

The
50th Provincial
**Volunteer
Awards**

September 18th, 2024
Rath Eastlink
Community Centre
Truro, NS


NOVA SCOTIA

*Nova Scotia Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage
is pleased to host the Provincial Volunteer Awards
and would like to congratulate
all award recipients.*

*Honouring a half of century
of volunteer excellence
in Nova Scotia.*





Lieutenant Governor's Message

As The King's representative in Nova Scotia, I am thrilled to celebrate the 50th Provincial Volunteer Awards—a milestone that marks half a century of heartfelt dedication and unwavering commitment to our communities. This special occasion not only honors our remarkable volunteers but also acknowledges their profound impact on shaping the fabric of our society.

Since its inception, the Provincial Volunteer Awards have recognized those who selflessly give their time, skills, and passion to uplift others. From supporting local charities and fostering inclusivity to promoting environmental stewardship and advancing educational initiatives, our volunteers embody the true spirit of service.

As we reflect on 50 years of volunteerism, we acknowledge the countless stories of kindness, resilience, and generosity that have touched lives across Nova Scotia. Each volunteer represents a pillar of strength and compassion, driving positive change and inspiring others to join in creating a brighter future for all.

This anniversary is not just a celebration of the past but a testament to the enduring power of community and the boundless potential of individuals united in purpose. We extend our deepest gratitude to every volunteer who has contributed

to the richness of our province and invite everyone to join us in honoring their remarkable achievements.

Together, let us continue to build upon this legacy of service, forging connections, and making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Here's to 50 years of excellence and to the bright future ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur J. LeBlanc". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line through the middle of the name.

The Honourable Arthur J. LeBlanc, ONS, KC

Lieutenant Governor



Premier's Message

Welcome to the 50th Provincial Volunteer Awards! We come together to celebrate achievements and to honour the spirit of volunteerism that has sustained communities across Nova Scotia.

As we commemorate this golden anniversary, let's reflect on the countless acts of kindness and service performed over the years. Volunteers have been the strength behind community initiatives, the heart of charitable endeavors, and the soul of outreach programs. Volunteers act with no expectation of reward and their impact is immeasurable to the programs they support and the people they help.

These awards remind us of the changes that can be achieved when we support each other. Your efforts have not only improved lives but have inspired others to take up the call to serve, creating a legacy for our province.

On behalf of all Nova Scotians, thank you for your support and service. As we celebrate our volunteers, let us look forward to the opportunities to continue our tradition of kindness and generosity.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Houston".

Honourable Tim Houston, M.L.A.

Premier of Nova Scotia



Minister's Message

Congratulations to all recipients of the 2024 Provincial Volunteer Awards. Thank you for making Nova Scotia a better place.

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary, it is an opportunity to reflect on the many acts of kindness and service performed by Nova Scotians over the decades. The contributions of volunteers help shape our communities. They find creative ways to solve problems and realize opportunities. They do it because they care.

May your actions continue to inspire hope and drive change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan MacMaster'.

Honourable Allan MacMaster,

Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage



Jonathan Torrens ***(Emcee)***

Jonathan Torrens has worked in comedy for over 30 years and has been nominated for Canadian Screen Awards as a director, producer, writer, actor and host.

In addition to playing J-Roc on the beloved Netflix original series *Trailer Park Boys*, he has directed 10 episodes and written 20.

He has written half a dozen episodes of the Hulu series *Letterkenny* as well as played the recurring Mennonite character Noah Dyck.

Most recently, he appeared as French hockey broadcaster Remi Nadeau in the brand new critically acclaimed Hulu series *Shoresy*.

Prior to that Jonathan played vice-principal Robert Cheeley on 8 seasons of the CBC sitcom *Mr. D*, starring Gerry Dee. He also wrote 6 episodes.

He played Gerald the Gotta be Gay Guy on Spike TV's ground-breaking *The Joe Schmo Show*, an improvised hybrid fake-reality show.

Other credits include writing/producing *The Jenny McCarthy Show* for VH-1, hosting *Popularity Contest* for CMT and *The Kids are in Charge* for Travel Channel. He has made appearances on VH-1, E Network, MTV and was a regular correspondent on Fox Reality Channel.

He has written and performed on multiple live shows including The Winnipeg Comedy Fest, The Juno Awards and The East Coast Music Awards.

His podcast Taggart & Torrens has been downloaded more than 4 million times and has won the Canadian Comedy Award for Best Audio Show. TnT also spawned a best-selling book *Canadianity* (Harper Collins), which Jonathan co-wrote with Jeremy Taggart. Their comedy music album BAHDS came out on the Dine Alone label in 2020.

Through Canadian Content Studios, Jonathan has directed 5 web series, produced a national special and written and directed countless commercials. *Vollies*, a series he co-created, writes, directs and acts in won the 2023 AND 2024 Screen NS Award for Best Scripted Show. In 2024, it also won the award for Best Ensemble Cast.

On the side, Jonathan's equipment rental company RollingProductionRentals.com supplies trucks and trailers to films and tv shows.

His new t-shirt line FilmPrints.ca benefits the Actor's Fund of Canada's new Navigator program, to provide mental health support to anyone working in the arts.

Jonathan lives outside Truro, Nova Scotia with his wife Carole and their two daughters.



Heather Rankin ***(Performer)***

Heather Rankin follows her 2016 Juno Award Nominated solo album, *A Fine Line*, with a Christmas album, *Imagine*. Her angelic voice wraps her listeners in coziness and nostalgia in this ten-song collection, which includes both original songs, cowritten by Rankin, and traditional songs she grew up singing at Christmas. The evocative imagery in Rankin's contemplative lyrics inhabit the same deeply personal world Rankin created in *A Fine Line*, while songs like "Wrap it Up" harken back with frivolity to the music she created with her siblings as *The Rankin Family*.

Imagine begins in contemplation of Christmas Past with Rankin's soaring rendition of "Once in Royal David's City," a song that conjures memories for her of the traditional carols that were sung during the Midnight Masses of her childhood. She also lends her ethereal voice to a definitive rendition of "Silent Night," a song she remembers being sung with verses in six different languages at St. Mary's Parish in Mabou, Nova Scotia. The

orchestrations of these two carols by Imagine's producer, Steven MacKinnon, as well as the addition of the St. Michael's Choir School, root them gorgeously in the divine origins of the season. "Olde-Fashioned Christmas," written by Rankin, MacKinnon and David Tyson, weaves the magic of Christmas into the "humble abode at the end of the road" Rankin and Tyson so beautifully conjured in A Fine Line's "We Walk As One." It is simultaneously a poignant snapshot of the warmth and innocence of childhood Christmas, and an exploration of how rapidly technology has dramatically changed the way we connect with one another. Yet, ultimately, our desire to gather for a Christmas meal and raise our voices together in song have remained unchanged over centuries. Along the same theme is "Picture Perfect," written by Rankin and Jamie Robinson, a song reflecting on how our memories are so often tied to the houses and the haunts where we played as children.

Rankin and Robinson celebrate Christmas Present in "Wrap It Up," a rollicking tune destined to become a Holiday Kitchen Party staple. Inspired by a batch of Joy of Cooking eggnog that Rankin once, accidentally, made three-times too strong, "Wrap It Up" perfectly captures the joyful playfulness that makes her a fan-favourite during her live performances. She imbues Hugh Martin and Ralph Blane's "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" with similar levity and immense charm.

Rankin and MacKinnon didn't set out to write a Christmas song with "Tale of the Lost Black Skimmer," but realized the parallels between their story of a misplaced soul trying to find its way back home, and the imagery of Mary and Joseph searching for a safe place to bring their child into the world. This Christmas there continues to be millions of people displaced from their homes through war, "Tale of the Lost Black Skimmer" reminds us that one of the Christmas story's most enduring, and pertinent teachings is to open our hearts to those in need, and to greet them with empathy, respect and friendship.

In the holiday spirit of friendship, Rankin has collaborated with her friend Latin Grammy/ Juno Award winner Alex Cuba (with whom she wrote "River of Nations," with Andrea Menard, aboard the Canada C3 Expedition) on "Dark Eyes (Lullaby)." A mixture of Gaelic, Spanish and English lyrics, the song is an imagining of a lullaby that a mother might sing to her newborn, having given birth under precarious circumstances and facing an uncertain future. "Dark Eyes (Lullaby)" focuses as much on the courage and strength of the young mother, as on the birth of the baby, and the hope and promise he represents. It also is at once specific to the Nativity story, and a universal meditation on the incredible power of a mother's love. She also sings her friend David Tyson's haunting "A Text to

God," which plays with how we reconcile the ancient traditions and rituals of Christmas with our Contemporary age.

