



The 44th Provincial
Volunteer Awards

Ceremony & Luncheon



April 9, 2018
Westin Nova Scotian Hotel
Commonwealth Ballroom A & B
Halifax, Nova Scotia





Nova Scotia Communities, Culture & Heritage is pleased to host the Provincial Volunteer Awards and congratulates all of the 2018 award recipients.

Lieutenant Governor's Message



As Her Majesty's representative in Nova Scotia, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 44th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards Ceremony and Luncheon.

We are so very fortunate to live in a province where volunteering is a way of life. In an age where resources and free time are scarce, we are blessed that so many people selflessly step forward to help others. It is through these acts of volunteerism that many community projects come to fruition and worthy charities and causes succeed. I am delighted to note that this volunteering occurs across all sectors and is performed by people of all ages.

It is important to recognize the valuable work of volunteers so as to ensure that their efforts are never taken for granted and that we collectively express our thanks and appreciation for all that they do.

On behalf of the Queen, I offer my sincere gratitude and best wishes to all volunteers in Nova Scotia – those who we honour at the Awards Ceremony today and those who work quietly in every city, town and community across our wonderful province.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which reads "Arthur J. LeBlanc".

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

April 2018



Premier's Message

Every year, thousands of volunteers help to strengthen our communities with work that is close to their hearts. Volunteers are an essential piece of Nova Scotia's fabric as they help the most vulnerable in our society through mentoring, coaching, and numerous other important services. Volunteers help build a stronger, more compassionate

and caring Nova Scotia.

This year's award program includes volunteer representatives from Mi'kmaq communities. I appreciate the support of the Chiefs and the Mi'kmaq Physical Activity Leaders, who worked hard to bring forward nominations of volunteers from their community.

On behalf of the Government of Nova Scotia, I am proud to congratulate and thank all Nova Scotians who selflessly give their time and energy. I want to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to those receiving an award today—and to the many others who contribute to their communities every day.

You embody the very best of what Nova Scotia has to offer, and today is your day to be recognized with the 2018 Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Sincerely,

***Honourable Stephen McNeil, M.L.A.
Premier***



Minister's Message

It is my honour and pleasure to welcome you to the 44th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards ceremony. You have been selected by your community to represent the thousands of volunteers that help make our communities strong and vibrant.

We are fortunate in Nova Scotia to have such a strong tradition of volunteering and helping

one another. Our communities have been strengthened by volunteers throughout our province's history; this is something we cannot take for granted.

The act of volunteering, whether it is by serving as a team coach, firefighter, as a board chair, or simply checking in on a neighbour, has significant impact on the lives of many Nova Scotians. Today's ceremony is our way of saying, "Thank you".

Today's annual awards ceremony is an important kick-off to National Volunteer Week. From April 15 to the 21, Nova Scotian and Canadian communities host local volunteer celebrations through luncheons, receptions and awards. I encourage everyone to take a moment to thank the volunteers in your organization and community, as well as the families who support the work of our volunteers.

A heart-felt thank you to this year's volunteer award recipients. Your dedication and efforts are deeply appreciated and felt by all Nova Scotians.

Sincerely,

***Leo Glavine
Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage***

Program

Emcee: Joel Jacobson - Freelance journalist

11:00am RECEPTION

11:30am OPENING REMARKS

12:00pm LUNCHEON

ENTREE

Oven Roasted Chicken Breast with BBQ Demi Glaze Topped with Buttermilk Fried Crispy Onions finished with Pineapple Salsa, Herb Mashed Potato and Medley of Vegetables

VEGETARIAN OPTION

Vegetarian Timbale Curried Split Pea, Portobello Mushroom, Spinach, Tofu and Chinese Eggplant

DESSERT

Flourless Chocolate Decadence with Macerated Nova Scotia Berries and Raspberry Coulis
Starbucks Coffee and Tazo Tea

1:00pm–4:00pm AWARD CEREMONY

Presented by The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, QC, Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, The Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia, and The Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister of Communities, Culture & Heritage

Family Volunteer Award

Youth Volunteer Award

Volunteer Representative Awards

4:00pm CLOSING REMARKS

2018 Family Volunteer Award

THE JOHNSON FAMILY

Thomas J. Johnson Sr., Carol Anne Johnson, Thomas Johnson Jr., Karlee Johnson, Kalolin Johnson, Brandt Johnson, and Laine Johnson

The Johnsons have contributed to the culture and wellbeing of Eskasoni for many years. They have helped on countless occasions across multiple community events including the interact school program, the Mi'kmaq Legal Support Network talking circles, the NADACA dance program, Meals on Wheels community program for elders, as well as being key fundraisers for many causes.

Tom, along with others, was instrumental in starting the Christmas telethon in Eskasoni back in the early 1990s to raise funds for children in need in their community during Christmas. He also always volunteers to set up and run the sound system at community events so it is done professionally.

Together, Tom and his wife Carole Ann have helped for years with the Eskasoni Summer Games, Winter Carnival, Eskasoni Christmas Gala, and the Eskasoni Pow Wow.

Both Tom and Carol Anne believe in the importance of preserving the Mi'kmaq language. They speak it to their children on a daily basis, and encourage them to promote the language through singing and speaking engagements. Together they worked on translating a children's animation movie into Mi'kmaq. Carol Anne, along with other group members, devoted several hours translating the Bible from English to Mi'kmaq.

Tom and Carol Anne have also shared their love of volunteering with their five children. Over the years they've encouraged them to volunteer at community functions and are now proud to see them taking on their own community volunteering and getting their peers involved as well. Their daughters, Karlee, Kalolin and Laine, have performed at a number of events such as singing the national anthem during the Canada Games opening ceremony in Halifax, speaking at the Assembly of First Nations in Ottawa about the Mi'kmaq Immersion program, emceeding for the Eskasoni Telethon and Eskasoni Pow Wow. They even performed in Ottawa for the Rita Joe Literacy Project along with the National Arts Centre Orchestra, at the Summer Games and during the Canada 150 celebrations, just to name a few. Their sons are also highly involved in promoting active lifestyles and volunteer with youth sports such as grappling, jujitsu, hockey and basketball.

2018 Youth Volunteer Award

NINA DAVEY

Nina has been empowered by what life has offered her. From the age of five she has participated actively in her Dad's care through his journey with metastatic thyroid cancer of the spine. At age 13 she lost her dearest friend Jeana to a brain tumour. Nina views volunteering as a way of honouring a life that her friend Jeana would be proud of.

Nina is a positive, motivating leader with amazing potential. She formed Jeana's Girls, a group of young women from Pictou County who have come together to support and fundraise for the Pictou County Chapter of the Children's Wish Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society in honour and in memory of her friend.

As Relay for Life Team Captain she recruited team members, organized meetings, events, advertising and found new ways for volunteering and fundraising to be fun. She was the top individual fundraiser at the 2017 Relay for Life events and top 2016 & 2017 individual youth fundraiser for the Pictou County Chapter of the Children's Wish Foundation. On top of her personal efforts for these causes she also helped her team raise enough to grant one wish for a Pictou County youth.

Nina is also well known for her community involvement volunteering with church events, Me to We Club, as greeter and tour guide at Northumberland Fisheries Museum, at the McCulloch Museum and Genealogy Centre, the Pictou Visitors Centre, as well as many school committees at her school. She has been guest speaker at the Pictou Rotary Club, Pictou United Church, the Gyro Club and Halifax We Day.

