

# Community matters to former councillor

As far back as she can remember, Lee Farnworth has wanted to help those less fortunate help themselves.

Growing up, she wanted to be a missionary, a thought that quickly faded when she discovered "boys," Farnworth joked.

After she graduated from university, Farnworth found herself in Papua New Guinea as a volunteer with CU-SO, a Canadian-based group that provides aid to underdeveloped countries.

For the past three decades the former Nepean councillor has continued to work tirelessly in her community and for others who find themselves in unfortunate circumstances.

Farnworth is also a past board member of Nelson House, a shelter for abused women and children.

She was singled out during last year's YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction ceremony when she received the community volunteer award.

"Life is so much more fulfilling and satisfying when you help others," said Farnworth, who also canvasses

*Home town  
Heroes*



her neighbourhood in support of the March of Dimes.

Looking back, Farnworth is most proud when she talks about her involvement with the Nepean Housing Corp., a project which helps families, usually single mothers and their children, find affordable housing.

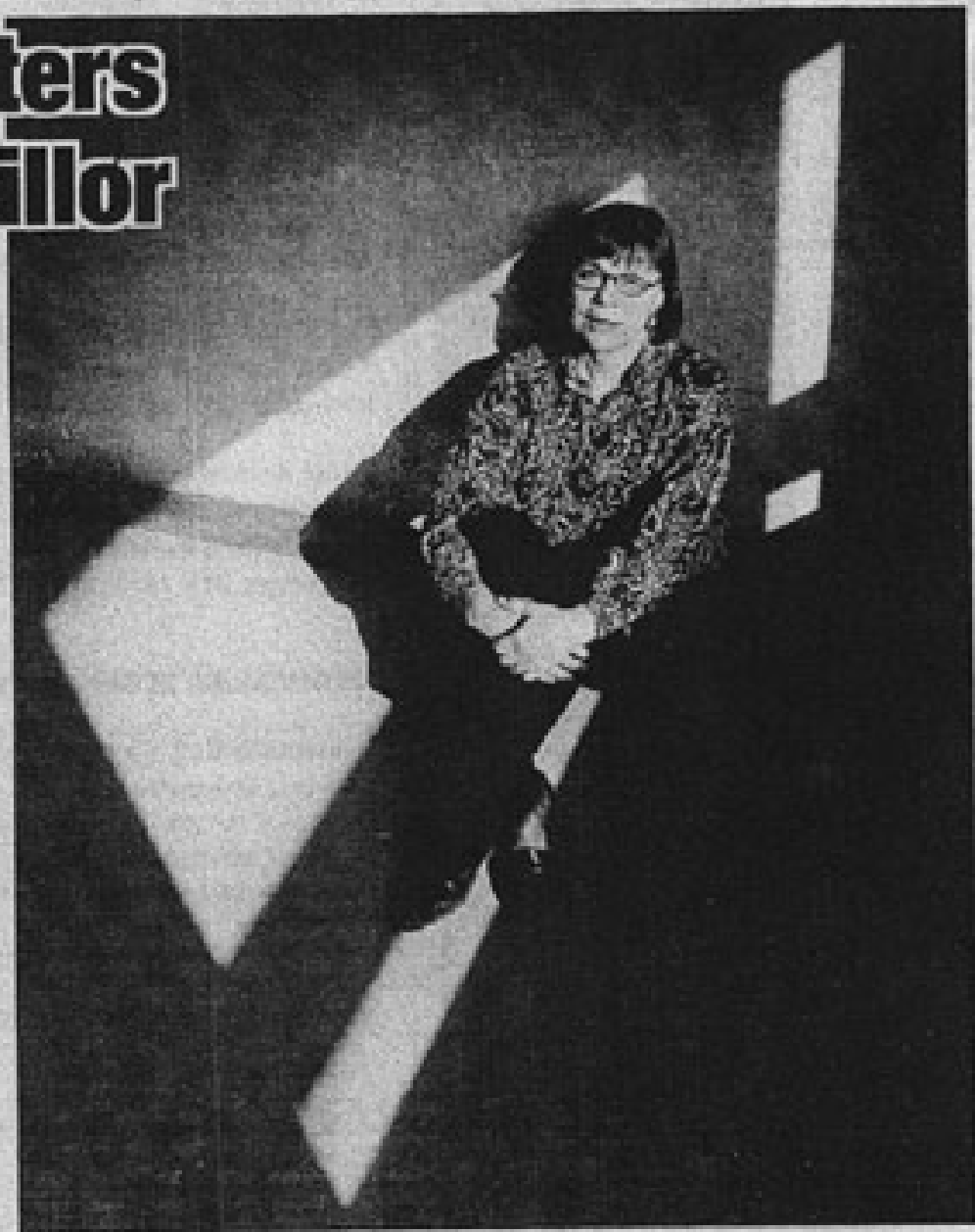
## Reads to kids

The project culminated in Farnworth Manor, an affordable housing development named in her honour.

When she isn't teaching at Algonquin College, the mother of two also gives time to the Ottawa Reads program. Every Thursday morning she reads to Grade 3 and 4 students at Christie Public School.

"Some of them are struggling and some of them need practice," said Farnworth. "You don't realize how much it means."

— Derek Puddicombe



Tony Caldwell/SUN

**LEE FARNWORTH** received a YMCA-YWCA community volunteer award last year for her efforts in helping out the less fortunate.