Rankin's thoughtful wish for Christmas Future is the album's title track, John Lennon's "Imagine," which dares to dream of a world devoid of greed, where all people can live in peace.

In all, Imagine captures the full depth of emotions evoked at Christmas, a time for introspection, serenity, wonder, jubilation, coziness and wishes for the coming year



Morgan Toney ***(Performer)***

2024 JUNO-Nominated Mi'kmaq fiddler and singer Morgan Toney brings the fiery fiddling of Cape Breton Island with the old songs of the Mi'kmaq People together with brilliance and heart.

First Flight, Toney's 2023 East Coast Music Award-winning debut album, celebrates language and heritage in Toney's transformation of traditional songs like the Ko'jua and the Mi'kmaq Honour Song alongside highly original songcraft.

Ishkōdé Records introduced First Flight to the world on March 25, 2022.

2024 Volunteer Representatives

Cape Breton Region

Fortune, Matthew

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Matthew Fortune has selflessly devoted countless hours of his time throughout the years, to a multitude of schools and organizations, providing opportunities to children and youth, instilling a love of basketball, and making sure every child who wants to play is given the chance.

Matthew coaches' basketball at both Harbourside Elementary in Whitney Pier and Dr. T.L. Sullivan in Florence. In addition to this, he assists with coaching efforts for youth rep teams and sits on the Board of Directors for the Junior Marauders organization in Sydney Mines. Matthew understands the importance of working together to support people in the community. Being part of something is important for an individual and a community, and volunteering is one of those important aspects of belonging. Matthew's passion is to help connect people to their passion, and as a volunteer, he takes great pride in this privilege and does a great job at it!

Matthew also devotes his time to the Special Olympics Cape Breton hockey team. He also helps with the Soccer and Floor Hockey programs, as well as with events and fundraisers. He is seen as a mentor by many of the athletes and coaches. He has traveled to both summer and winter games with the organization, assisting in coaching efforts, providing personal care to the athletes who may require a helping hand, and is always, truly, an amazing presence. He also helped with the event planning/ coordinating for the organization, adding to his seemingly never-

ending list of volunteer efforts. Several parents of athletes that Matthew has given his time to have made numerous comments of their gratitude for all he has done and the impact he has had on their children.

As a coach of the basketball team at Harbourside Elementary, Matthew's patience and desire for progression throughout the year with all twenty young children has been truly inspiring. He never misses an opportunity to provide helpful hints to the kids, and it is easy to see that he is very well-liked and respected. He works with all the athletes to help them reach their full potential, because his faith in them is unwavering. Matthew has made such a positive impact in our community with all his volunteer efforts and without people like him, our community would not thrive the way it does. He is certainly an outstanding volunteer and is truly deserving of this special recognition!

LeBlanc, Ronnie

Municipality of the County of Richmond

Ronnie LeBlanc has been an active member of his community for more than 30 years. Currently, the president of the D'Escousse Civic Improvement Centre, Ronnie can be found present at many events such as the bingo, card play, darts, songwriter circle, and the community breakfast to name a few. Ronnie is always willing to support, partner, and collaborate with community groups to ensure success, whether it's the Isle Madame ATV Rallies, the Yacht Club Festival, or any community event that takes place at the hall. He was a key player in starting the Isle Madame Chase the Ace which benefited many organizations on Island Madame.

After a successful career, Ronnie has recently retired and continues his volunteer efforts even more. A true community champion, he is very accommodating and supportive of local community groups, organizations, and fundraising efforts.

Please join us in recognizing the hard work, dedication, and commitment he has provided to his community. Ronnie, we thank you for all you do for Richmond County!

MacQuarrie, Neil

Municipality of the County of Inverness

Neil MacQuarrie has been volunteering in a variety of capacities within Inverness County for over 25 years. We are proud to have Neil represent Inverness County, as he exemplifies the true meaning of volunteerism.

Neil is president of Inverness Taekwondo, a member of the executive of Inverness Minor Basketball, president of the Inverness Arena, a member of the Inverness Legion, an Inverness Minor Hockey coach, and an Inverness Minor Baseball coach.

These community groups and organizations would not run as well as they do or possibly not happen at all without Neil's community spirit, commitment, dedication, and leadership.

We thank you, Neil, for all you do to help make Inverness County a better place to live, work, and play!

Murray, Blayne Courtney

Potlotekewey L'nue'kati | Potlotek First Nation

Blayne Murray na keknuite'tasit wutanminaq, ta'n tel-ketlewe'k aaq teli-attiknetk wutanminu aji-wlkaqnin wikimk. Blayne na kesatk apoqnmuet, me' katu ta'n tujiw nuta'q wen nikana'lan tu'a'tijik mita kesatk tua'timk, kisna ta'n tujiw nuta'q apoqntmn Salite, ketantasiksuliewey ta'n tujiw wen nepk wutank kulaman apankitasitew teli-wutqutalut wen. Ta'n tujiw ewi'tutek leken tujiw piskwalutek Potlotekewey Council wel-lukwep wjit wutanminen. Kaqi-ika'lsit kina'masin aaq msnimnn Bachelor of Education kulaman

kisi-kina'muetew wutanminaq etek Mi'kmawey School. Msit koqoey tel-lukwet Blayne, l'pa kaqi-ika'lsit aqq me' newte' tel-wlikwetutk aqq welta'sultiek mui'walut Blayne wjit teli-melkuktik wutanminen.

Blayne Murray is vital member to our community, her positive attitude and overall willingness makes our community a better place to live. Blayne is always up to lend a helping hand, when we need a coach due to her passion to sports, or when she is needed to help out for Salite (Sah-li-Day). This is the auction we have when someone passes away in the community to help pay for funeral expenses. When she was nominated and then elected to Potlotek Council, she represented our community with pride. She is admired for her passion to get her Bachelor of Education so that she could teach in our community at Mikmawey School. Everything Blayne does, she does with all of her soul and the biggest smile and we are more than happy to recognize Blayne for her commitment to our Community.

Harris, Sharon

Town of Port Hawkesbury

Sharon Harris is a retired Social Worker who joined the Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society as a volunteer in the early 2000's. Sharon's quiet demeanor and gentle voice is a great comfort for palliative patients and their families. She is a member of various committees within the society including the redecorating committee, the Nominating committee and the Palliative Care Education for Long Term Care committee. Sharon is always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone who needs it,

Sharon is also the Society's photographer. You can see her catching the special moments of society events. When the Society decided to support the redecorating of two hospital rooms for palliative patients, Sharon joined this committee. She continues to help the society provide comfort care to end-of-life

palliative patients and their families in the Strait Area. She has the wonderful quality of being an exceptional listener.

The Strait Richmond Palliative Care Society is very fortunate to have such a compassionate, professional and dedicated individual to help assure the best care for a most vulnerable population.

Basque, Katerina

We'koqma'gewey L'nue'kati | We'koqma'q First Nation

Katerina Basque provides support, guidance, and supervision to all staff while overseeing the development and delivery of all the services at the We'koqma'q Family Healing Centre. She ensures that services align with the vision, mission, and values established by Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of NS, fostering a holistic approach to supporting Mi'kmaw women, men, and children who have experienced violence as they strive towards a healthier lifestyle.

Basque had put in many hours into community events. Both volunteer and work. She has been an amazing role model for the community. With all that she does she still seems to put her community as a priority first when it comes to all youths. We'koqma'q is honoured to have her .

