



Celebrating Community Spirit and Volunteers

September 28, 2020
Virtual Ceremony



Opening for PVA Program 2020

The well-known adage “The Show Must Go On” has never been more true in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped the province and our global community. This year’s Provincial Volunteer Awards is being broadcasted via Facebook Live, to showcase the abundance of shared compassion and talent in our province. These selfless volunteers deserve to be recognized and celebrated, while being considerate of the current global state and the ultimate health and safety of award recipients and guests.

In addition to the Province’s traditional volunteer program, the event is expanding for this year to include recognition of all communities for their part in coming together during the past 6 months. The ceremony includes Lieutenant Governor’s annual Community Spirit Award and the introduction of a new specialty award, the Nova Scotia Strong Award. This new award recognizes an individual or group of individuals who volunteer their talents for the greater good in times of hardship or crisis. This new award will be presented annually during The Provincial Volunteer Awards, making it the third speciality award at the annual celebration.



Lieutenant Governor's Message

Dear Friends,

As Her Majesty's representative in Nova Scotia, it is my great pleasure to bring you greetings on the occasion of the Celebrating Community Spirit and Volunteers Awards.

For the past six months Nova Scotia, our nation and indeed the whole world has been shaken by the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact. Virtually every aspect of our lives has been disrupted and we are now adjusting to the "new normal".

Throughout this whole experience I have been immensely impressed at how resilient and positive Nova Scotians have been in adapting to these significant changes. Our many communities have demonstrated their amazing spirit and resourcefulness in helping their residents cope. Additionally, despite the requirements to socially distance, the wonderful people of our province have found innovative ways to continue their volunteerism.

Today's virtual awards ceremony is a delightful opportunity to recognize and celebrate our communities and the many people of all ages from every walk of life and from every corner of this province who selflessly help others.

On behalf of The Queen, I offer my sincere gratitude and best wishes to the people and communities across our province that we honour today. I am extremely proud to say I live in Nova Scotia.



The Honourable
Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC
Lieutenant Governor



Premier's Message

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the Celebrating Community Spirit and Volunteer Awards ceremony.

Volunteers give their time, promote community achievement, and provide support to individuals all year long. They are the backbone of our communities and I want to thank each and every person who gives of their time to volunteer.

This ceremony commemorates the generosity, kindness, compassion, and resilience shown by volunteers every day and in times of need. The strength shown by our volunteers - in every corner of our province - deserves recognition.

This year's event also includes the new Nova Scotia Strong Award. These past few months have been some of the most challenging in our province's history, and this will be a fitting way to recognize how much Nova Scotians care about one another.

I would like to thank the organizers for their hard work to ensure we continue our annual celebration of our volunteers.

We must remember that our love and support for each other will help us get through this time together. We are Nova Scotia strong.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen McNeil". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stephen" and last name "McNeil" clearly distinguishable.

Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier



Minister's Message

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, I am pleased to welcome you to the Celebrating Community Spirit and Volunteer Awards ceremony.

Volunteers help strengthen and build our communities, whether it be through mentoring, teaching, coaching and so many other important acts of kindness. Even during the most troubling times, volunteers give freely to address issues like the COVID-19 Pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement.

This year we have combined the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Awards and the Provincial Volunteer Awards into one virtual ceremony so that all Nova Scotians can be part of the recognition while staying safe.

We are also pleased to introduce a new Nova Scotia Strong Award. This is a legacy award created to recognize the thoughtful actions of the group of people who organized the Nova Scotia Remembers online tribute to the 22 Nova Scotians lost in the Portapique tragedy. The award will be given each year to recognize the deep level of caring that Nova Scotians demonstrate towards each other.

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those receiving awards and to the countless others who continue to contribute to our communities every day. You embody the very best of what Nova Scotia has to offer.

Our spirit remains to shine bright.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Leo Glavine'.

Honourable Leo Glavine

Minister of Communities, Culture & Heritage

Community Spirit Recognition

The Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award celebrates the power, strength, and diversity of vibrant communities across Nova Scotia. It profiles their achievements and increases their visibility through a formal recognition program. With the spread of the COVID-19 virus, every community across the province stepped up to serve the needs of their most vulnerable people during this time of uncertainty. It is this spirit that we want to celebrate right across our province and recognize all our municipalities and First Nation communities with this award.



Emcee

Juanita Peters is an award-winning storyteller, writer, and director of multiple documentaries. She is currently one of the directors of the award-winning television series STUDIO BLACK on CBC Television and has appeared in more than 30 films and television series. In recent years, she has worked for the Council on African Canadian Education (Communications) and as Knowledge Lead for The Nova Scotia Restorative Inquiry for The Home For Colored Children. Currently she holds the position of General Manager of the Africville Church Museum. Today she brings her talents to the stage as our emcee, to assist in regaling the work of our honoured award recipients.



Guest Speaker

Known throughout the Floral Industry and beyond for his quality workmanship, local florist, entertainer, and TV personality, **Neville MacKay**, will bring his creative flare to the stage.

In addition to owning and operating Halifax's cutting-edge floral and retail gift shop, My Mother's Bloomers, he has taken the stage across Canada and beyond as emcee, auctioneer, host, and keynote speaker, artfully telling his story making those in his presence feel inspired, connected and entertained. He's designed floral arrangements for celebrities and heads of State, including Rod Stewart, Glenn Close, Sirs Elton John and Paul McCartney and members of the British Royal Family and is an accredited Floral Judge for the World Flower Council.



Jah'Mila

Wrapped in the roots of the reggae family tree, **Jah'Mila** is a sure musical prodigy of making music that is lyrically creative, tastefully arranged, masterfully delivered, and positively inspiring.

She has toured as a supporting vocalist with bands like The Wailers (with Aston "Family Man" Barrett), Groundation, multi-Grammy award winning band Black Uhuru (with Sly and Robbie), Marcia Griffiths, Cedric Myton (The Congos), among many more. She is currently working on her debut album and has electrifying singles including: Reggae Soul, Black Woman, and Free from Babylon. She has wowed audiences in Switzerland, Italy, Canada, and Jamaica with her solo performances and she is determined to keep spreading her musical gifts every chance she gets.

