



**COMMUNITY
SERVICE CLUB**
of New Fairfield
for the good of our town

Welcomes New Members at Open House

Right: Fran Cunningham (L) is congratulated for 15 years as chairperson for the annual Breath of Spring Craft Fair by Joan McCue (R).



The Community Service Club of New Fairfield would like to thank the Cunningham family for recommending donations to our organization as a tribute to Francine - wife, daughter, mother and grandmother. It is our honor to be able to offer Francine Cunningham Community Service scholarships to service minded students from New Fairfield High School who have shown a significant amount of initiative throughout their high school years.

Fran Cunningham was a quiet but steady force from the beginning of that which has become The Community Service Club of New Fairfield. CSC was created in the Fall of 1983 when two existing organizations, the New Fairfield Service Club and the Tuesday Circle, merged. Fran was right there from the beginning. She served as Co-President for two years beginning in 1984. It was in the Spring of 1986 when the Breath of Spring Craft Fair idea bloomed. Like the signature event that she was most known for, Fran Cunningham was truly like a breath of spring air.

In 1990 Fran accepted an invitation that went out through many of the town's service clubs and joined the Committee for the 250th Celebration of New Fairfield, seeing the parade and celebration to fruition. In 2003, Fran served as the historical consultant for the very successful Service Club's Gala fundraiser. For many years, people met Fran lending support to the high school's Post Graduation Party. All this time, Fran held down a job and, with her husband Tom, brought up 2 wonderful daughters.

After more than 22 years as an active member of CSC, Fran "retired" to spend more time with her family but she was never very far removed. Fran could be seen in attendance at such annual events as the Junk in the Trunk Sale and Mother's Day Plant Sale. Whenever you would run into Fran she would greet you with that great big smile and a kind word. She would always remember to ask about the family (how did she remember them all) and her grin would grow even bigger when you inquired of her mother, husband, children and grandchildren.

A collective gasp could be heard the day that New Fairfield lost one of its greatest gems. Again, it came as no surprise to learn that Fran asked that in lieu of flowers donations be made to either the New Fairfield Thrift Shop or her beloved New Fairfield Community Service Club. CSC feels blessed to have been the recipient of many kind donations made in Fran's memory.

Some words from Service Club friends:

"Fran was a person you could always count on. She was a real 'team player'. She never wanted the limelight but shared her gifts of organizational skills and kindness and then moved on to the next project."

“Fran was always calm, even in quite stressful craft fair setups. She never let any of the vendors know that what they were asking for was unreasonable or not possible. Instead she left them content and planning on coming back. The world is missing her style greatly.”

“Besides being in the Community Service Club, we walked our dogs together for over 9 years. Fran loved all with an open and generous heart. She was always thinking of others. Her joy came from giving with her whole heart and soul. She never asked anything in return. She just liked to see you smile.”

“I was forever grateful for Fran’s contribution to Daffodil Days. She worked hard to collect orders to help the American Cancer Society. “

“Working with Fran was always a pleasure with her calm, kind demeanor and her sense of humor.”