Pierro, Anthony

Waqmatkukewey L'nue'kati | Wagmatcook First Nation

Piamu tapuiskekipunqekl Anthony attiknetk apoqnmamn wutanminen ta'n pasik tett nuta'q apoqnmastuti, apoqnmuet naqasui'kemk aqq nikana'laji naqasui'ka'tijik piamu tapuiskekipunqekl, maliaptik tia'mue'katijik nutqo'ltijik te's toqa'q, elayjimkutijik tujiw elkomiktua'tiji tia'muk mi'soqo ne'pa'tij tia'ml, ekina'muaji nutqo'ltiliji telo'ltimkl aqq kina'masuti'l. Anthony

*melkuktik wl-kina'muksinew nutqo'ltijik telo'ltimkewe'l aqq
teli-ktantekemk. Nekm na kis-lita'sualut ta'n tujiw nuta't wen
apoqnmastuti. Kelu'sit ji'nm aqq weleywaji wunijink aqq kisi-
apoqnmastk wutan aqq nespi-maliamaji wunijink. Anthony weli-
maliaptik wutanm, nutqo'ltijik, Mi'kmawe'l kina'mastuti'l wjit teli-
ktantekemk aqq ta'n tl-siawa'ten elmi'knik, aqq wlapesultinew msit
L'nu'k. Wel-lukwen Anthony, paqsipki-wl-lukwen, wela'liek.*

For more than 20 years Anthony has been consistently volunteered throughout the community no matter what the task was. As a volunteer firefighter and fire chief for 20+ years, Anthony always makes sure our youth have a continuous traditional moose camp to attend every fall. They drive out and scout for moose and doing calls resulting in a successful hunt. He teaches all the youth these beautiful traditions and teachings. Anthony thrives in making sure our youth have a good cultural mentor when it comes to our hunting teachings and makes sure all the kids have something to look forward to. He's one of the guys to call if you need help, no matter what. He is a devoted father and still continues to do everything the same time as being a wonderful father to his kids. Anthony is a devoted man to his community, the youth, the Mi'kmaq teachings of hunting for our youths and years to come, and his people in general. Welu'kwen Anthony, you are doing amazing welaliek.

Coones/Robinson/Costello, Shelly/Billy Joe/Ryan ***Victoria County***

Shelly Coones, Billy Joe Robinson, and Ryan Costello of the Ingonish area of Victoria County exemplify the definition of true community spirit. Individually and together, they are community ambassadors who make a positive impact by their energy, willingness to participate and tireless dedication and selfless commitment.

Shelly Coones, plays an essential role in various community initiatives. From organizing the Christmas parade to contributing to Hucklebuckle and supporting the Cape Smokey race team, she embodies the spirit of volunteerism. It's inspiring to see how she tirelessly works to create memorable events and raise funds for important causes.

Billy Joe Robinson and Ryan Costello also deserve recognition for their unwavering commitment. Their efforts in organizing events, selling tickets, and supporting local kids demonstrate their genuine care for the community. It's heartening to know that people like them contribute so much to making Ingonish a vibrant and connected place.

Their dedication reminds us that small acts of kindness and hard work does create a ripple effect, touching lives in the community, contributing greatly to the quality of life.

Sylliboy, Paul Jr /Faye, Clarence

Eskasoni First Nation

Clarence (Clarey) and Faye pikweli-apoqnmuetjik kulaman Eskisoqnik aji-wlkaqnitew. Wel-nenujik aqk kepmite'tasitjik wutanminaq ula tepqwatik e'pit aqk ji'nm. Kitk wesasi-welmitoqik aqk weji-wla'teketjik wutanminaq. Tliaj na kitk elukwetjik, mu naqatkelsi'k apoqnmuenew ta'n tujiw koqoey teliaq wutanminaq. Jel mu nuta'nuk pipanimuksinew apoqnmuenew, skimtuk tla'teketaq. Faye aqk Clarey kis-lita'sualujik i'mnew koqoey teliaq. Apoqntmi'titl milamu'kl koqoe'l nkutey nujeywanew nutqo'tliliji tami elta'lij, amalkaltimkl wjit nutqo'tliliji, milamu'kl milita'mkl (weji-pittesmut pu'talieweyiktuk tu'aqn, wenaqte'mamk, alje'ma'timk,) amalkna'tekemk/nujo'tmumkl ekneta'mkewe'l amalkaltimkl wjit nutqo'tliliji aqk kisikutiliji, apoqnmuejik ta'n mijipjewey etli-iknmuetumk, aqk me' pikwelk koqoey! Kwutanminu Eskisoqnik, aqk api's Almilitamkewey aqk Amaltia'kwemkewey mtmo'taqney, wela'lukwi'tiji Faye aqk Clarey-al ta'n tetuji wli-apoqnmuetjik.

Clarence (Clarey) and Faye have volunteered countless hours to ensure that Eskasoni, First Nation is a better place. They are a married couple that are very well-known and respected in our community. They are both very kind individuals that have huge hearts. Although they have their own full-time jobs, but they are always eager to lend a helping hand when something is happening in our community. Most of the time, they do not even need to be asked to help out. Faye and Clarey are the people that you can always count on to be at an event. Their volunteering consists of but not limited to chaperoning youth trips, helping with youth dances, helping with our sport programs (basketball, lacrosse, hockey), decorating/chaperoning youth and adult gala's, helping with the food banks, and so much more! Our community of Eskasoni, especially the Sports & Recreation department, are very grateful to have Faye & Clarey to lend a helping hand.

2024 Volunteer Representatives

Central Region

Nash, Marianne

Halifax Regional Municipality

Marianne, an exceptional volunteer and community leader. She recognized the need for a clothing bank on the Eastern Shore and took decisive action to make it happen. Her initiative, "Two Tunics", not only provides essential clothing but has also evolved into a hub of support for those in need. Marianne's leadership inspires others, as evidenced by the 24 volunteers she has recruited and the thousands of individuals she has helped, embodying the spirit of selflessness and service.

Speranza, Andréa

Halifax Regional Municipality

Andréa is an exceptional leader known for her clear vision, 18 years of boundless dedication and remarkable ability to raise over one million dollars for Camp Courage. Her talent for creating processes, building relationships and inspiring graduates who champion causes highlights her extraordinary impact as a visionary and community builder.

Tilley, Betty Lou

Halifax Regional Municipality

Betty Lou, through her kindness, grace, generosity and hard work, has changed the world for those who live in the Musquodoboit Valley. When she sees a deficiency in our community, she is determined to find a way to provide the service needed and has been on the founding boards of many organizations. Betty Lou has volunteerism in her heart and has devoted thousands of hours to service in our community.

Peters (Youth), Elle

Halifax Regional Municipality

Elle is a dedicated youth volunteer who spends over 30 hours a month volunteering for multiple organizations representing people of French expression in the province and beyond. Her advocacy for underrepresented groups inspires both youth and adults to take responsible and impactful actions, making her a true role model.

McDonald, Nicole

Halifax Regional Municipality

Nicole has made remarkable contributions to organizations like Souls Harbour Rescue Mission and the Nova Scotia Association for Community Living. Overcoming challenges with spina bifida, she has served as a beacon of resilience and inspiration, impacting lives through her volunteerism. Nicole's leadership and commitment to inclusivity have left a lasting imprint on her community, making her a standout advocate for positive change.

Sinnott, Steven & Cheryl

Halifax Regional Municipality

Steven and Cheryl epitomize the essence of volunteerism, each contributing their unique talents to numerous community organizations. Steven's leadership has been pivotal in guiding community initiatives, while Cheryl's hands-on approach and dedication to operational tasks has revitalized essential community organizations. Together, their commitment to service has made a profound and lasting impact on the fabric of our community.

Liu (youth), Olivia Lily

Halifax Regional Municipality

Olivia is a remarkable high school student who serves as co-president of her school's Environmental Climate Change Organization and secretary of Friends of Clayton Park. She is also a student teacher volunteer at Maritime Dance Academy and loves helping young dancers find their passion and love for dance. Olivia consistently creates a welcoming, friendly and positive atmosphere in every room she enters

Chen, Cong

Halifax Regional Municipality

Cong has been an invaluable asset to the Halifax community, particularly in fostering cultural connections and inclusivity. He has significantly contributed to cultural exchange and community cohesion as a key figure in the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia and the Chinese Art and Culture Centre. Cong's mentorship for immigrants and international students and his inspiring leadership have deeply enriched the lives of many, embodying the true spirit of volunteerism

Farhan (youth), Farhaj Abdullah

Halifax Regional Municipality

Farhaj is an inspiring youth leader who actively engages in volunteerism to make a positive impact on his community. Founder and leader of the Pakistani Canadian Association of Nova Scotia (PCANS) Youth Forum, Farhaj empowers local youth to develop leadership skills and address important issues. Farhaj's involvement in initiatives like the 2022 Pakistan Flood Relief Fund demonstrates his commitment to addressing local priorities and inspiring others to get involved.

Farhan (youth), Hebah Eiman

Halifax Regional Municipality

Hebah is an outstanding volunteer whose dedication and leadership skills shine in various roles within her school and community. As a founding member of the Charles P Allen High School multicultural club and the Pakistani Canadian Association of Nova Scotia Youth Forum, she fosters inclusivity and provides platforms for youth to showcase their talents and address local challenges. Hebah's involvement in fundraisers, charity activities and advisory councils demonstrates her commitment to making a lasting impact.

