

Lorraine Murphy



“Volunteering is defined as the practice of people working on the behalf of others.”

Lorraine Murphy was our first Volunteer of the Year Winner.



Lorraine announced her arrival in 1936.

Her parents are Larry and Wanda Dupuis (pronounced)(Dupwee) which makes her 29 years old.



She grew up in Middletown Connecticut, Niagra Falls, New York, Batavia, New York, Waterbury Connecticut , and Meriden Connecticut. She is show with her older sister Barb. Their father traveled a lot to manage Industrial Cafeterias.



This is her first communion. At this age she was making cream puffs, making her own pate' choux, (pronounced paatay ah shoe) among other things. There wasn't much she wouldn't tackle.



She is shown here as a teen ager.

Lorraine, as many of you know is a terrific singer. She is providing talent with her sister Barb at a company picnic.



This was billed as a beauty contest.



Lorraine has two daughters Lorrie and Paula.

She continued to show her talent for cooking and it was no surprise that after working at the Record-Journal in the Classified Advertising Department for a while that she left to work in a restaurant in a growing area of Cromwell Connecticut, where she honed her skills. When the owner decided that it was time for his retirement she seized the opportunity to lease the building and open her own place...In a weekend, she and Murph, with the help of a couple friends .converted the place to The Sawmill Pub Little Steak House.



She did all of the cooking. Murph was on hand to support, maintain the building and do the myriad of things required to keep a restaurant afloat. Daughters Lorrie and Paula became part of the team.





Sawmill closed in 1986.



Her nephew, John, who is also in the restaurant business, has often said, "Aunt Lorraine is my hero. She could knockout 150 lunches in 45 minutes and start preparing for the dinner hour without skipping a beat. She liked doing theme days, especially an annual Oktoberfest."



Holidays at the Sawmill!

After a few years she decided to retire or so everyone thought. In a few short months she opened Ambler's Eatery, serving breakfast and lunch. It became another success. Waiting lines were the norm. Again she was the lone cook and loved it. She liked to create and serve original foods, such as, pumpkin pancakes with apple cider syrup, as well as the usual fare.



The Amblers great kitchen!

Lorraine's daughter Paula and son-in-law Phil were on a camping vacation in the area with their two children. They heard an ad on the radio touting the benefits of living at the Great Outdoors and decided to check it out.

They had driven about a mile south from Route 50 on the western side of I-95 through farmland and butted the St. John River Preserve. Along the way a few cows dotted the wetlands landscape. Lorraine was wondering where have they taken my grandchildren.



Then the road opened to reveal the Plantation Manor, the Country Store, which is now our Café and the Welcome Center where model homes had been constructed for viewing. It was to be love at first sight. By the time they left on that first visit they were one of the first property owners and anxious to return and start their new adventure.



When they moved to The Great Outdoors her next venture was The Sweet Bouquet on Route 1 in Titusville. At the time it was a fairly new type of business featuring cookies as the central ingredient of specialty baskets and gifts was well suited to her creative skills. Often with young grandson, Christopher, as co-pilot she delivered to the surrounding area. Ultimately, she shipped cookie basket arrangements all over the world.



In the meantime she was active in many facets of T.G.O. She often prepared food for many TGO events, including the early Friday night socials, Fish Fry Coleslaw, the first annual TGO Christmas Tree Lightings.

She has served as St. Christopher's Faith Community as deaconess and as its liaison to the Great Outdoors Church.



She now is an active member of both churches. Probably high, if not the highest, on her list of favorite things to do, is singing in the Great Outdoors Church Choir.

The policies and management of The Great Outdoors has been very important to Lorraine and to Murph for the integrity of the place and benefit of its residents. She has served on many of its committees. She was director for Condo I and has served as its president for the past 16 years. The longest serving President at TGO. She has attended every CSA board meeting, served on the CSA Election Committee since its inception. If there is anything you need to know about TGO.

Lorraine will generally have the answer. She served on the committee that developed and nurtured the new Jukebox Café

She is now in the throes of developing a historical center for TGO with the excitement and focus that she gives to all of her projects. Her call, a few months ago for pictures and memorabilia for the center have generated a multitude of items that will be on display for residents to enjoy. There's an air of excitement and a little nostalgia generated as she prepares to investigate another item.

Thank you Lorraine for everything you have done for our GREAT OUT DOORS .