Her approach to the music industry is somewhat special as she hopes to integrate her reggae legacy into a service of love. Determined to be an instrument of positivity, her 'message music' is aimed at raising the collective consciousness of all who hear it. Keep Listening!

The Multicultural Drummers

Dr. Olugu Ukpai and his children are the heart of **The Multicultural Drummers** - a family devoted to bringing awareness to Africa's fight for children with Malaria. Dr. Ukpai founded the group in 2008 after tragically losing his youngest child to the disease. The family brings their drumming skills to communities across the province to "drum up support" for this worthwhile cause, while also sharing a cultural experience with others. They have performed at the Halifax Multicultural Festival, African Youth Leadership Conference, Canadian Students' Leadership Conference, the African Heritage Month Gala Night and for the African Festival of Arts and Culture Society, to name a few. They were the local stars at the 2018 Tattoo and received the Heroes & Legends recognition from the Canadian armed forces.



*2020
Representative
Volunteers*

Cape Breton Region



Clarke, Ryan

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Ryan is a sports fan and his love of sports is what fuels his volunteer efforts. He has served on the Board of Directors for Football Cape Breton, coached Mite and Atom level teams and was recognized by the Cape Breton Sports Hall of Fame for his efforts. He is the President of Cromarty Tennis Club and was instrumental in the upgrade and resurfacing project in 2017. Ryan holds numerous roles for the Cape Breton Dorados Swim Team with President and Coach being the most notable. He was vital to the resurgence of the team over the past 5 years and continues to officiate at all provincial level meets.

Grant, Athol

Municipality of the County of Victoria

For many years, Athol has devoted his time to trails development in Victoria County. He is a founding member of the Biosphere Northeast Trails Association, holding positions of President, Director, and Treasurer. Athol is one of the key drivers of the Victoria County Trails Federation, lending his expertise to the newly constructed multi-use trail linking Baddeck to the Highlands of Cape Breton. Athol is very passionate about his community and his support stretches to many organizations throughout Victoria County.

Herney, Roxanne Marie

Eskasoni First Nation

At the age of 22, Roxanne moved to Eskasoni and learned the Mi'kmaq Language to help communicate with non-English speaking members of the community. She is a loving mother of six, and a Foster Parent for the past twenty years welcoming fifteen children into her home. Since the early 1980's Roxanne has been volunteering. She started helping out with community events, and now oversees the Community Salutes - A sacred Mi'kmaq Tradition, and gathering that takes place after the burial of the deceased. For the past thirty years, she has played a strong role volunteering with the Women's Auxiliary group and its fundraising efforts to send community Elders to the Annual St. Anne-De-Beaupre Pilgrimage in Quebec.

Johnson, Irene

Potlotek First Nation

Irene has been volunteering her time in her community throughout her life with heartfelt dedication, always going above and beyond. A mother of fourteen children, she always makes time to give back to her community. She extends her care to others as a foster mother within her community and mentors' youth. A member of the Potlotek Board of Education, she opened the first Head Start school and continued to be involved as a kindergarten teacher. Always open to being challenged in new ways, Irene was also instrumental in helping to renovate the community hall and Church.

Lamey, Francis

Town of Port Hawkesbury

Francis has been the president of the Port Hawkesbury area Evergreen Seniors Club for the past 6 years. In that time, he has gone above and beyond to take on more than his share of work to fulfill any task from procuring quotes to purchasing supplies or assisting others. He regularly volunteers for the Club's monthly breakfasts and assists with the elementary school breakfast program. Francis was also a member of the Port of Welcome Syrian Refugee Association Committee, a member of the Strait Richmond Seniors Take Action Coalition, Chairman of St. Joseph Parish Cemetery Committee, and former member of St. Joseph Parish Pastoral Council.

Pierro, Christina

Wagmatcook First Nation

Christina Pierro is a wife and mother of 3 wonderful children. Christina is always there for the community of Wagmatcook, constantly offering to help without being asked. She takes it upon herself to be very involved when the community suffers a loss. It is tradition for a person to spend the night with the loved one, as a way of celebrating the life of that person. A three day wake is observed and Christina volunteers and stays throughout this time, never leaving the wake unattended.

Christina loves to volunteer her time at the community Church Queen of the World, preparing it for mass and during the Christmas holidays. She is also very involved with the sport and recreation committee and

volunteers at events. During March break activities, Christina helps to organize events for kids.

She is a hockey mom, always at the rink early in the mornings, braving the cold weather, to get her kids there, with a smile of her face. Christina is one of the role models in Wagmatcook by setting an example of what volunteers do. Christina makes a big difference in her community and she never takes credit for anything she does.

Power, Wally

Municipality of the County of Inverness

Wally has been a member of The Strait Area Evergreen Seniors Club for several years as a member of the Club's Executive and Chairperson of Outside Maintenance. The beautiful flower garden in front of our club is just one example of Wally's many talents. Fortunately for others, Wally has not limited his volunteer efforts to the senior's club. He has been a member of St. Joseph Parish Choir, past Director of the Port Hawkesbury Credit Union, served as Chair of his Union Local's Workers Compensation Committee for more than thirty years. He is former Chair of the Compensation Committee for the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, a member of the Board of Directors for the Workers Compensation Board of Nova Scotia and a member of the Executive Committee of the Nova Scotia Federation of Union Retirees. For the past seven years, he has been involved with the National Threads of Life - an organization that helps families affected by a workplace fatality, life altering injury or occupational disease.

Pyke, Tessie

Municipality of the County of Richmond

Tessie has contributed thousands of hours over many years, giving back to her community since 1977. She has influenced the lives of countless boys and girls through her involvement with Boys Scouts and Girl Guides of Canada, for thirty-two years, doing program work and demonstrating that volunteering makes a difference. She encourages people who live alone to come to meals at We Care Days where she spends hours helping prepare meals. As CWL Convener, she also arranges visits to nursing homes, providing entertainment to residents. She has organized many anniversary meals for couples in the community and helps out annually for the Bazaar and Baraco Days meals.