2024 Volunteer Representatives

Fundy Region

MacEachern, Andrea ***Municipality of Colchester County***

Andrea MacEachern has worked tirelessly to establish, organize and operate Colchester Ringette, a brand-new ringette organization in Colchester County. Andrea organized a pre-season marketing campaign and several Come Try Ringette events to get the word out in the community. She worked with Colchester Recreation to secure funding and support, with the result that she was able to offer a full season of weekly ringette for a very low cost. She secured ice, instructors and developed a fun, season-long ringette program that started with a handful of players but increased in numbers as the season progressed. Andrea finished the season with an invitation to athletes from HRM to travel to Brookfield to play a game. This was a truly successful season of ringette in Colchester County thanks to Andrea. Not only is Andrea the volunteer behind Colchester Ringette, she also did the groundwork between October and March to recruit two teams of athletes to participate in the Ringette NS Middle School Showdown in May 2024. This will be the first time in the three-year history of the event that players from a region outside the Valley or HRM have participated. Andrea is deserving of this award for her hard work, dedication, and creativity.

MacPhee, Shannon

Town of Stewiacke

Shannon has lived in Stewiacke her entire life. She has always been welcoming to newcomers and whatever needs to be done, she quietly does it.

From a young age, Shannon was taught the important of volunteering her time for the benefit of the community. Shannon took the lesson and learnings from her mother and embraced it. While Shannon and her husband raised 2 children (who are involved in the community) she dedicated time as a Girl Guide Leader, committee member of Stewiacke Town Days Festival, Dinner Theatre Productions (17 years), volunteering within her church, Big Brother Big Sister in School Mentoring Program, Volunteering for the Special Olympics, and the Stewiacke Happy Community Project. The past 2 years Shannon has dedicated time to bringing Dinner Theatre Productions to the Town of Stewiacke to support different non-for-profit groups. Shannon is always willing and ready to lend a helping hand to whoever needs it, and we are forever grateful that she lives in Stewiacke.

Taylor, Doug

2023 Municipality of East Hants

For more 30 years, Doug Taylor has been not only a resident of East Hants but an avid volunteer. He has been involved as a volunteer coach for many sporting teams and was called on to assist with keeping the books for many local organizations. A role model to many, he demonstrates what it means to be a true community member and how rewarding volunteering in your community can be. Some of the sporting groups he has been a part of over the years as a coach or board member include East Hants Minor Hockey, Soccer, East Hants Tennis Club, and helping with the introduction of pickleball to East Hants in recent years.

Neumann, Margie

2024 Municipality of East Hants

Margie's accomplishments in the community are many and varied. She has given time to important causes over the years, from the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 166, to the Noel Ladies Fire Auxiliary, to the Rising Tides New Horizons Group. Margie has been president of Rising Tides New Horizons for the past 6 years, often putting in over 40 plus hours a week into her volunteer duties.

Jackson, Nevin

Town of Truro

Nevin Jackson is a retired educator with a career spanning more than thirty years in various educational roles. He currently serves on the boards of the Futureworx Society, Truro Curling Club, and the Town of Truro's African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee. Nevin was also the first Chair of the Rath Eastlink Community Centre Board of Directors.

Aside from his professional roles, Nevin is deeply involved in researching and promoting local African Nova Scotian (ANS) history. He collaborates with the Colchester Historical Society to uncover the largely unknown ANS history of Truro and surrounding areas. Nevin also volunteers with ANS youth to preserve the stories of local Black elders, ensuring this important history is not lost.

In addition to his historical work, Nevin is also dedicated to supporting mental and physical health in the African Nova Scotian community. He actively participates in initiatives aimed at improving overall health and wellness for ANS individuals.

Nevin organizes community events for all Truro residents to learn about their shared history, utilizing his skills as a public speaker to engage and educate attendees. His efforts were pivotal in organizing the No. 2 Construction Battalion National Apology event, attended by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in July 2022.

Nevin Jackson's dedication to community, education, preserving ANS history, and supporting mental and physical health make him a deserving candidate for both the Provincial Volunteer of the Year and local Individual Volunteer Awards.

Sack, Neil Joseph

Sipekne'katik First Nation

Joey na l'pa me' katu wela'teket skwijinu, mu naqatkelsik apoqnmuan ta'n pasik wenl. Etlī-weskwijinuit aqq etlikwet Sipekne'katik. Piamiw tapuiskekipunqekl jel ukmuljin te'sipunqekl assuayjimaji mijua'ji'jk kina'matnewo'kuo'mk wutanmuaq, aqq tujiw newtiskekipuna'jek jel nanipuna'jek apoqnmuet naqasui'kemk tami nu'kwa'q. Joey elt etl-lukwep mulqwemk elkwi'tikipn milamu'kl meski'kl mulina'sikl wjit Sacks Excavation. Ne'wt kis-kina'masijek aqq natawa'qatekejek Joey kisita'sip lukewsin, na tujiw pekwatelkip amskwesewey ejiklayjo'tekemkewey wutapaqn. Newtipunqek kisi-pmia'q na pekwatelkis piw-we'wasik mulqwemkewey aqq nike' weli-pkwateket elukewsit aqq alsutk mulqwemkewey mtmo'taqney ta'n ki's pantetek lluiknek te'sipunqekl. Joey kesatk ta'n tel-lukwej aqq kesatk wutanm.

Joey aqq wte'piteml ki's tekweyatijik newtiskekipunqekl jel nanipunqekl, mawa'luj ne'siliji wunijanuaq. Joey maw-welmitoq ji'nm nenaqitt, kesite'l'maji wikmaq aqq wenik wutanmk. Joey elt kesatk alta'tij wikmaq. Ki's sa'q Joey mila'sit alje'mamk, nike' toqa'muaji G&G Millbrook kisikuwultiliji tu'a'tijik. Joey kesatk naji-ktanaj tia'muk toqa'q, na wjit apoqnmuet aqq wije'waji nutqo'tiliji tie'k wutanmuaq naji-ktantaqati'tij apoqnmuan aqq kina'muan teli-ktantekemk aqq ta'n teli-netukultisni'k kniskamijinaqi'k.

Ta'n teli-apoqnmuet aqq teli-attiknetk Joey wutanm wiaqtekl; te'sipunqek apoqnmuet ne'ya'timk wjit Santi Kla's, ekina'muaji nutqo'tiliji ta'n teli-milita'mk milamu'kl tu'a'timkl, waqama'tumk wutan, kaqapijo'toql mtaweknn msit tami wutank, ejiklikwatumk wastew, ejiklayjo'tumk koqoey aqq ilikwatekemk ta'n tuijw kis-na'talitpiaq wutank. Ta'n tel-milamu'k koqoey etliaq wutank aqq ta'n te'sik koqoey maliaptik, Joey melkuktik msit wenl wiaqa'lan. Wela'liek Joey kwutanm wel-pmiaq mita eymu'tijik wenik nkutey ki'l.

Joey is an incredible individual, who will help anybody without hesitation. He was born and raised in Sipekne'katik First Nations. Joey has been driving a school bus for more than 28 years for the community and has been a volunteer fire fighter since he was 15 years old. Joey previously worked in excavation with different types of heavy machinery for Sacks Excavation company.

After gaining experience and knowledge Joey then decided to try to start his own business, when he purchased his first dump truck. A year later he bought a used excavator and is now an successful entrepreneur with his own excavation company that has been in business for the last 7 years. He is passionate about his work along with his community.

Joey and his common law wife have been together for 15 years, together they have three children. He has one of the biggest hearts we have ever seen; his community and family are his everything. Joey has also been playing hockey for many years and now plays he plays for G&G Millbrook old timers. He loves going moose hunting in the fall, which is why he volunteers during our community youth hunt, to supervise and teach young people about hunting and proper harvesting technics traditional for Mi'kmaq people.

Included in the volunteer time and efforts Joey puts into his community are; yearly Santa Claus parade, coaching youth teams in various sports, community clean-up, hanging season

celebration banners throughout community, community snow removal, emergency excavation during natural dictators. Along with all the things and events that Joey participates in and helps out he is always ensuring that it is inclusive to all when possible. Thank you Joey Sack, your community is a thriving place because of people like you.

