised her! She is the first person from St. Clair Shores to have received this award. Her long-time friends Rich and Mary Jacobs nominated her, but did not tell her because they wanted it to be a surprise if she was selected. Mary also knew how modest Margaret is, not being one to bask in a lot of glory. But praise is very befitting considering all that Margaret has done to preserve history.

Margaret did not start volunteering in the St. Clair Shores historical community until she retired in 1982 from Warner Lambert Pharmaceutical Company, formerly Parke Davis. She spent forty-years working in the finance division of the company and says she thoroughly enjoyed her work there. Margaret and her husband, Al, moved to St. Clair Shores in 1955, when they were the last on their block, to build their home in one of the Shores' up-and-coming-neighborhoods. It's been home ever since.

Upon retiring, Margaret, not only became involved in the Historical Society of St. Clair Shores, where she has held offices of president and trustee throughout the years, but she also felt it was important to be involved in the history of her Belgian heritage, so she became active in the Flemish American Association and Genealogical Society of Flemish Americans, in Southeast Michigan, where she has done a number of things to document and research the heritage of Flemish Americans. Her latest project includes capturing and recording data on all Michigan businesses that were owned by Flemish immigrants. Margaret has, and continues to be, a volunteer for the over 100-year old Flemish American publication, *Gazette van Detroit*, which was once available in print, but now is online. She has served as a proof-reader, handled their banking and any other tasks that needed to be completed. Margaret also often volunteers her time working in the Genealogical Society of Flemish Americans research center where she assists others working on their family tress.

Mary and Rich noted that Margaret was an amazing president for the Historical Society of St. Clair Shores, serving in that position for nearly 10 years. "She always had the city's best interest in mind" said Mary. "She is a kind, wonderful person with a great heart and we loved her easy-going manner, ability to work so well with people and her deep passion for history." Her efforts included working with the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum where she has been active in many of their activities including the teas, holiday events, programing, the "Wednesday working group" who spend afternoons crafting items to sell in the museum gift shop, and working on beautiful, hand-crafted quilts that are raffled off at the St. Clair Shores Art Fair each year and serve as fundraisers for the historical society.

Mary and Rich said there is no one more deserving of this award than Margaret and they were honored to be able to nominate and be present when she received the award.