The Rodney Youth Eagle Program

We'koqma'q First Nation

The Rodney Youth Eagle Program was instituted to promote the adoption of ten core values amongst the community's youth population: Alcohol and drug free, Mikmaw language, Cultural Values, respect, academics, leadership, integrity, commitment and participation, volunteerism and having fun.

*2020
Representative
Volunteers*

Central Region



Awoyiga, Irekanmi*Halifax Regional Municipality*

Irekanmi is a focused, driven, and inspirational youth who believes in bettering the community he lives in. His positive attitude and contagious smile brought a lot of joy into the camp environment where he made a tremendous impact on those around him. When he has an idea, he brings that vision to life as demonstrated when he founded the CPA Innovation Club. Our community has truly improved since Irekanmi started volunteering with HRM Recreation, the Generation 1 Leadership Initiative, and the Nova Scotia Ombudsman Youth Council. He is a true role model in our community.

DeYoung, Edwin*Halifax Regional Municipality*

Edwin has devoted the majority of his life to working tirelessly to help his community of Eastern Passage/Cow Bay to be a wonderful place to live and raise a family. He has done this by volunteering and encouraging others to do the same as they supported him in his many initiatives such as fundraising, organizing of annual lobster dinners, distributing wheelchairs within the community, and organizing the annual Lions Club Christmas Food Box program. The Eastern Passage/Cow Bay Lions Club, Benevolent Society, Buffalo Club, and Saint Andrews Church have all benefitted from Ed's caring nature and genuine compassion for others.

Dhillon, Dilkeerat*Halifax Regional Municipality*

Dilkeerat has gone above and beyond to volunteer his time with many organizations including the Portland Estates & Hills Resident Association, the Dartmouth General Hospital, the HRM George Dixon Recreation Centre Youth Leadership Program, First Lego League, MEDLIFE, Nova Multifest, and Cole Harbour High School. He has shown exemplary initiative and leadership skills to bring together and motivate a team of youth to actively participate in community causes and reach out to the less privileged. His commitment and accomplishments make him an excellent role model amongst his peers and the community.

Frank, Rhonda

Halifax Regional Municipality

Rhonda has volunteered countless hours of her time and expertise as a volunteer art teacher for more than 7 years at Porters Lake Elementary School. She founded the much-needed Porters Lake Business Improvement District, and is actively involved with the Eastern Shore Musquodoboit Community Health Board, the Porters Lake Community Services Association, and the School Advisory Council. She shows an authentic and deep compassion for helping others and is an inspiration to others in our community to be the best they can be.

Johnston, Darrell

Halifax Regional Municipality

The two themes that emerge when people talk about Darrell's volunteer contributions are humility and generosity. Darrell freely shares his corporate expertise, particularly in food service. He has given countless hours and tireless effort to organizations like Bedford United Church, Devour Film Fest, the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia, Strongest Families Institute, Kids Help Phone, and Children's Wish Foundation. Many of his roles have been ones providing leadership and vision. But he is never afraid to get his hands into the sink with the dishes.

McHugh, Ed

Halifax Regional Municipality

There are very few volunteer organizations in Bedford, HRM, and even Nova Scotia that have not benefitted from Ed McHugh's volunteer service. Many organizations have benefitted from his leadership including the 100 Bedford Men who Care, the Northwood Healthcare Board, Special Olympics NS, the Community Justice Society, the St. FX Alumni Association, Alzheimer Society of Nova Scotia, the Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference, L'Arche Canada Foundation, Basketball Nova Scotia, the Bedford Eagles, the NS Association of Basketball Officials, and the CP Allen Girls Junior Varsity Team. He is a volunteer with as much heart as he has accomplishments.

Smith, Marilyn

Halifax Regional Municipality

Numerous organizations have benefitted from Marilyn's leadership and wisdom including East Preston United Baptist Church, East Preston Day Care Centre, East Preston Lioness Club, African Nova Scotian Music Association, Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children, Bell Park Elementary, Graham Creighton Junior High, East Preston Girl Guides, East Preston Rate Payers, New Beginnings Ministry, Independent Order Daughters of the Empire (I.O.D.E.), and The Lighthouse. Most notable was her leadership to create a place for seniors and children to celebrate community fellowship and create employment opportunities for community members through her work to build a new community center and oversee restoration work at the Lighthouse.

Stapleton, Alex

Halifax Regional Municipality

Alex takes every opportunity to be helpful in his community. He regularly gives of his time, including school days off and weekends, to help with the groups he is involved with including Halifax Public Library, Holy Trinity Parish, Dalhousie Super Nova Camps, the 2019 Memorial Cup, and WE Day Atlantic. From helping younger kids explore their love of science to participating in unique events in his community, Alex demonstrates his commitment and his dedication to volunteerism.

Sun, Dr. Genlou

Halifax Regional Municipality

Dr. Sun has been a dedicated volunteer in the Chinese community for more than 15 years. He has served in many important roles such as President, Vice President, Board of Directors, and Executive Member for organizations such as the Chinese Festival, the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Canada Ping Pong Association and the Halifax Chinese Language School. He has led teams to organize numerous events to promote Chinese culture and traditions and to strengthen the relationship between the Chinese Society and communities within Nova Scotia. He has made a significant contribution to the development of multiculturalism in HRM and Nova Scotia.

West, Dianne

Halifax Regional Municipality

Dianne has been a leader in her community sharing her talents and skills as the Coordinator of Caring Hands. It is a true labour of love to oversee twenty volunteers and the families they support. Dianne continues to find time to volunteer with organizations such as the QE II Health Sciences Centre, Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation, Hospice Halifax, Children's Wish Foundation, and the Dartmouth Shelter Society. Giving of herself daily, Dianne exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism.

*2020
Representative
Volunteers*

Fundy Region



Bernard, Holly*Millbrook First Nation*

Since 2017 Holly has volunteered with Millbrook's Snowboard/Ski Program to organize sessions, assist with equipment, and meal plans for twenty-eight youth and chaperones. She has developed a rapport with youth and parents by actively joining skiers on the hill. Holly also volunteers at the Millbrook Bike Rodeo and Community Hall. Holly is a volunteer member of the Millbrook's 2020 North American Indigenous (NAIG) Archery Planning Committee. The success of these Millbrook initiatives is a direct result of her dedication and resourcefulness.