Embree, Carol

Town of Oxford

Carol Embree is constantly striving to make life better for all who live in the Town of Oxford. As an active member of Oxford Church of the Nazarene she plays a key role in many areas. She helps lead the "Community Kitchen" which provides more than a hundred meals each week to school kids, community members, and newcomers. Carol leads the Seniors Ministry, providing fun activities and luncheons for both church and community members. She leads the kitchen ministry which covers funerals, potlucks, weddings, bridal showers and more. Carol also volunteers with the Oxford Food Bank and the Kidney Foundation. Her pancake supper, in support of the Kidney Foundation, has become an annual community favourite. Carol is also a gifted musician and, in addition to organizing Hymn Nights at her church, also organizes the Oxford Area Men's Choir and sings with Silver Rose. If that were not enough - on top of all her volunteer work in her church and community, her homemade fudge is always a highlight for the nurses at the hospital and you will find Carol baking cookies and donuts for various fundraisers and community individuals in need!

Cardinal, Kyla

Municipality of the County of Cumberland

Kyla has been an incredible force for good in her community. Over the past two years, she has organized food drives, raising both money and food donations to support those in need. Her dedication extends beyond food drives; for five years, she has been an active member of the Springhill Fire Department, contributing to the safety and well-being of her neighbors. Sparky's Food Drive, a project she initiated, has achieved remarkable success by raising over \$32,000 in cash and food donations for local organizations over three years. Kyla continues to lead this essential food drive, ensuring the local food bank and school programs receive the vital resources they need, with the assistance of the entire department. Her commitment benefits the entire community and she actively encourages others to participate in these impactful events. Kyla exemplifies the spirit of giving and her impact resonates throughout the community.

(Group), Friends of the Garden

Village of Bible Hill

The Friends of the Garden (formed in 1999) is a mighty group of green thumbs who volunteer their time and talents to help maintain the specialist plant collections on the Agricultural Campus. They meet every Wednesday morning, to help with various garden activities on campus. Membership is free to active members who volunteer 40 hours per year. There are 35 members heading into the 2024 season. Weekly attendance fluctuates between 10-20+ members throughout the year. A few members have been with the group since the beginning, three for 20+ years and two for 25 years.

The Friends manage plant sales, help with garden events, annual installations, herb garden planting and you can find them in gardens on campus helping to support the botanical garden unit with daily activities such as weeding, mulching, shrub pruning, leaf clean up. Yearly, the group helps with funding for one summer student to work in the Rock Garden. The Friends were instrumental in the funding and development and ongoing maintenance of our award- winning Rock Garden. Through the winter, the group meets for various educational gardening activities and presentations. The Botanical Garden unit relies heavily on this group to maintain the plant collections on campus.

McManaman, Terry

Town of Amherst

“Mouser” spent his sons’ formative years chauffeuring, coaching and fundraising for their various sporting interests. As his sons grew, Mouser kept serving his community. Now as a proud grandfather, his involvement continues. His efforts extend beyond sports and family as he regularly donates items and money to local benefits and fundraisers. He’s constantly cheering on kids of all ages, whether behind the scenes, on the sidelines, or out in front. He has balanced these achievements with his two previous careers at the School for the Deaf, and in corrections, and through his enduring marriage to Dawn. Mouser is a true Amherst asset. There are so many highlights to name, but I’m certain that his involvement at all levels of hockey and baseball rank high among his proudest moments. Not merely as a player and coach, but also as a true booster and member of the executive for minor hockey and little league, most recently.

2024 Volunteer Representatives

Highland Region

Eis (pronounced ICE), Sandra ***Town of Stellarton***

Sandra returned to her childhood home of Stellarton with her family in 2019 after retiring from her career as an army medic. She took over the role of Home & School President for GR Saunders Elementary when the position became vacant in 2020. She readily assumed the job of coordinating a parent group to raise funds that support the many needs of the student body. She organized dances, trivia nights, fun nights, and brought back the Spring Fling. Under her leadership, the H&S Association has paid for school trips, the annual Christmas dinner, a Bluetooth speaker, hoodies for all grade 6 graduates, and much more. She also bought lanyards and masks, and assembled 325 Halloween treat bags as COVID protocols were being maneuvered. Sandra is a gifted speaker and shares her knowledge and experience at the annual Remembrance Day service. She is also a skilled baker and professional photographer. Sandra is always willing to offer up gift certificates for these services at different events within the community, as well as for various non-profits.

MacKinnon, Gordon ***Municipality of Pictou County***

Gordie MacKinnon has been volunteering for close to 60 years in Pictou County. A lifelong resident of Lismore, Gordie has always believed in neighbours helping neighbours.

He started volunteering as a youth by assisting neighbours with chores and small tasks in the community. Over time his efforts have expanded to include more formalized roles on boards and organizations.

Gordie has coached sports teams including various minor hockey and softball teams from the 1970s through the 1990s. He was always involved in events at the local High School and was also instrumental in building the Lismore Ball Field. This became the hub of the community in the 1980s and 1990s and is still enjoyed by kids today.

Whenever he sees a need in the community, Gordie works quietly and often behind the scenes to meet it.

Today he is actively involved with the Lismore Parish Council, Lismore Community Centre, Merigomish Fire Department and the Bailey's Brook and Lismore Cemeteries. You'll find him doing kitchen cleanup, mowing lawns or simply giving a hand to a neighbour by driving them to an appointment, walking their dog or helping them with a home repair.

Whether it's building a ballfield or taking out the trash, Gordie is meticulous and makes sure the job is not only completed but done right. Most times you don't have to ask him, he just volunteers or shows up to help.

The Municipality of Pictou County is pleased to present their 2024 Volunteer of the Year, Gordie MacKinnon.

MacDonald, Mike

Town of Antigonish

Mike is a dedicated volunteer, tirelessly advocating for people living in poverty in Antigonish. Through the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund, he has helped countless individuals and families stay warm during the winter months. When people face the choice between

heating their homes and putting food on the table, Mike ensures they do not go hungry.

Mike was the driving force behind the founding of the Antigonish Emergency Fuel Fund. Starting informally in 2008 or 2009, the Fuel Fund became a registered society in 2012 under Mike's leadership and is now a registered Canadian charity. Mike has served as president and mainstay of the society and is an active participant in the provincial Affordable Energy Coalition, which advocates for reducing energy poverty.

The Fuel Fund has provided emergency energy assistance to hundreds of local low-income families facing heating emergencies. Mike has dedicated so many hours to this work that it has become a full-time volunteer effort. He inspires and supports the small team that volunteers with him to raise and distribute funds where needed. Mike's sensitivity to the most vulnerable and his efforts to raise awareness of energy poverty have helped thousands of local residents. Mike is a compassionate leader whose relentless advocacy defines his profound impact on the community.

Rhynold, Donnie

Municipality of the District of Guysborough

Donnie is the treasurer for Whitehaven Community Centre. If there is anything that needs to be done in and around the Community Center Donnie is the guy to ask i.e.: he built the storage shed, changed the hot water heater and many other tasks without even being asked. Donnie is also a key volunteer during Whitehead Days, planning, setting up and working at the many events to help keep community spirit alive in the small rural community he calls home.

Boyd, Grace

Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Grace has been sharing her expertise by working as a camp counselor at an Acadian summer camp, which gave her the opportunity to be a leader and a role model. This role involved planning activities for the kids as well as making sure the people under her care were safe — physically and psychologically, as well as making sure the kids had fun.

As a member of both the CJP and the FÉCANE, Grace was invited to Franco-Fête. This event allows French artists to connect with presenters in Acadian communities as well as schools. She took initiative by gathering all the students from Nova Scotia who were invited to the event and compiling a list of performances they wanted to see in their communities and schools. She then shared the list with Nova Scotian presenters as well as the school board to help them better understand what young people wanted to gain from the experience.

Grace has participated in these events in the hopes of giving students a common ground to connect with each other and to give them a reason to be proud of their French heritage. It is her hope that she has shown them how to be a prominent example of how their voices can be heard and that they have the power to make a difference. Through her community service she has been able to work toward achieving her highest potential which is a skill she intends to continue exercising while attending the Université de Moncton.

Fraser Desmond, Danielle

Town of Westville

Soon after moving to Westville, Danielle almost immediately began getting involved and giving to the community. She is the

Treasurer & Security Officer for the Westville Royal Legion. She also delivers meals for the Meals on Wheels program. Danielle was instrumental in bringing the Humble Harvest pantry to Westville to two locations in town. This is at a time when it is most desperately needed by so many. She ensures both sites are well organized, stocked and maintained. As a Humble Harvest representative, she is providing food for anyone who needs it. She helps to facilitate connections when someone is not able to make it to a pantry location but is in need for their family, ensuring their cupboards are not empty. She welcomes and encourages others to do their part in helping others who are faced with food insecurity. Danielle is making a difference in Westville and having a huge impact when it's needed the most.