2018 Representative Volunteers

VALLEY REGION

ROSEANNA BOYD

Municipality of the District of West Hants

Roseanna started volunteering in 1999, when her children were starting school. Her main motivation was to ensure that her children had the same opportunities as others. Roseanna has taught her children that the best way to be a part of a community is to help people and volunteer for local organizations. As young adults, Roseanna's children can often be found taking on their own volunteer roles within community organizations.

Roseanna has volunteered with many local organizations but is especially proud to be a founding member of the Windsor Kids of Steel Triathlon and the Wizards Volleyball groups. In recent years she has been an active volunteer with the Hants County Christmas Angels. She is one that is quick to help out and lend a hand to many community projects. Her enthusiasm and energy is heartfelt which makes her an outstanding community volunteer.

ROLAND COMEAU

Municipality of Clare

Roland started volunteering in his community more than 50 years ago and has volunteered countless hours of his time to various community groups including Nova Scotia Kidney Foundation, Meteghan Lions Club, Clare Curling Club, Clare Golf and Country Club/Handicap Committee, Stella Maris Church, Clare Food Bank, Les Aquadiens de Clare swim team, Yarmouth Hospital Hullabaloo fundraiser, Clare Recreation Commission, Clare Minor Hockey, and Ecole secondaire de Clare.

In 2017 Roland volunteered to be chairperson of the committee for the Atlantic Future Links Golf Tournament which took 7 months of planning and organizing. This tournament brought 71 junior boys and 22 junior girls from 4 Atlantic provinces, Ontario and B.C. With the help of other committee members and more than 50 volunteers the tournament was a great success.

DONNA CONRAD

Town of Berwick

Donna started volunteering many years ago when she was a young girl involved in the local pageant. She saw what the volunteers did for her and wanted to do the same thing for others. Following university Donna continued to be involved in the community, consistently in the Berwick area due to close ties with the recreation department. Donna's volunteering with the Berwick Gala Days Association as Pageant Coordinator has had a tremendous affect on many young women (16 to 18) who have represented their communities. Many have gone on to do bigger and better things, and have made their communities very proud.

Donna's passion for volunteering has continued to grow. She is involved in helping out many organizations including the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival, the Atlantic Theatre Festival, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Campaign for Kids Board, the Red Doors, Berwick Teen Fit and Youth activities, Berwick Recreation Committee, as well as various fundraisers for local women's groups and youth. She is currently the Coordinator and Chair of "The Stockings Were Hung" a community fundraiser that filled stockings for 350 youth in Kings County this past year. Donna is a humble and kind soul who loves volunteering and helping to improve the community she lives in.

DOREEN CROSS

Town of Middleton

Doreen has devoted 20 plus volunteer years to organizations in Middleton including Soldiers' Memorial Health Auxiliary Society, Heart of the Valley Care Facility, Middleton Fireflies, and Middleton Baptist Church. She has been instrumental in significant fundraising for Rosemary Chapter, Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire and always finds the time to visit church members and patients at the nursing home where her mother lives even though she doesn't drive.

Doreen is an ideal volunteer and often helps without being asked. We're lucky to have such a strong and generous volunteer like Doreen in Middleton.

ROBERT GAUDET

Municipality of the District of Digby

For the 25 plus years Robert has been very consistent in supporting the Weymouth Kiwanis Club, Weymouth Fire Department and with the Canada Day Celebrations especially the BBQ chicken dinner. Overseeing the event from start to finish, Robert helps arrange the volunteers, handles the supplies, equipment and cooks hundreds of pieces of chicken, then serves members of the community, and cleans up. Robert helps the local mailman twice a week delivering flyers and carrying parcels for the elders and also does simple tasks at his local church to help things run a little smoother. Robert has lent a hand in several projects at the Cricket Field including assembling a playground for children under five and assisted in erecting a fence.

SARAH LESLIE

Town of Kentville

Kentville's new library space would not be the success it is today without Sarah's contributions, leadership and dedication of driving the Friends of the Kentville Library and their fundraising initiatives. Her role with the Friends of the Kentville Library was primarily driven by the need for more safe spaces in the community for students.

Sarah's pride in her community and its people is directly reflected in the space and the relationships she was able to forge. It is through her generous spirit and hard work that we were able to open the doors to a world-class facility. The Town of Kentville and all of the library users in the area have greatly benefited from her volunteer efforts.

DR. LINDA MOFFAT

Town of Annapolis Royal

After her career as a university professor and researcher, Linda retired to Annapolis Royal and quickly became involved in the local community. She worked with a small group of library supporters to establish a local Friends of the Library association in 2007. As President of the Friends group she worked for several years to raise community awareness of the need for a new, larger, home for the library. Over the past three years she has liaised with the town of Annapolis Royal, the Annapolis Valley Regional Library and the local community to develop a plan to expand the library, which would meet the needs of the whole community. Under her leadership, in late 2016 the Friends of the Library began a strong community-based fund raising effort for the new Library and raised \$190,000 from the local community and from public sources in only 12 months. This funding and community support will enable Annapolis Royal to have a spacious, modern and innovative new library at The Academy in this year.

Linda also volunteers locally, regionally and nationally through her church, sings in a local mixed voice choir and plays percussion in the Town Band.

JOHN MORASH

Municipality of the County of Kings

John had a vision to create a community friendly gardening space. The vision was to build, plant, tend and harvest the raised garden beds and then use the homegrown vegetables to make soup. The soup was simply an avenue John envisioned as a way to offer a free community lunch for those who may be in need and were facing the unfortunate challenges of feeding their families and themselves and bringing together members of the community in a caring and sharing environment.

John has given the community countless hours of time. He and his family have opened their home to students from many countries through the Nova Scotia International Student Program. John volunteers his time by providing musical entertainment for numerous local fundraising activities, sitting on the board of the Upper Room Food Bank, supervising community service with restorative justice, and currently chairs the Kingston Pastoral Charge Outreach Committee.

GENEVE NEWCOMBE

Village of Port Williams

Volunteering is a lifelong commitment which defines who Geneve is. Geneve is always providing her support, guidance and leadership and has an infectious way of lobbying others to help volunteer.

Geneve has spent countless hours volunteering to ensure that female hockey is a priority at the local, high school and provincial level. Her dedication to this cause has enabled the girls of her community and province to have the same opportunities to participate in competitive and recreational minor hockey as their male counterparts. Her other passion is bringing agricultural education to the schools. She feels that it is very important for the public to understand and appreciate where their food comes from and to value those who produce it.

Some of Geneve's other volunteer passions include; soccer, 4H, Quilts for Hearts for Africa, and Kings Presbyterian Church.

PATRICIA POTTS

Town of Digby

Since moving to Digby Pat has been volunteering for more than 60 years and continues to support her community wherever and whenever she can. Pat has been involved in the Grace United Church for more than 60 years especially enjoying her time in the choir. Pat served as President of Digby Ladies Golf club, President of Digby Ladies Curling Club, tournament director of Nova Scotia Ladies Golf Association, and President and life time member of Atlantic Senior Ladies Golf Association. Pat served a term on Digby Town Council and was a member of the Zelma Rebekah Lodge for more than 60 years and served as a Noble Grand.

Pat has also volunteered at many community events including; Bear River Cherry Carnival, Wharf Rat Rally, Lobster Bash, Annapolis-Digby Christmas Daddies, the 2011 and 2016 Canadian Seniors Curling Championships and more. Pat has never refused to participate in anything she has been asked to do.