Chandler, Gilbert*Municipality of East Hants*

Gilbert Chandler has been a dedicated member of East Hants Ground Search and Rescue for 30 years. His dedication to support, teach and mentor others has provided opportunities for other members of the organization to learn and advance, including a younger member who was elected to the executive for the Nova Scotia Ground Search and Rescue Association. Gilbert is dedicated to being inclusive, equitable, and ensuring everyone has a voice at the table. His enthusiasm and dedication encourage other members to give back to the community. He supports several organizations including, the Upper Nine Mile River Hall, Nine Mile trails, and local ATV clubs.

Clarke, Al & Maxine*Town of Oxford*

In May 2019, Al & Maxine had been asked to become stewards of a newly developed hiking trail within our community. Since then they have poured numerous amounts of hours into developing, maintaining, and promoting this great addition to our town. On top of their daily development and maintenance of the Bunny Trail, Al & Maxine have also donated a swing and picnic tables to the trail, helped install signage and bird feeders, assisted with Hurricane Dorian cleanup, and organize guided hikes. They also provide daily Facebook updates of adventures and wildlife encounters along the trail and provide regular stewardship reports to the Oxford and Arena Trails Association.

Countway, Kelly

Municipality of Colchester County

Kelly had a vision to educate and inspire women and youth about a hunting and fishing lifestyle and formed the not-for-profit group called Women That Hunt. Today with 200 members strong she leads her team to certify guides in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Newfoundland. Through fundraising efforts and programs offer conservation bursaries to local high school students who exemplify the organization's vision. She hosts an annual Youth Expo designed to be interactive, guided by professionals and experts to educate and inspire. All funds raised through the expo go back to the community and programming.

Gaudet, Jax

Town of Truro

Jax is an inspiring young man; at six years old he began fundraising for Children's Wish Foundation and over the past eight years has worked tirelessly to raise funds and awareness for the Foundation. Jax was recently diagnosed with Dysautonomia and was granted a wish from the Children's Wish Foundation. Since then, he has worked double-time to do all that he can to help grant more wishes to children like him. He continues to play key roles in Children's Wish Foundation fundraisers and has created his own campaigns, raising more than \$50,000 to date. Jax also volunteers annually for the Legion Poppy Campaign. He shares a powerful message and is an excellent ambassador for giving back. He was recognized as a Canadian Youth Hero and co-authored a book called Awaken Your Inner Hero. Jax possesses a true philanthropic spirit, understands the power of a wish and is driven to do what he can to help.

MacDonald, Krista

Municipality of the County of Cumberland

For more than eight years Krista has played a large role in many events taking place in our Municipality. Krista is involved in the Home and School, is currently Vice President for the Springhill and Area Chamber of Commerce, is a Director for the Cumberland County Exhibition and is Treasurer to our local Junior B Hockey Team and the Springhill Communities in Bloom Committee. Krista is also instrumental in the organization and planning of the annual 5K Turkey Trot which is a major fundraiser for Communities in Bloom. Krista is always willing to lend

a hand and provide leadership to her community of Springhill and the Municipality of Cumberland.

McNutt, Anna

Village of Bible Hill

Anna was the recipient of the 2019 Golden Long-term Service Award. This Award is presented to residents of Bible Hill who have made contributions to worldwide community volunteer service for a period of fifty years or longer, of which at least twenty-five years of the volunteer service took place in the Village of Bible Hill. During that time, she has been involved with the local senior games committee helping to plan and execute the games each year. Anna is also involved in St David's Church Ladies Auxiliary and was the honorary Marshall for the Canada Day Parade in 2019.

Wilson, Michael

Town of Amherst

Michael has been a volunteer, patron, and supporter of numerous local causes, benefits, charities, and businesses for more than thirty years. Always game to pitch in, Michael represents the spirit of our community. He assists with ARHS prom and graduation, Walk for Autism, Light the Night, Cumberland YMCA, and many local race fundraisers including Cross Border, Amherst Valentines Run and Run for the Sun. The highlight of this past year was his role as the keynote speaker at the Relay for Life, an organization he has been committed to for more than fifteen years.

Young, Glenda

Town of Stewiacke

Glenda has volunteered countless hours to the Stewiacke community over the years. She has been a member of the Legion since 1987. In 1990 she joined the executive and became a lifetime member in 2013. In her time with the legion, she has looked after all special event bookings at the hall and organized and catered weddings, funeral receptions, suppers and birthday parties. She also organizes weekly breakfasts, bingo, cribbage and chase the ace events. In addition to her time at the legion, Glenda catered the annual Remembrance Day Banquet and organized and catered the annual Stewiacke Fire Department Fall Dance which will celebrate its 75th year this fall.

*2020
Representative
Volunteers*

Highland Region



Aucoin, Jim

Town of Trenton

Jim has been a volunteer with the VON since 2013. As a retired teacher, Jim wanted to give back and has been a faithful volunteer delivering VON Meals on Wheels program in the Town of Trenton. Clients comment how much they look forward to Jim coming with not only the meal, but his kind demeanor. They all speak to the fact they know that Jim 'really cares'. He delivers more than the meal; he brings comfort to the clients who consider him a friend. The Meals on Wheels program is so vitally important to those residents, who depend on the service to maintain good nutrition. Without Jim, VON would not be able to provide this great program to their clients.

Colbourne, Bill

Town of Stellarton

Whenever a helping hand is needed at Christ Anglican Church, Bill is there to help. Fundraising BBQs, deliveries to the Pictou East Food Bank, Church bulletins and errands are just a few of things Bill willingly takes care of. He is instrumental in soliciting donations and applying for grants to provide the Church with a defibrillator, an elevator and hall repairs. The Pictou East Food Bank also benefits from Bill's time where he stocks shelves and assists with the annual food drive. Bill dedicates his time to the Westville ALS Walk and the Salvation Army Kettles. When asked why he volunteers, he replies, "Because of the enjoyment it brings to me and the people I am involved with."