Mattie, Heather

Town of Pictou

Heather has been an active volunteer for 42 years in a multitude of community organizations and pursuits. Her enthusiasm and willingness to share expertise are highly valued as well as her keen project management skills. Heather has been involved with the Pictou and Area Garden Club for over 25 years and has been instrumental in organizing the Junior Gardener Program. She also created and maintains the club's website and face book page.

Heather volunteers with the Aberdeen Hospital on several committees, participates with the Broidy Park Splash Pad Committee, is a host mother for the Nova Scotia International Student Program, P.A. 200 Committee and is a member of the Pictou Academy Educational Foundation. The Town of Pictou is very proud to honour Heather Mattie as our 2024 Volunteer of the Year.

Brophy, Meghan

Town of New Glasgow

Meghan's unwavering dedication to community service is truly inspiring. Since joining the Board of Directors for the New Glasgow Race on the River Dragon Boat Festival in 2011, Meghan has been a driving force behind the festival. As the Marketing Director and Vice President, she infuses her passion into every aspect of the organization. Her commitment to her community extends to A. G. Baillie Memorial Elementary School where she serves as the Home & School Association President, leading fundraising efforts and spearheading vital projects since 2018. Her dedication to the school community is evident as a valued member of the School Advisory Council and serving as Treasurer for the A.G. Baillie Band Association. Notably, Meghan played a pivotal role in revitalizing the School Breakfast Program in 2022, while recruiting volunteers and financial support to ensure every student continues to have access to a nutritious breakfast.

Meghan's volunteerism extends throughout Pictou County, where she has been involved with organizations such as the Knette Club of New Glasgow, Pictou County Minor Hockey Association, and Big Brothers Big Sisters, where her 11-year tenure as a Big Sister reflects her enduring commitment to mentoring and community engagement. Meghan embodies a contagious enthusiasm for making a difference, inspiring those around her.

Jordan, Ray

Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

Ray Jordan, has been a faithful volunteer at High-Crest Home for Special Care for many years. He leads weekly dominoes and helps with bingo and bus trips. Even on his days off, when he is not volunteering, he stops in to visit the residents and check in

on recreational activities. He is kind-hearted and generous with his time. The residents of High-Crest look forward to seeing him when he comes and many residents consider him their friend. Staff also look forward to Ray's visits and are happy to include him in staff BBQs. We were thrilled to celebrate his 90th birthday with him last year. We highly value Ray as a volunteer and as an individual and are lucky to have him. He is a going concern and an inspiration to us all. His community spirit is evident in everything he does, not only as a volunteer at the nursing home but also within the municipality.

Strickland, Chris

Pictou Landing First Nation | Piktukewey L'nue'kati

Chris is a dad, husband and grandfather who goes above and beyond for the safety of our community. He works in Capital and with all the storms we've had in the past year he has put in countless hours shoveling, plowing, cutting trees and doing what he needs to ensure our community members are safe and comfortable. He is always there willing to lend a helping hand. Chris is an asset to Pictou Landing First Nations and we want to know his work doesn't go unnoticed.

2024 Volunteer Representatives

South Shore Region

Hattie, Brenda

Town of Yarmouth

Brenda is a long time volunteer in the Town of Yarmouth. She has operated a free furniture bank for people in need for more than 35 years. She has initiated a Christmas Dinner program to provide a full meal to those in need for 27 consecutive years. Meals can be obtained at the Yarmouth Legion or delivered to homes by volunteers. Hundreds of people benefit every year from this program. She has been the President of the Yarmouth Legion for the past 9 years. She also provides food and clothing to those in need, with referrals coming from government agencies and religious entities. In her position at the Legion, she plays a vital role in the annual Remembrance Day ceremonies and hosting lunches with entertainment for veterans during these special days. Her kindness and dedication inspires volunteer recruitment. Brenda is truly an unsung hero who does everything from the heart and is an excellent Volunteer Representative for the Town of Yarmouth.

Richard, Donelda

Town of Lunenburg

Donelda Richard's caring nature shines during her volunteering at the Veterans' Unit in the Fishermen's Memorial Hospital. For the past seven years, she has dedicated herself to visiting the unit two-to-three times per week, bringing joy and entertainment to residents while providing vital support. Donelda advocates for

veterans and long-term care patients and is passionate about enhancing residents' quality of life through recreation therapy programs. Donelda has all the characteristics that make up a wonderful volunteer. Dedicated, reliable, flexible, enthusiastic, fun, positive, caring, compassionate.

Beyond her service at the hospital, Donelda is a valued volunteer within the Lunenburg community, contributing her time and talents to various organizations such as the Lunenburg Doc Fest, Lunenburg Folk Harbour Festival, Lunenburg Royal Canadian Legion Branch 23, and numerous curling events.

Donelda is what our residents need and deserve, and Nova Scotia Health is so thankful for her commitment and loyalty.

Coffin, Jacquelyn

Municipality of the District of Barrington

Jacqueline's extensive volunteer work at Forest Ridge Academy and beyond has had a profound impact on our community. As the Chair of the School Advisory Council (SAC) since 2021, she has meticulously organized and led meetings, facilitated communication between parents and the administration, and ensured that provincial notices were effectively integrated into school planning. Her leadership has fostered a collaborative environment across schools in the region, enhancing educational experiences for all.

In her roles with various committees at Forest Ridge Academy, Jacqueline has shown exceptional organizational skills and dedication. Her involvement in the Log Run Committee has driven successful fundraising initiatives, while her work with the Fright Night Committee has brought joy and community spirit through well-coordinated events. She has also played a crucial role in the Home and School Committee, contributing to staff appreciation and festive events that enrich the school

environment. Recently, she joined the Playground Committee, where her innovative ideas and efforts in securing funding are paving the way for a new, engaging play space for students.

Beyond the school, Jacqueline's commitment extends to coaching youth sports. As a Jr. NBA Coach with the Shelburne County Basketball Association and a mentor at the Barrington Curling Club, she has nurtured young athletes, promoting teamwork and ensuring their safety. Her involvement with the Sou'West Nova Scotia 4H's Cloverbuds program highlights her dedication to youth development, providing diverse experiences to the youngest members.

Jacqueline's volunteerism has strengthened the Municipality of Barrington, bringing people together and creating opportunities for growth, learning, and enjoyment for all involved.

Fiske, Raymond

Region of Queens Municipality

Raymond Fiske is a tireless volunteer, impacting many organizations and individuals.

Raymond has been involved in the Prince of Wales Zetland Lodge #9 for 18 years and currently is their Treasurer. He has also held the position of Worshipful Master and has been appointed as Grand Lodge Officer for a one-year term, by the Grand Lodge Master of Nova Scotia. He is particularly proud of the financial contributions of local lodges to Queens General Hospital and to Queens County Transit, to which \$88,000 was donated to purchase a new accessible van.

Following his retirement, he served his community as a Municipal Councillor for 8 years. Raymond has served on many committees and boards, including as a board member for the Queens County Fair and Queens County Transit. He was Chair of the North Queens Nursing Home Board, and one of two residential care

facility representatives appointed to the provincial Cost Care Planning Committee.

As a board member and Treasurer of the Hank Snow Society, Raymond is active in the organization and helps with staging of events. He is part of the organizing team for the Hank Snow Tribute, their major annual fundraiser.

A true friend to those in need, he can always be counted on for a drive to medical appointments and treatments. Raymond's volunteer philosophy is quite simple – to help whenever he can.

Wayne Smith has spent both his work life and personal life in the service of the community.

Smith, Wayne

Region of Queens Municipality

Wayne has volunteered many hours to several organizations, including serving as Chairperson of the Education Bursary Committee of the Prince of Wales-Zetland Masonic Lodge, awarding grants to graduating high school students of both North and South Queens. He is Secretary of the West Queens Medical First Responders and is Assistant Chaplain of the North Queens Fire Association.

As Program Director with the local radio station QCCR, Wayne encourages volunteers in hosting and producing a wide range programming. He also produces programs reflecting the growing diversity of Queens County, including syndicated shows such as CanQueer, a show dedicated to issues of importance to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community; a program of local poets reading and discussing their art and craft; and musical programming of varied genres, including country, classic rock, a locally produced hip-hop program, eclectic indie, and a syndicated program dedicated to music of the African diaspora.

In addition to his volunteer work at QCCR, Wayne represented stations across the country serving two-terms on the Board of Directors of the National Campus & Community Radio Association.