DONNA RANDELL

Village of New Minas

Donna is the creator and coordinator of New Minas Recreation's 'Kaleidoscope' program, a social recreation program for adults with special needs. Participants meet every Wednesday morning at the Louis Millett Community Complex to take part in arts and crafts, various physical activities, and community building exercises. The Kaleidoscope program is also responsible for creating the Book Nook - a used book borrowing program, collecting 'pull tabs' for the Kinsmen Club and for providing snacks at Halloween, and art decorations at Christmas. Donna has created a warm and welcoming environment that reaches people from all over the Valley region, so much so that New Minas Recreation has recently had to open new space at the Louis Millett Community Complex to the group to accommodate the growing numbers.

Donna also gives her time to the Flower Cart, Special Olympics, the Alexander Society, Outside the Box, CAPRE and enjoys chatting with other parents and caregivers at SMILE on Friday nights.

MAXINE RUGGLES

Municipality of the County of Annapolis

The County of Annapolis is very proud to have Maxine, a long-time, valuable resident of Bridgetown, as its Provincial Volunteer representative. In her own quiet capable way, Maxine helps out whenever she can. Over the years, she has freely given time to her church, V.O.N. Board, numerous charitable organizations, the Meals on Wheels program, as well as to assist individuals with disabilities. Maxine is also a member of the Bridgetown and Area Garden Club where she willingly shares her gardening expertise. For 20 years, she has been on the Bridgetown Friends of the Library Committee, taking part in raising funds for the Library in any way she can.

BONNIE SMITH

Town of Windsor

Bonnie moved to Nova Scotia 31 years ago. Working nights to take care of her three children, it wasn't until a car accident in 2003 that changed the course of Bonnie's life. She began working in the Palliative Care Sector and completed training to become an administrative assistant. In 2009 she went to work in the local MLA's office and she realized just how much need there was in the community and how best she could assist individuals and community groups. It was then that her passion for volunteering truly began.

She now volunteers with the Windsor Day Care, Hants West Relay for Life, Community Volunteer Income Tax program, the Affordable Housing Committee, and the Christmas Angels Committee, which is particularly special to Bonnie. With six grandchildren, Bonnie says that helping children and families at Christmas brings her a lot of joy.

JUDITH TOD

Town of Wolfville

As Chair of the Wolfville Refugee Support Network, Judith has helped bring 14 refugees to the area, and is working to bring a 15th refugee. She continues to support these refugee families by connecting them with social, language, and community integration services. Judith has also been an advocate for immigrants facing deportation and was recently honoured with the Rotary Paul Harris Fellowship.

She is humble in her work and deflects praise, always crediting the Wolfville community with providing a supportive environment that her organizations can thrive in. Judith has a kind heart, is compassionate and has a desire to help people in need.

CHARLOTTE WARRINGTON

Glooscap First Nation

Charlotte is the Health Director of Glooscap First Nation, and she recently celebrated her 18th year working for the Health Centre. She is the perfect selection to represent volunteerism in the community of Glooscap First Nation because of the personal time and dedication she has given to support a community she truly loves and believes in. Charlotte's kind personality has directly contributed to the success of the community, as she offers a warm and welcoming environment to anybody who visits the Health Centre. She is a role model to staff and community members, by volunteering her time at community events, being respectful to everyone, and making positive change in the community.

CENTRAL REGION/ HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BARBARA BELL

Barb is a constant and reliable volunteer in her rural community of Middle Musquodoboit. One of her most treasured causes is the majestic Musquodoboit Valley Bicentennial Theatre and Culture Centre in the heart of the village. Barb was involved in the discovery and restoration of a William Gill stage painting which is now a prized community treasure, she helps to manage the box office for theatre events, is a member of the organizing team that oversees annual Robbie Burns events, and is a student mentor.

She also gives freely of her time to the Musquodoboit Valley Food Bank, the Riverside United Church, as an official agent for the Colchester Musquodoboit NDP Electoral District Association and was a founding member of the Arimathea Funeral Co-operative. Musquodoboit Valley residents feel fortunate to claim her as one of their own.

VISHAL BHARDWAJ

Vishal came to Canada as an immigrant from India 15 years ago and has been passionate about volunteering and giving back to the community ever since. He has been extensively involved in the community serving on the Board of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission, the Indo Canadian Association of Nova Scotia, the American Society of Quality Section 411 (serving Atlantic Canada), the Portland Estate Resident Association, the Dartmouth South Academy Parents Play Group, and the Ellenvale Junior High School Special Project Group. He has helped raise more than \$100,000 for the much needed Dartmouth South Academy community playground.

MEKAYLA BULL

Mekayla is a passionate and caring individual. She is an active member of her school's We Day group, a member of Catapult Leadership Society, and she enjoys initiating her own goodwill activities to help others in need. She led a team of youth in a fundraising initiative for the Salvation Army, has participated in conference coordination, and is a role model and advocate for volunteerism among her peers.

DAVID CURRIE

Dave has significantly contributed to the Nova Scotia Bird Society for 37 years from coordinating field trips, to writing large sections of the acclaimed magazine Nova Scotia Birds, and much more. It was as the President of the Society that Dave has had the most impact. He inspired and led the organization to grow and become vibrant and outward looking; connecting people in his community and beyond with the joys of birding and conservation. He has personally welcomed almost every new member of the organization and many people credit Dave with being the one who inspired them to become involved.

DING FAN

Ding has volunteered with the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia International Network Society, the Dalhousie Chinese Students & Scholars Association, the Canadian Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and the Dalhousie International Student Association and Student Union. As part of her volunteer work with the Chinese Society, she led the Youth Development Committee and organized entrepreneurship and career workshops and brought in many local partners to support the many programs she organized. By initiating the "China Program" to help local businesses and entrepreneurs to explore more opportunity on an international level, Ding believes she can contribute to the community in a positive way.

LINDA FORWARD

For 15 years, Linda's dedication to the Dartmouth Learning Network has led her to working one-on-one with clients, supporting the administration and leadership, and creating opportunities for the organization to grow.

Linda is the kind of volunteer that organizations dream of. Some of those include Dress for Success, Sonlife Christian and Hillside Wesleyan Church, the PC Party of Nova Scotia, the Conservative Party of Canada, and the Christian Fellowship Group. Linda believes in a better world and volunteering is one way that brings us closer to her vision of a more just world.

NICHOLAS HORNE

Nick volunteers many hours with the Anaphylaxis Society of Nova Scotia and the St. Margaret's Bay Stewardship Association. He also volunteers with the Westwood Hills Residents Association, the St. Margaret's Bay Coastal and the North West Planning Advisory Committee, and the Bay Treasure Chest Association.

Nick, who experiences severe food allergies and has two young boys who also have severe allergies, is founder of the Anaphylaxis Society of Nova Scotia. He works hard to raise awareness of Anaphylaxis and place life saving epinephrine injectors in appropriate public places. He is very hopeful the success of the Society, will save lives.

CHRISTINE JAMIESON

Christine not only inspires improvement in the social and athletic abilities of the children she coaches through the Special Olympics' FUNdamentals program, she encourages the children to believe in themselves and that they are capable of anything they set their minds to.