DeCoste, Shirley

Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Shirley has dedicated countless hours to the rejuvenation of the Monsignor Donnelly Hall for more than six years. She has been involved in fundraising, grant writing, event planning, food preparations, and serving. She plays an important role in helping individuals and families plan events for major life moments, including wakes, funerals, weddings, and parties. For more than forty years, Shirley has helped students, seniors, and youth complete student loan forms, access funding, writing grant applications for housing, school and health. She is known as the go-to resource person in our community, for so many who need help navigating and searching for resources.

Denny, Cynthia

Pictou Landing First Nation

Cynthia is very passionate about health and wellness and regularly shares her wellness journey, openly on social media, to motivate others to take control of their health. She shares her struggles, challenges, and celebrations in a way that is honest and relatable, while inspiring others to get on board or back on track. Cynthia has worked hard to bring female youth to participate in sporting our community. She dedicates her time to a coaching course and now uses those skills to be an effective influence to promote self-care, teamwork, and self-esteem.

Lavoie, Jacqueline

Town of Pictou

Jacqueline has dedicated many years to Church and community life in Pictou. She was coordinator of Religious Education at Stella Maris Catholic Church and had held various positions in the Catholic Women's League. She regularly volunteers at the Pictou Food Bank and belongs to the knitters' group at the Pictou Library, making items for those in need, and had quietly worked behind the scenes for the Pictou Lobster Carnival. She is on the Committee for the World Day of Prayer, organized Palliative Care Day of prayer and co-ordinates rosary prayer at Shiretown and Oddfellows Nursing Homes. Most recently she has started a grief support group for the Church community.

Lewis, Donna

Municipality of the District of Guysborough

Since Donna's retirement in 2001 she has been providing childcare for families in need. To date, she has been actively involved with twenty-eight families and entrusted with the care of 40 children of all different ages, more than nineteen years. Volunteering has always been a priority for Donna. She lends her time and expertise to the Canso Library/Resource Centre as Chairperson, Lector and Property & Finance committee member for Star of the Sea Parish, and a volunteer for the Digby community garden.

Scott, Betty Lou

Municipality of Pictou County

Betty Lou is described as the driving force behind the Salt Springs 4H Club. Her leadership and dedication to 4H has kept the club vibrant. She has volunteered with the Pictou County 4H Club and was a voting delegate at the provincial level. She is a volunteer with St. Luke's United Church, The Angus Association and the Upper Mount Thom Cemetery. She is also the first recipient to receive the Atlantic Women of Agriculture Award during the Atlantic Farm Women's Conference in 2017 and was a past recipient of the Rosemary Davis Award for her lifelong involvement and commitment to agriculture and 4H.

MacDonald, Brenda

Town of Antigonish

To the Town of Antigonish Brenda is a shining star. She truly believes the way to strengthen, improve and grow a community, is to become a vital part of it. Brenda has volunteered with TOPS NS 2948 for more than twenty-four years. She has volunteered for the Special Olympics, the Antigonish Junior Bulldogs, Walmart IWK Car Show, the Heart and Stroke Foundation Big Bike, and the 2019 Nova Scotia 55+ Games. Brenda believes in leading by example and spends much of her volunteer time improving the health and well-being of the people of Antigonish.

MacIntosh, Gordie

Town of Westville

Gordie has worked with the Town of Westville Social Committee since its inception in 2015 and has been instrumental in organizing concerts in Acadia Park to raise funds for various community groups. The year-round concerts have provided great community gatherings and showcase local talent. Gordie also lends a hand at the Winter Jamboree Pancake Breakfast and assists with many functions held at Holy Name Church. Gordie sincerely cares about his hometown and is truly dedicated to the Town of Westville.

MacIntosh, Lewis

Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Lewis MacIntosh is a lifelong resident of the community of Argyle who has dedicated almost forty years to volunteering. He is very community minded and always willing to lend a hand. He has brought his skillset to Kings United Church, acted as Master of Ceremonies at local concerts, was Grand Marshall at the Sherbrooke Village Old Fashioned Christmas Parade, and Auctioneer at St. Mary's River Days. He has also helped to organize Canada Day Celebrations and assisted with the St. Martha's Hospital Help Day Raffle. Lewis also spent six years as secretary/treasurer for the Funeral Association of Nova Scotia.

O'Brien, Robert

Town of Mulgrave

Robert became a member of the Mulgrave Volunteer Fire Department when he moved to Mulgrave more than eight years ago. Since then, he trained as a medical first responder and has been the training officer for the last three years. He has offered his expertise in many areas of firefighting including hoses, ladders, and knot tying for rescues. Robert was also a member of the Strait Area Mutual Aid Ground Search & Rescue for eight years and a volunteer member of the Archery club for ten years, where he provided instruction to youth members.

O'Neill, Mick

Town of New Glasgow

Mick has been helping to welcome new Canadians to New Glasgow and Pictou County for more than ten years. As Chair of the Multicultural Fusion Festival, he has helped the event grow to welcome 800 visitors to experience music, dance, sport and food from all over the world. As communications officer for the Multicultural Association, he regularly assists with community events including international cooking classes, potluck suppers and a monthly recreation series Welcome to the Neighborhood. Mick is dedicated to bringing together people from many backgrounds, culture, and faith to a community that celebrates and values diversity.

*2020
Representative
Volunteers*

South Shore Region



Bates, Patricia

Municipality of the District of Chester

Pat is a lay reader for Shoreham Village Seniors Complex Church services, organizer of Remembrance Day services, Christmas services, a facilitator of our celebrations of life, and oversees a resident program named Spiritual Hour. She has provided healing and spiritual care to many and selflessly shares her fur babies for puppy snuggles with residents. Pat has had an amazing impact on Shoreham Village over the years and continues to be there for residents whenever asked. Pat brings so much talent, knowledge, and sincere kindness to staff, family, and fellow volunteers at Shoreham Village Seniors Complex.

Chidiac, Bill & Sarah

Town of Shelburne

Bill and Sarah Chidiac are very active in the Town of Shelburne through personal volunteering and by donations through their business. They are the kind of volunteers who often work behind the scenes, without recognition, but their efforts have been noticed and appreciated by many people in town. The Chidiacs donate hundreds of treat bags each year for the Santa Claus Tree and support many other town events. Bill volunteers as a coach for the Senior Boys' Soccer team at Shelburne Regional High School and the summer soccer program in the area. Bill and Sarah also volunteer to drive students to various sporting events, including Track and Field and Ping Pong.