Maynard, Mustapha

Town of Bridgewater

Mustapha Maynard, known as Coach Moose, has been a coach to hundreds of local youth, and a mentor to many. Mustapha has dedicated many hours to our local youth basketball programs over the last 10+ years. His love and passion for the game is shown through his coaching skills and techniques not only on the court but off the court as well. He has coached at many age levels and with many programs, including but not limited to BJHS, PVEC, Jr. NBA and now his own local basketball club: South Shore Lightning Basketball. Coach Moose's dedication to our local children is admirable.

He has also done many coaching courses, including being honored as a 2024 Nova Scotia True Sport VIP coach along side one of his previous players who was also nominated and now holds the 2024 Nova Scotia True Sport Athlete Ambassador. He has created many lasting memories and has previous players who still reach out for advice or just to check in.

Hansen, Nancy

Municipality of the District of Argyle

Nancy is very active not only in the Wedgeport Legion Branch #155 but in the community as well. Nancy oversees planning and setting up of all events at the legion. These include funerals, legion events, workshops, and weddings.

She is also involved with the 100 meals program working in whatever role she is asked to do.

She is also on the Wellness Committee for the Ladies Auxiliary and when a member is in the hospital, she sees that they get a card and delivers it herself.

She helps with the Hope BBQ every Friday in the summer months either cooking or serving, she organizes the meals at the Hope Centre when there are events there as well.

Nancy was also a member of the Salvation Army Medical team. Since it disbanded, she still does medical support at numerous community events. She is always willing to put other people ahead of herself.

She cooks for the drivers at the Lake Doucette Speedway where the proceeds go to the Special Olympics. She also cooks for the Special Olympics Christmas Party.

She volunteered for the St. John Ambulance for 11 ½ years, 6 of which she was the superintendent of the St. John Ambulance.

Nancy, the Municipality and your community thank you for all that you do. Congratulations!

Goulden, Helen

Town of Shelburne

Helen Goulden has been a cornerstone of our community, dedicating countless hours to organizing and enhancing local events and initiatives. She played a pivotal role in the Founder's Days' (now Dock Street Days) Parade of Lights, ensuring its success for several years. Helen's contributions extend beyond event planning; she has actively participated in various community efforts, including the YOLO Relay for Life, Sandy Point Lighthouse Suppers, and the "Support Our Troops" campaign.

Her commitment to the community is further exemplified by her involvement with the Shelburne County Arena Board. Helen has volunteered many hours in the arena's canteen, recently stepping up as the Canteen Manager. In this role, she has ensured smooth operations and greeted every visitor with a warm smile.

Helen's tireless dedication and unwavering support make her an invaluable asset to our town, deserving the title of Volunteer of the Year.

Burch, Lorraine

Municipality of the District of Chester

Lorraine has been integral for the successful and ongoing management of the Western Nova Scotia Camp Council, which is the governing body for Sherbrooke Lake Camp. Lorraine sits on the Board of Directors and brings a lens of legacy that is valuable and a lens of understanding that is sustainable.

Lorraine's always the first to listen to new ideas, answer the call for help, first to help navigate the way forward in challenging times. In 2021 the camp was without an Executive Director, Lorraine was keen to step up as an Executive Board Member to fill the many roles and responsibilities needed to make camp a safe and supportive place to welcome children and youth - while navigating the new rules that COVID-19 had on camps that summer.

She supported the work of the Social Justice Learning Circle, as the organization worked to become more inclusive, equitable and aware. She helped to host the Mi'kma'ki Blanket Exercise and was the only Canadian to attend the Campfire Collective Camping Conference in Arkansas in 2023. Lorraine advocates for positive change and is someone you can reach to for help.

Merry, Tim

Town of Mahone Bay

Tim Merry is well known in Mahone Bay for his work co-founding and growing the Mahone Bay United (MBU) Soccer Club. Tim was the catalyst in establishing this group that provides accessible and affordable soccer programs for kids, youth and adults. From very humble beginnings Tim's efforts have resulted in the renewal of the Mahone Bay Community Field, basketball court and revitalization of this area. Tim has worked with community leaders and the Mahone Bay Centre to create a fabulous soccer program with a focus on leadership and problem solving skills. Through his leadership, MBU has grown to work with several hundred children, trains coaches, supports newcomers to the area, and is developing a love of the game one player at a time!

Tim started his career as a youth worker in drop-in centres in the UK and Netherlands. He is also one of the co-founders of the Art of Hosting and is a supporter and past board member of the Berkana Institute. He also founded the Split Rock Learning Centre, a youth drop in centre in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and was one of the founders of Engage InterAct in the Netherlands.

When Tim is not on the pitch, you can find him at The Outside's office (located in the Mahone Bay Centre) where he supports organizations from all over the world to lead break through change as an engagement specialist and systems change strategist.

Johnston, Marilyn

Municipality of the District of Shelburne

Marilyn's volunteering has spanned decades with numerous community groups and organizations. She is known as a kind, giving person who is dependable and gets things done. Always

giving back to her community, she has been a volunteer with the Lower Ohio Union Church for 40 years! She has done it all from leading renovation projects to grant writing and has been the Chairperson the last five years. Similarly, she has been involved with the Lower Ohio Recreation Centre helping wherever she can and serving as a trustee the past four years. Another passion, gardening, has seen her involved with the Shelburne County Gardening Club for 30 years, holding all four executive positions at different times. After her retirement Marilyn got involved with the Shelburne County Mental Health and Wellness Association as secretary for 10 years and has significantly contributed to the development of the Nova Scotia Warm Line. As a member of the Roseway Hospital Ladies Auxiliary she has volunteered for 8 years at the NU2U Thrift Store as a sorter and cashier. During that same period, she has been a board member with the Shelburne Association Supporting Inclusion, serving as Chairperson the past 5 years. The Municipality of Shelburne is proud to name Marilyn the 2024 Volunteer Representative.

Doucette, Wanda

Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

Wanda is truly an amazing person, continuously giving to her community and doing so with a big smile. She embodies the true meaning of a community volunteer. Her tireless efforts to improve the community are very much noticed and appreciated by many. Wanda is a major contributor as a board member for the Greenville Community Centre Association. This was proven recently with the Greenville Community Centre being recognized with the Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award. Wanda was also instrumental in the realization of The No. 2 Black Battalion Monument in Yarmouth. Wanda also volunteers with the ANS Service Providers Network, and other numerous organizations. We thank Wanda for her selfless attitude and amazing love for her community.

Organizing Committee, Lockeport Sea Derby

Town of Lockeport

The Lockeport Sea Derby was first organized in 1992 and has gained popularity ever since as a major summer festival. In a town with less than 500 residents, the 2022 Sea Derby had a record 514 participants. The success of the festival can be attributed directly to the dedicated volunteers who serve on the organizing Committee. Besides providing a top quality annual festival, they also provide the treats for Santa's annual visit to the Fire Hall, host a seafood chowder supper annually during Lobster Festival and have often sponsored harbour clean ups. Until 2023, the group worked closely with research teams from Dalhousie University in collecting shark data to inform their research papers. Fish caught in the derby becomes food either being processed in local fish plants or in the frying pan of people who enjoy mackerel. The Lockeport Sea Derby has always included two categories other than sharks. In 2023 it was determined that sharks could no longer be harvested in Nova Scotia derbies and the Lockeport Sea Derby became the last surviving derby of its kind in the province. Without shark fishing, the emphasis took on a more local focus with lots more activity added for families. The remaining fishing categories of mackerel and groundfish drew the second largest registration in the history of the derby at 414 individuals and the number of boats grew to 47 compared to an average of thirty in previous years. With a very supportive local business community, the organizers always make sure that a prize is awarded to all youth participants (80 to 100 each year). The organizing committee appreciates the large number of additional volunteers who do their parts each year with chores ranging from weighing fish to running the chalk contest or running a barbeque. Lockeport is pleased to recognize and thank the organizers of the Sea Derby for their many years of hard work and dedication to the community.

Veinotte, Bruce

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Bruce has devoted over six decades of his life to volunteering, beginning from his teenage years and continuing to this day. His unwavering commitment spans a wide range of activities, all aimed at nurturing the growth of the Church Congregation and providing invaluable service to the community. For more than 50 years, Bruce has been an indispensable member of the Northfield Fire Department, where he remains actively involved. His dedication extends beyond emergency services, as he also supports the efforts of the West Northfield Community Centre, where he currently serves as the Chairperson. Bruce's contributions are diverse and far-reaching—whether it's mowing lawns, plowing snow, assisting families during funerals, visiting seniors, or distributing bulletins and church information to those without access to email, he is always ready to lend a helping hand. Bruce's presence is characterized by warmth and a welcoming spirit, making him a beloved figure in the community. His actions consistently reflect an unwavering commitment to serving others, embodying the true spirit of volunteerism. Bruce's selfless dedication over the years has not only made a significant impact on those he has helped but has also set a powerful example of what it means to live a life of service and compassion. His tireless efforts continue to inspire others in the community to engage in acts of kindness and service, ensuring that the values of community and care are upheld for generations to come.