The best way to describe Christine's impact is through the eyes of a parent who is seeing the benefits of the FUNdamentals program: "Christine has been such a major part of my son's development, I really have no words. He went from the boy who would come into the gym and consistently run (away) into a boy who is now engaged. She is more than a coach to my son and my family; it's people like Christine who are real life heroes. Thank you Christine, from the top, bottom and all sides of my heart (front and back too!). Our lives are better for having her in it. We are so blessed."

AILIE SULLIVAN

Ailie cares about people and wants to make a difference in the lives of others. She has volunteered with Northwood, We Day, CIBC Run for the Cure, the Sacred Heart Student Council, and the IWK's Kermesse fundraiser. As a volunteer at Northwood Ailie loves visiting with residents and has taken the initiative to plan activities for them. She also volunteers as the Student Council Treasurer and as the Youth Debating coach.

DIANE SWANZEY

Diane has a commitment and passion for causes that enlighten and enrich the lives of youth, new immigrants and refugees. She has volunteered with the Immigrant Services Association of Nova Scotia, the Dartmouth Literacy Network, the YMCA Centre for Immigrant Services, the English Language Learning Program through Halifax Public Libraries, the Waverley Heritage Society, and the Waverley Ratepayers Association.

Through her 38-year involvement as a volunteer and mentor with the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia's Docent program (the longest in the Gallery's history), she has proven her exceptional service to the Municipality and beyond.

HIGHLAND REGION

EDITH AUTON

Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

For the last 20 years Edith has been President of the St. Mary's Dart Club planning its weekly games and organizing the teams. She has also been a huge contributor to the St. Mary's Lions Club for the last six years helping to organize events, activities, and fundraisers such as the Sherbrooke Show and the Shine Mobile canteen. She is particularly proud to have recently helped to raise enough money to provide 30 families with Christmas gifts.

Edith has also volunteered on a weekly basis with St. Mary's Education Centre & Academy's school fluoride program for the last six years. Every year she helps decorate Sherbrooke Village for its Old Fashioned Christmas and helps set up and raise money for St. Mary's Hospital Walk-a-thon.

PAT CHRISTENSEN

Municipality of Pictou County

Pat has been a volunteer for most of her life and says she volunteers because she loves to do it!

She has been a member of the Abercrombie Community Center board since the 1970s and was instrumental in the building being given back to the community after the school was closed in 1975. As a member of the Abercrombie Woman's Institute for more than 50 years, she has served on the leadership team in every capacity. Pat has also worked with Pictou County 4-H in various capacities including leader at the club and county levels, fundraising for the 4-H barns at the exhibition grounds, as well as President of the Leaders Council. Pat has been involved with Clan Donald at both the local and provincial level and has been a member of the Catholic Women's League of Canada and has served in her local church in every capacity.

Pat is an outstanding leader and tireless volunteer. It is amazing how the efforts of one person can truly make a difference in the community.

BRIAN KELLOCK

Town of Pictou

During the 40 years Brian has been volunteering, many organizations have benefitted from his generous nature and technical talents. He was a coach and official with the local swimming club for 10 years and also coached the masters swimming club for 15 years. He has helped with local ringette, hockey, baseball, and with the recreation commission.

Brian has also contributed greatly to the cultural backbone of his town by being an active member of the Kinsmen Club and Ship Hector Society for eight and seven years respectively. He's also been involved with the Fisheries Museum, the Nova Scotia Lighthouse Project, and the Pictou Historical Society.

LEN MACDONALD

Town of Antigonish

Len started his volunteering career at a very young age and truly feels it is his duty to give back to his community and beyond.

Some highlights of his lifetime of volunteering include leading a fundraising project called 50 Taps where he raised \$40,000 to install fresh water in 50 households in a Leper community in India. He is also proud to have worked with the St. Ninian Syrian refugee committee and recruit leaders to run the Thursday Hot Meal program at St. James United Church.

Len has also been President of the Antigonish Golf Course, the Childrens Place Day Care, Antigonish Minor Soccer, Festival Antigonish, Friends of Antigonish Library, and Laurentia Housing Co-op.

LORRAINE MACLEAN

Town of New Glasgow

Lorraine is a very giving person and has been a key volunteer for the last 20 years. During that time she has taught line dancing, volunteered at the New Glasgow Music Festival, volunteered at bowling tournaments, been involved with the legion and church choirs, volunteered for the Cancer Society, contributed to Shepard's lunch room, Meals on Wheels, teaches lessons for the Pictou County Ukulele Group, New Glasgow's 55 Plus Club, and helped with many church suppers. Lorraine was also a member of a musical group that provided entertainment to many of the nursing / seniors homes in Pictou County. She continues to attend and support many community events.

VANIA MACMILLAN

Town of Trenton

Vania has helped make Trenton's annual homecoming festival Trenton FunFest possible over the last several years. This is an important event in this small town and brings residents home from far and wide every summer. Run by a small group of volunteers, Vania has played an integral role in that group, planning and helping with fundraising efforts.

Beyond that Vania has volunteered her time locally for Children's Wish Foundation, Coldest Night of the Year, several Friends of Trenton Park Society events, the Multicultural Association of Pictou County's annual Fusion Festival, several events with the United Way, LifeShelter for the Homeless, and the current emergency shelter. While living in South Korea for 13 years, Vania volunteered for the City of Gwangju's International Day Festival, the Youth Mentor Program, the Immigrant Women's Centre, and at the International Centre assisting with translating, teaching, and website development. Vania also helped out at their local orphanages, animal shelters, Rainbow Action Korea and other charities.

ALLAN MURRAY

Town of Stellarton

Allan is a keen volunteer and always willing to help. He is one of the first men to join the Aberdeen Hospital Auxiliary in New Glasgow, and is the Treasurer of First Presbyterian Church in Stellarton, the Stellarton Homecoming Committee and the Aberdeen Hospital Auxiliary. For 21 years he has been a tax volunteer for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program in Pictou County, a program that organizes income tax clinics for seniors and those with low incomes and he is presently their Volunteer Coordinator. He is also active with Warm Hearts Refugee Group, working to welcome a refugee family from Iraq to Pictou County.

DIANE PAUL (POSTHUMOUS)

Paqtnkek First Nation

Paqtnkek Mi'kmaw Nation lost a valuable member of its community this past year. Diane was dedicated to helping the youth within the community. She would make sure children were in school even if it meant giving them a drive or making them lunch. She would cook for community members, help teams and athletes fundraise and even drive students to their sport games. She was selfless with her time and energy, trying to help those around her. The entire community has been touched by Diane's endless supply of kindness. She has made a huge impact on her community and will forever be remembered.

KATIE PAUL

Pictou Landing First Nation

Katie has been volunteering in the community for the past 10 years. She turns the annual Community Christmas Party into a true community event bringing everyone together to celebrate and enjoy the special season of giving. Sometimes it is hard for the families to afford Christmas but Katie ensures that every child gets a gift, visits with Santa and is encouraged to participate in the crafts and fun activities of the day.

Katie also volunteers as a server at funerals, the Mother's Day dinner, Father's Day Fishing Derby and anywhere else help is needed. Even as a student working three jobs she always finds time to volunteer in the community whenever she can. Katie is a wonderful role model and a great asset to her community.

RUSSELL RICHARD

Municipality of the District of Guysborough

Russell has been, and continues to be a very influential person in his rural community of Charlos Cove, Guysborough County. For the last 50 plus years he has contributed to the needs of the community. He has organized and called Bingo every Sunday afternoon for the last 30 years, he sits on the organizing committee for the Charlos Cove Picnic that takes place on Natal Day weekend every year. Russell volunteers at St. Josephs Church in Charlos Cove and also assists the seniors in the community by taking them to get groceries, driving them to appointments or by simply helping them around their house.