Goreham, Beth-Anne

Town of Clark's Harbour

Since 2013, volunteering has been a huge part of Beth-Anne's life. She has given thousands of hours of her time to provide opportunities for kids in baseball and hockey. In addition to coaching, she has played a large part to ensure opportunities are brought to the area for player development. She also works on a committee to ensure that financial barriers are broken down to help children get involved in activities through the Kids Fair Play Fund. There are not many organizations in the area that She has not influenced. Beth-Anne knows the value of volunteering and spends much of her free time doing so.

Gosbee, Anthony

Municipality of the District of Shelburne

Anthony started volunteering at the age of 16 to help coach hockey and went on to coach minor hockey for more than twenty years in the Shelburne area. Anthony was the lead volunteer coach for the Shelburne Recreational Hockey Program, known to many as 'Anthony's hockey'. Every Saturday morning for several hours during the hockey season Anthony would teach children and youth how to play. He never turned a child away and always made sure each one had the gear needed to play. Hundreds of children have gone through the program, many of which, may not have had the opportunity or means to play at the minor hockey level. In 2019 Anthony stepped down from the program and in doing so leaves behind a great legacy; one that values volunteerism and making sports accessible and fun for all children. The program was named after him and is now known as the Anthony Gosbee Recreational Hockey Program.

Hardiman, Hewitt

Town of Lunenburg

Hewitt continues to be an integral cog in the wheel that runs the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23. Hewitt has volunteered with the Legion for more than forty-four years and continues to actively serve the branch. He has served two terms as President, one as Past President, chaired over six in-house committees and has been the recipient of the Branch 23 President's Cup for Legionnaire of the Year Award. Hewitt has also volunteered at the Lunenburg and District Fire Department for more than thirty-one years as a fire fighter and first responder. He is also an active member of the Colour Parties and Parades for the Legion and Fire Department. Hewitt is always the first to arrive and last to leave and is the epitome of volunteerism; humble, kind and helpful wherever he may be.

Header, Val

Town of Mahone Bay

Val is passionate about the importance of Mahone Bay's green canopy and so, founded the community volunteer group, Talking Trees. When the Town of Mahone Bay reached out to citizens for ideas to commemorate the Town's Centennial Year, Val and Talking Trees, in partnership with the

Mahone Bay Garden Society, proposed the 100 Trees: 100 Years initiative. Residents were encouraged to register a tree, either planted on their own property or donated to be planted on public property. Val has contributed her organizational skills, her private funds and her labour to forge key relationships which have supported this remarkable Centennial initiative. To date, 112 trees have been planted.

Higby, John

Town of Yarmouth

John is an integral part of the Yarmouth County Minor Hockey Association Board of Directors. As Treasurer he oversees all team budgets and spending. He is actively involved in helping several other areas within the Association. For the past sixteen years he has also been a member of the board of directors for Parents Place Family Resource Centre, offering infant, children and caregiver programming.

Hiltz, Andrew & Natasha

Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

Andrew and Natasha are great examples of community-minded people who have dedicated much of their time to Yarmouth's sporting community. They have coached a variety of sports including basketball, soccer, cross-country, track and field at the elementary, junior and senior high levels, as well as community-based teams. When leading their teams, they focus on skill development, team-work and fair play. They spend a great deal of time organizing practices, games and drives to support the teams and more importantly the kids who participate.

Lawrence, Brenda

Region of Queens Municipality

Brenda has been a devoted, long serving volunteer on the Boards of the Queens County Food Bank, Queens County Crime Prevention Association, Hillview Acres Auxiliary, Kinettes, and Queens Recreational Boating Association. She is a volunteer with United Church Women and Royal Canadian Legion Ladies Auxiliary, a facilitator with South Shore Restorative Justice and a Restorative Justice volunteer for almost a decade. Over the past two years, she and local musicians have organized weekly Music Jam fundraisers at the Brooklyn Marina. Brenda has also

organized fundraisers to purchase a headstone for a colleague who died with no family and has raised more than \$11,000 for a Queens County boy in need of a bone marrow operation.

MacDonald, John

Town of Bridgewater

John enthusiastically volunteered in student extracurriculars, most notably, coaching, debating and Reach for the Top program, for many years, while he was staff member at Parkview Education Centre. He has been an effective leader in his Church as President of the Bridgewater Inter-Church Council, especially when serving on the Bridgewater & Area Refugee Committee that he chaired. For twenty-five years he has promoted the spirit of cooperation and good will that is so evident among the churches of Bridgewater. John works hard to make a real difference in people's lives and his reward is their success. His work with Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, The Salvation Army, Knights of Columbus, and the Royal Canadian Legion reflect that helping attitude.

MacLeod, Robert

Municipality of the District of Argyle

Robert has created and organized an annual spring fundraiser for the IWK children's hospital for the past nine years to raise more than \$74,000. Rob also serves as a local volunteer firefighter and has held the Treasurer position for more than fifteen years with the Eel Brook & District Fire Department and provides fire prevention education as part of several community events. He is also a supporter of the Yarmouth Hospital as a volunteer at their We Care Radiothon, a volunteer with the RBC Blue Water Project, the Tusket River Environment Protection Agency, friends of TNR, Me to We, and Plymouth School.

Rodenhiser, Cory & Slauenwhite, Natasha

Region of Queens Municipality

The volunteer work undertaken by Natasha and Cory makes a big impact in their small community. Natasha and Cory have organized and executed the Refundable Bottle Drive for four years, with all proceeds going directly to the Greenfield Elementary School. North Queens Community School Spartans softball and volleyball teams appreciate

Natasha and Cory's support for team transportation and fundraising through canteen services. Natasha is also involved in fundraising for the local 4H group and is Treasurer of the Greenfield School Society Parents Group.