JACKIE STOYLES

Town of Mulgrave

Volunteer work has always been a part of Jackie's life. When she first moved to Mulgrave 19 years ago, she volunteered to meet people and get better acquainted with the community. Since then she has contributed tremendously. She was instrumental in establishing the town's first group of medical first responders, and has attended many medical calls herself. She's helped organize two of the Fire department's major fundraising events, including Chase the Ace and Monte Carlo Night which contributes to the department and legion to help purchase equipment and maintain their building.

Before she was a member of the fire department she was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary for 17 years. Beyond that Jackie has also been involved in local school sport programs, such as volleyball and basketball and is a past member of the Scotia Days committee.

GLENN TERRIS

Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Glenn is a stalwart member of the Lochaber Community Development Association (LCDA) and handles a broad range of responsibilities associated with LCDA facilities. Glenn is the person who first suggested the creation of the LCDA's annual Christmas Tree Festival fundraiser and has, since its inception, continued to be deeply involved in that very successful event. He has also been a member of other groups working toward the betterment of the community. Glenn has volunteered in a major way with every regatta that the local rowing clubs have held, from regional to national and international ones. He has also organized fishing derbies in Lochaber for Big Brothers Big Sisters. These are just a few examples of the myriad of wide-ranging ways in which Glenn has generously volunteered his time and efforts in service to his community.

Glenn never hesitates to pitch in when something needs to be done. He is naturally motivated by his willingness to help anywhere he can.

ALFRED AND MARY LOU WHITE

Town of Westville

Over the past 35 years Alfred and Mary Lou have been active in their community. Alfred and Mary Lou have been involved in the Westville Power Skating program for the past 35 years and have given countless children the opportunity to develop skills and build confidence on the ice with kindness and passion for the program. All those years ago they got involved by helping with fundraising and eventually became the glue that holds the program together. Together they also help out with the Home and School and The Pictou County Rivers Association.

Separately, Alfie has volunteered with Pictou County Minor Hockey and Pictou County Rivers Association. Mary Lou is a member of the Saint Andrews Presbyterian Ladies Auxiliary and has been a Cub Leader.

CAPE BRETON REGION

KIMBERLEY DENNY

Wagmatcook First Nation

Kimberley loves her community and it's youth and wants to give back in any way she can. She volunteers her time for many events including the Winter Carnival, March break activities, Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw summer games and many other community events.

She plans and fundraises for the Elder's pilgrimage trip to Quebec city every year. She organizes the Wagmatcook princess pageant and teaches other girls how to take on the role of an organizer. She is always willing to teach the youth she works with passing on her knowledge and hard work ethic. She is always there when her community endures hard times. She attends wakes and makes sure everything is taken care of. She also organizes the local salutes. This is a community dinner and auction to cover the costs of a funeral.

Kimberley never says no to any request her community needs. In any event, good or bad, she is always there.

LORI DOUCETTE

Potlotek First Nation

Lori embodies the very spirit of being a volunteer and does it all with a warm and caring smile. She volunteers her time for many community functions, activities and celebrations, school programs, pow wows, graduations and Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Summer Games. She is a volunteer fire fighter, medical first responder and Search and Rescue member. Lori is willing to help anyone in need and gives countless hours to the community's fundraising efforts. Her husband and children are always nearby supporting Lori's efforts.

Lori's positive attitude encourages and empowers other people to also help out and The Potlotek First Nation is proud to have Lori as a member of their community.

JOHN JOE GILLIS

Municipality of the County of Inverness

John Joe was instrumental to bringing the Glencoe Station Hall to the community back in 1975. He was one of the founding members of the group that fundraised for it and he has continued to be a faithful member of the Board of Directors and an ambassador for the rec hall to be an important local gathering place to entertain, enjoy family and neighbours, and pursue common interests together. His list of volunteer duties within the organization is endless including helping at corn boils, BBQs, horseshoe tournaments, bingo games, hunters' breakfasts, concerts, dances and more. John is always willing to lend a helping hand.

STEVEN GOOGOO

We'koqma'q First Nation

Steve is a Band Councillor, sports coach and member of various committees and boards. Steve's passion is working with youth. Steven started the Youth Eagle Program and within this program aboriginal youth practices' 10 core pillars which are: Alcohol and Drug free, Mi'kmaq Language, Cultural Values, Respect, Academics, Leadership, Integrity, Commitment/Participation, Volunteerism, and Having Fun.

Steve believes volunteering creates empowerment, gives us a greater perspective and self-awareness. He leads by example and is positively influencing many youth in his community.

DANTE JOE-PIERRO

Eskasoni First Nation

Dante has been volunteering in many capacities since he was nine years old. He is involved in numerous groups at Allison Bernard Memorial High School and is a part of the In Business Youth Group. In his free time he volunteers for the Christmas Telethons, Eerie Island/Halloween Dances, March Break Activities, Eskasoni's PowWow, Our Eskasoni Event, Kepmite'Isi Pride Walk, Run for the cure and attends sweat lodge ceremonies regularly.

Dante is passionate about his community and is deeply proud of his culture. He speaks both Mi'kmaq and English and his energy is highly contagious which encourages other youth to want to volunteer. Dante promotes the value of an education, strongly encourages other youth to stay in school, has a positive attitude and has remained alcohol and drug free. He is a remarkable role model to his peers and a valuable member of his community.

MIKE KELLOWAY

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Mike started volunteering when he was a participant and a peer volunteer coach with the Glace Bay Police Boys and Girls Club. It was perhaps this involvement with The Boys and Girls Club that inspired Mike in the 1990s to turn his efforts towards maintaining a youth center in Glace Bay and focusing on underrepresented groups throughout the CBRM. Mike has been a board member for many community groups and organizations including Savoy Theatre, YMCA Cape Breton, Cape Breton Regional Hospital Foundation and the Whitney Pier Youth Club. Most recently Mike is the Chair and Co-founder of a community group called #bayitforward. This is a small group of leaders in the community that Mike leads. The group focuses on the creation of recreation opportunities, community mixers, senior's socials, and youth recreation events for the residents of Glace Bay.

Mike's commitment and generosity to the community means he not only engages organizations and helps write grant applications, but he also spends countless hours inflating basketballs, making seniors smile, filling juice cups, and cleaning up the gym. He is an amazing community member and a valued volunteer.

CYRIL MACDONALD

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Cyril is a very busy volunteer. He resides in the community of Albert Bridge where he is involved in numerous organizations and events including Special Olympics, the Cape Bretoners Dragon Boat Team, the Haley Street Adult Service Centre, St. Mary's Parish and Knights of Columbus.

The running community has also benefited from the initiative and boundless enthusiasm that Cyril brings to various running events he coordinates including; the Cape Breton Fiddlers Run Committee, Fiddlers Fun Run, Doctors Nova Scotia Youth Run, Long John Jaunt Half Marathon and the Law Enforcement Torch Run. Cyril comes early, leaves late, is always willing to give a helping hand in any capacity, and steps up without hesitation. As a "Learn-To-Run" Coach, Cyril is a very motivating and wonderful team player who always makes volunteering fun!