Simpson, Peter

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Peter is a volunteer leader who won't take no for an answer when it comes to helping individuals and community organizations achieve their goals. He recently served as Chair of the Board of the Western Regional Housing Authority, is Chair of the MODL Planning Advisory Committee, member of the Advisory Committee on Adjudicative boards for the Department of Finance and Treasury Board and is a recent member of the Leadership panel for Safe Communities Lunenburg County. As an extension of his firefighting and first responder career, he is President of the Executive Committee of the Dayspring & District Fire Department and a member of the Board of Nova Scotia Firefighters Benevolent Fund. Peter advocated tirelessly for the long-overdue placement of a memorial monument and interpretive signage at Hillside Cemetery.

Stoddard, Laura

Town of Lockeport

Laura is a volunteer with the Western Counties Regional Library, Lockeport Branch, where she helps to set up the branch for the Toddle & Tumble program for babies and preschoolers, including snacks, crafts and the inevitable clean-up. In addition to her work with the library, Laura pitches in with selling tickets and other fundraisers for the Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion. A resident of Atlantic Heights, Laura also helps several elderly neighbours with chores and errands.

*2020
Representative
Volunteers*

Valley Region



Benedict, Lewis

Village of Port Williams

Lewis has been giving his time for more than 50 years, in his community. He has been the Chairperson of the Port Williams Village Commission since 1996 and a past Chief of the Port Williams Volunteer Fire Department between 1979 and 1984. Lewis is a strong advocate of the Village, a champion for the needs of the residents, and a strong supporter of volunteer organizations within his community and Kings County. Whether it be physical labour, a letter of support or building recreation facilities, Lewis is working on it. His volunteer efforts have also garnered him the Paul Harris Fellow Award, from the Wolfville Rotary Club, and the Erland Lee Award from the Women's Institutes.

Biggs, Marlene

Municipality of the County of Kings

It is her cheerful enthusiasm and caring heart that is an inspiration to all that meet Marlene during her forty years of volunteering in her community. Marlene has been an active volunteer for the Wallbrook United Baptist Church finance committee and social committee. When not helping with the Church, Marlene can be found volunteering at the Wolfville Food Bank. Where she is responsible for the majority of the shopping and client engagement. She is also a member of the Melanson Community Centre and helps with the annual Acadia Dump and Run. No matter how tiny or large a task required, Marlene will always lend a hand.

Cress, Allen

Town of Annapolis Royal

Allen has dedicated more than twenty-five years of volunteering for youth, community and families of the Annapolis Royal area. Since 1993 he has volunteered at Annapolis County Ground Search & Rescue. As a strong community-minded person he also supports and continues to volunteer for his local Recreation Commission. Hours of his time have been spent on the maintenance and upkeep of Bishop Park, where he has also coached the local softball league. Allen also spent his time volunteering in the amazing 4H program that provides youth the courage to explore their head, heart, health, and hands. Allen is also a Level One Trained Fire Fighter for the Annapolis Royal Volunteer Fire Department

and on call 24/7 for the last eleven years. Allen is the epitome of a volunteer who helps his community thrive.

Francis, Amanda

Glooscap First Nation

Amanda is a proud community member of Glooscap First Nation as the Band Administrator for the past ten years. She is extremely dedicated to her community, and often goes above and beyond the expectations of her role. She treats every community member with respect and leads by example. Amanda is always the first person to show up at a community event, and the last to leave. She is a valued neighbour, friend, and role-model for our future Indigenous leaders.

Harding, Carol

Municipality of the District of Digby

Carol is a dedicated, dependable, loyal, conscientious and committed community volunteer for Digby. She is a member of the board for the Admiral Digby Museum, and helps with many of the historical activities, along with many of their social events including Sailabration and Hope for Heritage. She is a dedicated volunteer for the Society for the Friends of Ferals to assist with rescuing, trapping, transporting, colony feeding of animals, and fundraising for the cause. Carol is a volunteer genealogist for the NS Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada assisting members in documenting their lineage to and applying for certificate of descent from a Loyalist.

LeGrand, Emily

Town of Wolfville

Emily gives tirelessly to her community with a drive to encourage action in people of all ages. She convened the Climate Action Circles in Wolfville, meetings at which more than 50 residents now come together to work on projects related to climate action in areas such as endangered forests, food security and energy emissions. Her leadership is essential to the function of this group, and her approach of "holding space" provides an environment that is free from judgement and inclusive to all people and ideas. Emily is also an active member and leader of the Blomidon Naturalist Society, KC Irving Environmental Science Centre, Young Naturalist Club of NS, and the McIntosh Run Watershed Association.

Maillet, Jeannine

Municipality of Clare

Jeannine has been a dedicated member of The Lion's Club for twenty-five years and has taken on many volunteer projects and positions, including Chair of the annual Special Needs Christmas Party, Chair of the Drug Awareness Program for schools and Secretary on the board of directors, to name a few. In addition, Jeannine volunteers her time for other community organizations including the Clare Golf and Country Club board of directors and the St. Alphonse Church council. She also supports people living with cancer by driving them to medical appointments, helping with their house cleaning, cooking them meals and visiting those residing in nursing homes. She has never been one to shy away from helping others and gives 100% of her effort.

Muzzerall, Shawn

Town of Berwick

Shawn is a dedicated leader who has held volunteer roles in community sport organizations, service organizations, schools, his Church and with the Town of Berwick. He is a strong believer in community and the importance of building relationships with everyone that you meet. He is an extremely engaged volunteer with the Berwick Baptist Church where he sits on the finance committee, assists with the care of the building and works tirelessly with community outreach. Many would recognize Shawn for his role as an encourager; he sees the best in all people and believes that everyone deserves to be included. Shawn has mentored many people in the community and is an exceptional role model to those living in the Town of Berwick.

Price, Nancy

Municipality of the County of Annapolis

Nancy has been a passionate volunteer for her community since the 1970s. Over the years her mantra has remained the same - identify the gaps and needs and do something about it! Her passions for health and fitness, healthy schools and community development have inspired projects such as indoor walking club, exercise bands class for people with diabetes, and the school's first after school program. She coached hurdles and figure skating. Her achievements include acquisition of the

historical James House to use as a museum and Tea Room, chairing the SAC through the difficult years of school consolidation, and being part of the steering committees for a new school and the Bridgetown Sports Hub. Her current passion is revitalization of her community and is coordinating the Bridgetown Streetscape and Beautification Plan.