KELLY MCINTYRE HAYES

Town of Port Hawkesbury

Kelly has dedicated more than 20 years of volunteering to her community. She has tirelessly fundraised, organized and managed sports teams and community organizations. She has been involved in minor hockey for more than 15 years, serving as a team manager numerous times, as well as serving as a board member and member of the executive. Kelly has served on the executive of the Port Hawkesbury Antigonish Swim Team, Can Skate, Port Hawkesbury Figure Skating Club, Strait Pirates, President of the Port Hawkesbury Chapter of Canadian Parents for French, Minor Baseball, Port Hawkesbury Community Parks and was instrumental in assisting with Port Hawkesbury Community Park endeavors. Kelly continues to canvass for the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Relay for Life.

CAROLYN PAUL

Membertou First Nation

Carolyn began volunteering early in her teenage years and still works tirelessly for many organizations inside and outside of her community. She does it without looking for recognition, and always with a smile on her face. She works behind the scenes to ensure each project she takes on runs as smoothly as possible.

Carolyn's volunteer time is spent supporting the Community members tax preparation, the Membertou's Parents Against Drugs group, The Duke of Edinburgh Awards, the Cape Breton Regional Hospital, the Cancer Society, the Cape Breton Bike Rally, Family & Domestic Violence Awareness/Prevention Week, and has been passionately organizing Operation Christmas Child for the last four years.

Carolyn chooses to volunteer because it she says it feels great to help other people and you can always count on her for a smile.

PERCY RASMUSSEN

Municipality of the County of Victoria

Percy is a dedicated and committed volunteer for his community. Since a young age Percy has always been willing to help and often volunteers without being asked. He instructs senior exercise classes, organizes card games for seniors and boot camps. He opens and closes the rink building, sets up tables and chairs for programs and activities at the rink. The County also counts on him to open, clear and flood the ice at the Olympic-size Ingonish outdoor rink. Percy organizes fundraising events and activities for the Smokey Recreational Society (rink) and is the volunteer co-ordinator of HIKE NS Summit in Ingonish this coming May.

DEBBIE SAMSON

Municipality of the County of Richmond

Debbie has served at all levels of the Catholics Women's League to enhance their causes and bring issues and resolutions to government. Since her retirement from nursing, she has focused on making her community a healthier, safer place where all people, especially seniors, can learn to self-manage and help each other stay socially connected. This passion has been realized through activities such as screening clinics, walking clubs, senior's book club as well as a monthly 'We Care Day' with speakers and nutritious lunches.

FUNDY REGION

BARBARA ARIS

Municipality of the County of Cumberland

Barb's reach is far and wide in her community. She has brought several educational seminars, exercise classes for seniors, and clinics to her area. She's set up a free winter clothing annual event, started a Children's Christmas tree lighting and Halloween events for families, reinstated a thank you Christmas dinner to the community, a Clean Up Day and started a free newsletter that goes out three times a year to more than 170 homes. Barb also took on a project from the municipality to get highspeed internet installed, and had two little free libraries built and installed in her area.

She's also been Chair and Vice-Chair of the Shore Drive Community Development Association for five years, secretary and member of the Board of Directors for the Age of Sail Heritage Museum for four years, and Chair of the Parkisons's Support Group for the last 10 years.

BIBLE HILL FIRE BRIGADE LADIES AUXILIARY

Village of Bible Hill

The Ladies Auxiliary is an organization that has contributed to the Village for nearly 40 years. The Ladies Auxiliary is particularly proud of the fundraising work they have done, especially the donations to local school libraries, breakfast programs, and with IT equipment. They have also contributed to the Colchester Regional Hospital and the Relay for Life. While the group's composition is aging, they still help the Brigade with various operations, including providing suppers for curling competitions, funerals of past fire fighters, and other similar activities. They are very proud of how much they have contributed to support local firefighters and their families in times of need.

NETTAH BURRY

Municipality of East Hants

Nettah has been the driving force behind the Culture Heritage and Arts Society, its charitable status registration and the creation of a student bursary. She has been actively involved in fundraising, music events, festivals as well as writing and directing plays in which community members of all ages have performed. Nettah spearheaded the acquisition of two historic properties and charitable status making them available for public use. Nettah is also part of the organization committee of Maitland Days, an annual celebration of the History of the Launch of the W.D Lawrence Ship in the village of Maitland. The D.W. Lawrence Ship, built in 1874 is the largest wooden-hulled ship built in Canada.

Nettah has also given her time to the Maitland District Development Association with the beautification of Dawson Dowell Park and volunteers to provide seasonal décor of the Maitland street scapes.

ARTHUR CHESTNUT

Town of Truro

Art is one of Truro Fire Brigade's go-to people; both on scene and at the station. He joined in 1974 and is the second-longest serving volunteer member in the history of the Brigade. He responds to calls, maintains the community room and spends countless hours manning the canteen. He is always eager to help and always ensures that everything is ready for the station's many visitors and members. Art is an extraordinary mentor to new and experienced firefighters. He has served multiple terms as an officer and has been the chair of many brigade committees.

He is most proud of having helped fight many of the notable fires in Truro, during his career. Art is also very proud that he was selected as a Live At 5' Maritimer of the Week for his outstanding contribution to Truro in 2014.

ANDREW JOHNSON

Millbrook First Nation

Andrew volunteers at all of Millbrook's large events each year. He helps with the Mission to Saint Anne de Beaupre trip, the L'nu Kamaqn Ski and Snowboard program, the NS Mi'kmaw Summer Games, Millbrook's Annual Youth Moose Harvest, our 3D archery club, the National Aboriginal Indigenous Games, T-ball, Minor hockey coach, Mi'kmaq Warriors JR A Lacrosse equipment manager and was a search and rescue volunteer for 5 years. Andrew is very giving of his time and expertise in so many ways. He has improved the lives of everyone in his community with his willingness to support, be part of and mentor a lot of the major community events and has done so for many years.

Andrew always says it's all about the kids but its more than just the kids, he sets a beautiful example as a dedicated parent, a community leader, and role model for people of any age.

JAMES MCMORRAN

Town of Stewiacke

Jim lends a hand wherever he can throughout his town of Stewiacke and is always looking to improve and create something new. Jim is the Founding President of the Winding River Art Gallery and co-coordinator of the Stewiacke Culture Showcase. Without Jim, there simply wouldn't be an art gallery.

Currently he is secretary of the Town of Stewiacke's Business & Tourism committee, member of the Police Advisory Board, President of the Colchester-East Hants Branch of the Canadian Mental Health Association, secretary of Loge la France Masonic Lodge. The town of Stewiacke is proud to call Jim one of its own.

TINA AND DERRICK NEVIN

Sipekne'katik First Nation

Tina and Derrick are the proud parents of 4 boys, Corbin, Therin, Dustin and Derrick Jr. They have been volunteering in their community for more than 20 years. They are passionate about helping others and want to make a difference in the everyday life of youth growing up on the reserve. They believe in the mindset that it takes a community to raise a child.

Of the many programs offered in the Indian Brook First Nation community, Tina and Derrick are especially proud of their involvement in the annual Moose Hunt. With the help of many organizations and friends, Tina and Derrick organize the annual Moose Hunt to Cape Breton each October. This is a community youth hunt that involves taking 30 youth to the Cape Breton Highlands where they are actively involved in gutting the moose, cleaning it, chopping it up and performing a traditional ceremony of offering tobacco if they get a moose.