Smith, Effie

Region of Windsor and West Hants Municipality

Effie has been an integral member of her community for more than thirty years. She has played a vital role in the Hants County Exhibition Crafts Committee since the early 1990's as Committee Chair. As a quilter, Effie volunteered her time to teach elementary school children sewing basics. She was essential in creating seventy-nine quilts that were donated to local senior citizen homes and has also donated prize winning quilts to various community causes to help raise much needed funds. Effie was recognized by the IWK with the Guardian Angel Award for her selfless donations of sweater and hat sets for premature babies. Effie, along with her husband David, have also provided the community with a spectacular Christmas light show at their home, each year, complete with a Candy Cane Lane so admirers can wander through and appreciate the beauty and spirit of the season.

Titus-Smith, Jacqueline

Town of Digby

If you ask Jackie what her hobbies are her answer would be volunteering - she has always had a passion for helping others. Since 2010 Jackie has been a key member of the Annapolis/Digby Christmas Daddies Fund Committee overseeing the finances and ensuring the day's events run smoothly. Other organizations who have benefitted from Jackie's time include the Digby and Area Health Services Charitable Foundation, the Digby Trinity Anglican Church, Digby Care 25, DRHS School Advisory Council, Relay for Life and Girl Guides of Canada.

Uhlman, Tina

Town of Middleton

Tina has been involved in the scouting and guiding-movement for 30 years, including a Beaver leader and a leader in Sparks, Brownies, Guides,

Pathfinders and Rangers. She organizes weekly meetings, outings and camps for both groups. Coaching with Middleton District soccer has also been Tina's passion for many years. She has taken on an executive positions, recruitment and organization of volunteer coaches, equipment purchasing and organization and many other. Most recently, she has stepped it up and will be the new incoming President. Working full time and having a busy family hasn't stopped her from volunteering in our community. She has also been involved with Relay for Life for more than ten years.

Wood, Harlon

Town of Kentville

For twenty-one years, Harlon has been a volunteer with the Kentville Police Service. He started as an Auxiliary officer and along the way became the CPL acting as liaison between the department and the volunteer Auxiliary officers. He has given hundreds of hours every year and can be counted on at every special event the town holds. In the last three years he has also helped plan a large motorcycle event in the Town of Kentville that draws thousands of people to town. Harlon knows everyone in the town due to his long-time commitment to volunteering but also because of his friendly outgoing personality.

2020 Specialty Awards

2020 FAMILY VOLUNTEER AWARD

The Hudson Family

Dartmouth

The Hudson family has had a major impact as advocates and change agents within their community. They are at the forefront of implementing leadership and mentorship programs, are trailblazers in the movement of cultural awareness and self-identity and have a strong sense of pride. They have made a tremendous impact within their community as leaders, providing their time for numerous organizations including:

- Cherry Brook Baptist Church
- Lake Loon/Cherry Brook Development Association
- Black Educators Association
- Preston Area Housing Fund
- South Eastern Community Health Board
- Positive Parenting Workshops
- Youth Summit
- Preston Tutoring Program
- Cole Harbour Place
- Indigenous Black & Mik'maq Program
- Association of Black Social Workers
- African Nova Scotian Music Association
- Track and Field Officiating
- Africentric Learning Institute

Karen, Marsha and Ken's family attitude is rooted in the wellbeing and success for others. They are efficient, consistent and intentional in their execution and service. Their fearless participation in activities shows their character and desire to seize every moment in life. They lead with their hearts, to serve others, while looking for nothing in return.

"Our volunteerism is built on the legacy our ancestors left us. A legacy based on courage, dedication, resilience and the belief that life is better when we work together for a common purpose. Volunteerism is not a chore but rather something we do from the heart to ensure others are taken care of and succeed."

~ The Hudson Family

2020 YOUTH VOLUNTEER AWARD

Laura Isaacs

Scarsdale

Laura maintains a rigorous academic schedule while also challenging herself to volunteer both in her school and local community. She stands out for her selflessness, positive attitude and work ethic in helping others. Her impact on her school and the local community are far reaching, providing her time and enthusiasm to many organizations including:

- New Germany Rural High School Leo Club
- Livewires 4H Cloverbuds
- Rosedale Home for Special care
- Lohnes Rest Home
- Parkdale Maplewood Community Hall & Museum
- New Germany Area Promotion Society
- Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Drive

Laura's activities and community initiatives are not only rewarding for herself, but also have a positive impact on others. Laura's contributions with Leo's Club specifically, has had lasting impacts for many individuals while providing her the opportunity to develop strong leadership and interpersonal skills.

Coming from a farming community, she recognized the need for a focus on farming safety to reduce accidents. She volunteered her time to develop a video that was circulated to local farmers, promoting safe practices. She has also spearheaded fundraisers through her involvement with the Leo's Club, impacted the lives of numerous seniors through volunteering at the Rosedale Home for Special Care and Lohne's Rest Home and many youth through her involvement with 4H. She has a natural ability to make others feel comfortable and valued. She is a fine example of what youth today can offer our world.

"Volunteering is a great way to interact with people you may otherwise have never met. It fulfills me to know that I may have made someone's day, week, or even life better in some way. I love volunteering in my community and I hope I will always be fortunate enough to keep giving back and making people smile."

~ Laura Isaacs

Nova Scotia Strong Award

This is the inaugural year for the Nova Scotia Strong Award, honouring those who organized “Nova Scotia Remembers” – the online tribute to the 22 Nova Scotian souls lost in the tragic events in Portapique and area in April. The program touched the hearts of Nova Scotians, Canadians and others around the world who came together virtually in shared grief and sympathy.

In future years, this legacy award will go to an individual or group demonstrating how resilient and strong Nova Scotians are. Recipients will show that our strength comes from our community, and reflect the deep level of caring Nova Scotians have for one another.

The recipients for 2020 are:

- Sylvia Beirnes
- Tory Phinney
- Jonathan Torrens
- Matt Trecartin
- Tiffany Ward
- Alex White

The Nova Scotia Remembers Vigil would not have happened without the hard work of many including:

- Cees van den Hoek
- Vangie Beal
- Bobbie Lattie
- Mary Teed
- Eric Michaud
- David Seviour