JANET TATTRIE

Town of Oxford

Janet is a very keen volunteer. She created an ongoing online Facebook auction where she collects items and auctions them off and donates the funds to various local groups, organizations, and those in need. When Oxford's Resettlement Committee was formed and looking to resettle an immigrant family to town, Janet jumped on board and made herself available to assist where she was needed. She is an active member of the Oxford Lionettes, attending regular meetings, assisting with Christmas in the Park and any other activities that the Lionettes promote. She regularly lends a hand at the local food bank, stocking the shelves and dispersing food items. The Happy Neighbours Club is also proud to call Janet one of their own. They meet on a regular basis to raise funds to assist with school bursaries, families at Christmas, and those in need.

KELLY TUCKER

Municipality of Colchester County

As President of the North Shore Recreation Centre and the Tatamagouche and Area Minor Hockey Association, Kelly has facilitated the development of an indoor ice surface, fitness centre, meeting rooms, ball field, soccer field and track field, as well as countless day camps and community based events. The minor hockey association is an important contributor to the community because of Kelly - not only providing hockey opportunities to children but also hosting the annual Butter Trail Run, an annual event which incorporates the Trans Canada Trail and attracts hundreds of runners to the region.

She is also involved in countless day camps and community-based events in the area. Even when Kelly is not directly involved in a project, she is a tireless supporter, promoter, and source of encouragement for activities that promote health and well-being within the community.

DAREN WHITE

Town of Amherst

Daren White is no ordinary human being. By day, he's one of those very special teachers who is admired by his peers and thousands of children for his creativity and enthusiasm. His volunteering superpowers include organizing sports for kids, building and painting sets for school plays, teaching kids how to play guitar, building outdoor skating rinks, and finding creative ways to raise thousands of dollars for charities.

Daren's team has raised more than \$125,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. He leads school fundraisers for Heart & Stroke Foundation, Terry Fox Run, local food bank and annually volunteers for PEI Boys and Girls Club celebrity golf tournament. His annual zombie walk and annual snowman challenge both raise funds for cancer research. A two-time cancer survivor himself, Daren's upbeat outlook is an inspiration to all who know him.

While Daren has motivated many people to raise thousands of dollars for charity, Daren's greatest impact on his community is the way he brings it to life. Everything he does is done with his whole heart, no fear, and a remarkable energy.

SOUTH SHORE REGION

WAYNE BLINKHORN

Town of Shelburne

Wayne started actively volunteering after retirement and has been volunteering for more than 15 years with several organizations including: the Shelburne Whirligig Festival, the Sandy Point Lighthouse Community Centre, the Osprey Arts Centre, Meals on Wheels, the Food Bank, Tall Ships, the Mill Building Restoration Project and various other events.

The Food Bank and Meals on Wheels depend on volunteers like Wayne to shop for food and deliver meals to those who can't do these tasks themselves. Wayne enjoys interacting with the people who use these services. The Whirligig Festival, that Wayne has been a part of for 15 years, has continued to run and grow into a bigger event for both residents and visitors to enjoy.

KATHERINE BUCKLER

Town of Bridgewater

Kay started volunteering as a teenager, and has volunteered in earnest for the last 55-60 years.

Kay is a blessing and a support to her family, friends, and community. Organizationally, Kay has donated countless years of service to the St. Vincent De Paul Society, Lunenburg County Diabetes Association, Meals on Wheels, the local food bank, St. Joseph's Parish Council, as current chair of the tenancy board at Drumlin Hills, and as a Life Member of Registered Nurses Association of Nova Scotia.

Kay can be seen in the community visiting the homes of seniors, participating in the Salvation Army Kettle program, singing in choir, providing drives to seniors, selling tickets, working in booths at community and charity events, decorating the church with beautiful flowers, and making and donating quilts and other crafts for numerous fundraisers.

Her life has been dedicated to the care and comfort of others and her life-long service and leadership is a model to all.

DAVID CLEAVER

Town of Clark's Harbour

At the age of 14, David joined the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Gloucester, England. He walked 342 miles in nine days in a walk-a-thon to raise money for the Sheffield Children's Hospital in England. Upon arriving in Canada in 1988, David volunteered with the Halifax West Baseball Little League. He is a member and past President of the New Horizon's Senior Club, Hawk Dayze Committee, the Lighthouse Players Theatre Group, the Friends of the Cape Sable Light committee, the Hilltop Cemetery Club and is on the board of the Archelaus Smith Museum.

David has been serving as President of the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 148 for the past 12 years where he organizes fundraising events, visits veterans and veteran's widows ensuring their needs are met. He also plays a key role organizing the remembrance services. In June 2013 he received the Remarkable Seniors award from the Province of Nova Scotia.

David is always willing to participate in town events whether he is playing Santa, being the Town Crier or performing with the Lighthouse Players Theatre Group. He is a fantastic role model that would make any community proud.

CAROLYN CONRAD

Region of Queens Municipality

Carolyn is proud of the work she has done with the Queens County Fair in the dining hall and canteen, as the kitchen crew contributes to the ongoing success of the fair. In addition to monthly breakfasts, canteen services at events and periodic community suppers they also offer catering services. She is also proud of the work that she and the Board did in bringing the RCMP Musical Ride to Caledonia.

Carolyn's dedication and passion for the Queens County Fair Association is deeply appreciated and the Region of Queens Municipality is proud she is one of its Volunteers of the Year.

FÉLIXA D'ENTREMONT

Municipality of the District of Argyle

Félixia began volunteering more than 40 years ago with the West Pubnico Acadian Museum. She was the founder of the Ladies Auxiliary of the West Pubnico Fire Department in 1984 and helped raise money for those in need. Most dear to Félixia's heart is when she volunteers with St. Peter's Catholic Church in West Pubnico. She is a strong Catholic who helps with the mass, lecture reading, communion, preparations for the Sacrament of Confirmation or whatever else needs tending to. Félixia also convases for the food bank, kidney, cancer and Arthritis campaigns.

Félixia d'Entremont is an individual who stands out when you talk about volunteers. She is passionate about what she does and always has a smile when she is helping out. Many organizations within the community of West Pubnico benefit from her helping hands.

TONY DORRIAN

Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

When Tony moved to Yarmouth 22 years ago, he felt volunteering was a way that could help him meet people and integrate into the community. He met his wife here and felt a part of the community right away and giving back in volunteerism was a natural part of that.

Tony is a 22-year faculty member in the School of Access at NSCC Burrigge Campus. He is Co-chair of the Yarmouth County Community Health Board, he hosts a show on Eastlink television called Infocus Yarmouth. Tony is also involved with the planning committee for 10,000 Villages. He is involved with productions at the th'Yarc (performing arts), Yarmouth Strolling Carollers, Yarmouth Learning Network, St. Ambrose Syrian Refugee Committee, and the NS International Student Program for 5 years. Tony is definitely a community leader and loves to help when he can.

JOHN ANDREW FRANCIS

Acadia First Nation

John Andrew is a well-known elder of the Acadia First Nation and has been volunteering for more than 40 years with a focus of passing on the many traditions of the Mi'kmaq culture.

John has been the volunteer Elder for the past 10 years on the nationally recognized Moose Hunt in Cape Breton. The program is organized through the Acadia First Nation and has taught many adults and youth all aspects of Mi'kmaq culture including firearms safety, traditional hunting, traditional medicines and all aspects of cleaning & preparing animals. The meat is then shared with all Mi'kmaw Elders in the six Acadia First Nation communities. More than 50 young adults have been given this traditional knowledge.

John has also volunteered with the; Canoe school, Queens ATV Association, NS Guides Association, Junior Guides school, teaching bow making and birch bark utensils as well as teaching survival in the woods and is a member of the Native Council of Nova Scotia.

John has made a lasting impression on many youth and is an inspiration to many.

KERRY J. GALLANT

Region of Queens Municipality

Kerry is a valued and well-respected member of Queens County Ground Search and Rescue (QSAR) since joining 5 years ago. Kerry is the main operator of the SMART Program for GSAR, which logs and records member's hours and events such as fund raising, training and community assistance. Through QGSR, Kerry is involved in community events and festivals as grounds and traffic controller. He is one of the organizers of the annual fundraising Bass Fishing Tournament. Kerry is also an Electronic Search Specialist with Project Life Saver, a program established to locate clients who suffer from Alzheimer's, Dementia, or Autism, should they wander off. Kerry is also involved in the community as a Hug-a-Tree Program Presenter, a program that teaches children what to do if they accidentally become lost in the woods. The Region of Queens Municipality is honoured that Kerry chooses to devote his time, talents and near endless enthusiasm in helping others in Queens County.

HELEN LEARY

Municipality of the District of Barrington

Helen started volunteering 45 years ago in the Scout camp kitchen when her boys were young. Helen has canvassed for Heart and Stroke and Diabetes, she has delivered Meals on Wheels, has been a member of the Lionettes and has been involved with her church. Helen found her love for curling when her family was living in P.E.I. and she hasn't stopped loving it. The Barrington Regional Curling Club is very fortunate to have Helen as a member. She has been a board member, coordinator of the ladies league, helps during spiels in the kitchen, coached Little Rocks, and is now the coordinator for the Stick Curling drop in program. At the young age of 75, Helen still curls twice a week and practices yoga.

DEVAN NAUGLER

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Devan spends countless hours hosting the Gary L. Wentzell (GLW) Minor Hockey tournament which fills rinks in Bridgewater, Lunenburg and Liverpool. This tournament continues to bring hundreds of families to his area each March. Devan has volunteered with BMHA (now SSMHA) since 2008 and has chaired the GLW tournament since 2009. From hosting pre-tournament meetings, meeting with sponsors, developing a website and social media accounts, creating the schedule and tournament packages, the dedication Devan shows is top notch. He spends his entire week to ensure the March Break event goes off perfectly.

Devan is and continues to be involved with high school cross country, soccer, basketball and softball Coach Volunteer at 55+ games, past volunteer with South Shore Lumberjacks, and past NSSAF Regional Coordinator (responsible for the coordination of all school sports for South Shore Regional School Board and dealing with issues arising from school sports).

MICHAEL O'CONNOR

Town of Mahone Bay

Michael's 60 years of volunteer service has not gone unnoticed in the community. He offers free tutoring to students looking for help, is a frequent participant at work parties to improve the Mahone Bay Community Centre and is a lifetime member and leader at the Trinity United Church.

Micheal helped to initiate and continues to work with the Lunenburg County Community Fund which sustains and expands the shared quality of life in Lunenburg County. In his 25 years of service with the Mahone Bay Legion Band, Michael has been the Director, a musician, organizer and worker in setting up for band practices, performances and parades. He was also instrumental in building the Town bandstand. For over 25 years Michael has had a continuing leadership role at the Mahone Bay Museum and is actively involved in political campaigns, introducing candidates and getting citizens to the polls.

HOWARD ROSZEL

Town of Lockeport

At the age of 21, Howard began volunteering by joining the Acton Volunteer Fire Department and St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Guelph, Ontario. In retirement, Howard and his wife Anne moved to Lockeport and have done a great deal to advance community transit options through their contributions to Sou'west Nova Transit. Howard's role in the renovation and revitalization of the local legion has helped create a modern facility from an aging building.

Howard helps with everything from securing funds, calling at seniors bingo, swinging a hammer, serving at community barbecues or breakfasts to fostering community partnerships. Howard is always ready with a smile and a helping hand.

DARREN RUSSELL

Municipality of the District of Chester

When Darren was 21, the New Ross Volunteer Fire Department put a call out for members who worked locally and could be available for daytime fire and emergency calls. Darren wanted to help his community, so he signed up. He started volunteering and continued to be an active member for 25 years during which time he held the positions of Captain and Deputy Chief.

Once Darren had a family his volunteering focus was on his children's involvement in activities and sports. When there was a call for coaches at the New Ross School, Darren was eager to volunteer. He has been coaching various sports such as basketball, softball, baseball, badminton, track & field, cross country and t-ball at the New Ross School, Forest Heights Community School, and Chester Basin Recreation Park.

Darren is always willing to step up when there is a need. He is passionate about connecting with youth and being able to instruct and inspire the younger generation through sports. Darren has instructed, mentored, and inspired hundreds of youth in the community over the years.

SANDY POINT COMMUNITY RECREATION GROUP

Municipality of the District of Shelburne

The hard work and dedication of the Sandy Point Community Recreation Group has provided a sense of pride to the community and positively impacted the entire area. The development and maintenance of the community hall and the preservation of the lighthouse is admirable as the hall has become a community hub and the lighthouse is a highly sought attraction for locals and tourists. The commitment and level of care of the volunteers is evident in all they do; the breakfasts they serve, events they cater, infrastructure they maintain and the welcoming and accessible environment they create for all their guests.

BEN AND ROXIE SMITH

Town of Lunenburg

Ben and Roxie have created many footprints within Lunenburg that shall never be erased. Their tireless contributions to their community span many organizations and have touched many lives.

Ben began volunteering as a young boy when he helped his father establish a full size outdoor rink and a tennis court in Glace Bay to enable students to take part in outdoor sports. Since moving to Lunenburg Ben has volunteered with the Boy Scouts, School Board, Lunenburg Marine Museum Society, Jaycees, Bluenose Golf Club, Lunenburg Swim Pool Society, Board of Trade, South Shore Mustangs AAA Hockey Club, Lunenburg Curling Club, The Association of Professional Engineers, St. John's Anglican Church and Curl For A Cause. Ben is proud of his part in the restoration of St. John's Church after a devastating fire in 2001.

Roxie was motivated to volunteer after receiving a bursary to advance her education. She wanted to give back to the community for all that they had done for her. Roxie has volunteered with the Lunenburg Academy Reunion, Hospital Foundation Board, District Health Authority, Ministers Task force on Regionalization, Canada School Band Trip to Fort Smith, Conserve Nova Scotia, Town of Lunenburg Health Watch Committee, Student Advisory Council, United Church Women, Block Parent and much more. Roxie is proud of her involvement in the lobbying and establishment of the Ambulatory Care Unit as well as the Dr. Arthur H. Patterson Centre for Restorative Care at Fishermen's Memorial Hospital.

ANNETTE SURETTE

Town of Yarmouth

Annette has volunteered more than 5,600 hours at the Yarmouth Regional Hospital. Most of her time has been spent in the Dr. Ed Janke Cancer Centre, where she greets patients, families and staff as they enter the unit. She also delivers snacks, smiles and conversation to patients while they are receiving their chemotherapy treatments.

She is always eager to do what she can to help make a difference. For example, she is flexible with her volunteer time, and often changes her schedule to make sure all shifts in the cancer centre are covered. She also assists with onboarding new volunteers to their volunteer role.

Annette gets so many positive things from volunteering and loves the way it makes her feel. She is a key volunteer and continually goes above and beyond the call of duty.