2024 Volunteer Representatives

Valley Region

Robicheau, Shane ***Municipality of Clare***

The Municipality of Clare's volunteer of the year is Shane Robicheau. As an accomplished chef and community-minded resident of Clare who has brought the importance of food security to the forefront of his community.

Shane, with the help of community stakeholders, launched the Clare Share Fridge Communautaire which operates a take-what-you-need, leave-what-you-can fridge and pantry system in the Municipality of Clare. With help from the private sector, community groups and a dozen volunteers, the not-for-profit group provides free food to the community to help reduce food insecurity and food waste. An average day can see 10 to 15 visits to the fridge.

Shane averages 20 hours per week opening and closing the community fridge, restocking the fridge, food shopping, doing paperwork, networking with partner businesses and organizations, analyzing statistics and organizing community cook days. Shane connects with local restaurants and grocery stores to accept food that is safe to consume but close to expiration to avoid food waste. He meets with residents and businesses to take in food and monetary donations to stock the fridge and to offer volunteer opportunities. He liaises with the Clare Food Bank to share resources.

Shane also organizes free Christmas Eve lunches for the community. Shane and his team of volunteers prepared and served 200 free meals in 2022 and 550 meals in 2023.

Also, as the owner of Le P'tit Robicheau Food truck, Shane raises money with his charity initiatives to give back to various local organizations in Clare throughout the year.

Vaughan, Kim

Town of Kentville

Kim has been volunteering with Girl Guides Canada (GGC) for more than 20 years. She has also chaired as the local district commissioner (over seeing all the local units). She has served in every unit (Sparks, Embers, Guides, Pathfinders, and Rangers). She is the bread and butter of Guiding in the Kentville area. She leads the Embers group presently. She also is secretary for Hardwood Lake; the GGC campsite in Aylesford. Kim's passion for GGC is visibly evident: just take a look at the Guiding decals on her car and the trefoil ring on her hand! She loves volunteering, encouraging girl development at all levels of Guiding, and fostering a strong Guiding community in Kentville. If you have heard anything about GGC in Kentville, Kim has been involved in some capacity in your hearing of the GGC event or good news! The unit leaders of Kentville thank Kim for her dedication to the community and organization.

Peach, Shelley

Town of Berwick

Shelley is an exceptionally dedicated volunteer at Berwick and District School. She is kind, helpful, community-oriented, and highly committed to any program she runs. Always willing to lend a hand at events, she keeps students' best interests in mind.

Since her oldest child started at BDS 15 years ago, Shelley has organized dances, graduations, school lunches, concerts, class trips, and more.

Her biggest contribution has been to the Berwick Stingers Athletic Program. Shelley has created an inclusive, positive environment, enhancing both skill and competition levels for athletes. She has coached soccer, volleyball, basketball, badminton, and track and field, impacting hundreds of athletes over the years. Additionally, she has been the head coach for Valley Venom Volleyball, the West Kings girls and boys volleyball programs as well as assistant coaching at the provincial level.

Shelley's leadership and mentorship are unparalleled, bringing energy and positivity to every event.

Sanford, Holly

Town of Annapolis Royal

Holly Sanford is currently serving her second term as a Councilor for the Town of Annapolis Royal. Taking on this position was a natural progression from her years of volunteer service for the community. Prior to being a Councilor, Holly served as director for the Annapolis Royal Board of Trade, and as a member of the Annapolis Royal Marketing and Economic Development Committee. She helped create and managed a summer event series called First Fridays, where the Town shops stayed open late and provided special events to attract visitors. She has chaired the Annapolis Royal Natal Days Committee and Easter Extravaganza committee, both large scale free events that attract thousands of participants. She has been a been of the Annapolis Royal Lions Club, and served as King Lion for one term. She has also volunteered her time to a local school breakfast program, and to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. Holly is always involved with smaller events and is the first to offer a hand when it's needed. Thank you, Holly!

Cove, Amanda

Town of Middleton

As an integral volunteer with Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms, Amanda is a great help, willing to jump in and help others at a moments notice. She is great at organizing, her time spent in the military definitely is noticed when she's organizing things. She has helped organize and pull off the give aways in the Torbrook Area and will be helping with others as the new season approaches. She is a great asset to our team. She is always willing to Jump in help a team mate, even drives as far as Digby to to help sort clothing, deliver food and help tidy up areas. She's an amazing team member. Frugal Moms has become a key intervenor in our Town's efforts to provide help to those who need it and Amanda has been a key contributor to these efforts.

Wilsack/Skinner, Stephen/James

Town of Wolfville

James Skinner, who lives in Greenwich, purposely set out to aid the homeless in our community and the wider province this winter. Despite his own health issues, he met with the unhoused and sought Ice Fishing tents to provide better shelter. To raise awareness, James documented the increasingly challenging situation with his camera in various encampments and quietly lobbied politicians and service providers.

Wolfville resident Steve Wilsack spent the winter in the Grand Parade in Halifax satisfying the needs of the homeless sleeping in summer tents. He chose to live in a tent himself in order to be on hand when needed. Wilsack helped fill the Grand Parade with warmer ice fishing shelters. He acted as a spokesman for those who could not speak for themselves because he cares.

Harris, Randy

Town of Digby

Randy Harris is a strong believer in community and the importance of building relationships with everyone that you meet. He is a volunteer with three of Digby's summer festivals, Digby Scallop Days, Lobster Bash and Wharf Rat Rally. From selling tickets and merchandise to directing traffic, Randy jumps in wherever he can to lend a helping hand. Randy has been a board member and volunteer with the Digby Area Theatre Society for 5 years, and when he is not on stage in an acting role, he can be found behind the scenes building sets, installing sets, and taking admission. Randy is a great promoter of everything Digby, sharing community events through several Facebook groups and is consistently recruiting volunteers for the organizations that mean so much to him.

Trefry, Tiffany

Municipality of the District of Digby

Since becoming a parent Tiffany has made a commitment to showing her son that "everyone can do something". Tiffany has made a tremendous impact in the area through volunteering with the South Shore Family Resource Association, Weymouth Consolidated School Advisory Council, and serving as co-chair of the board of directors for the Tri-County Women's Centre. Over the past few years Tiffany has served on the board of directors for the Digby Splash Park Society and the Digby Area Gymnastic Club. She continues to serve as fundraising chair for the Digby Area Soccer Association and last summer lead a team of coaches in providing the summer soccer program for 84 players ages 4 and 5. In carrying on the family tradition, Tiffany joined the board of directors for the Weymouth Amateur Athletic Association and when she heard there was a need for more coaches in order to keep the T-ball program running, she immediately stepped up.

Cox, Betty

West Hants Regional Municipality

The “Hants Shore” is a collection of close-knit rural communities, located within West Hants Regional Municipality along the Minas Basin. What makes the Hants Shore so connected, resilient, proud and strong, is the people. There is no better representative of contributing to this wonderful community through volunteerism, than Betty Cox.

For more than 70 years Betty has been involved in every volunteer effort on the Hants Shore. She has volunteered with the New Horizon’s Hall, Hants Shore Community Health Centre, Cheverie Salt Marsh Society, 4-H, and as a local youth group leader. Additionally, when someone gets sick and needs help, she organizes fundraisers to help them with expenses. Betty has raised more than \$28,000 with the last two fundraisers.

As an employee of Canada Post since 1980, Betty goes above and beyond as she has come to know every resident personally. She also plays an active role in welcoming newcomers by connecting with them with local farmers and resources.

Rural living has its challenges but there is no stronger community than one in which neighbors take care of neighbors. Betty exemplifies taking care of others through volunteering her time, leading projects that will better the community, and by always giving kindness.

Grotjohn, Mark

Village of Port Williams

Mark moved to the Village of Port Williams community with his family in 2020. With two children at Port Williams Elementary School, he began volunteering in the 2020-21 year. He immediately started working with students on a weekly basis

to help with their academic growth. He regularly volunteers for multiple school events, like Spring Fling, Santa's Breakfast, and other events that require the support of volunteers. This year, he joined the School Advisory Council (SAC) as Secretary to serve in an advisory capacity to the school principal and the elementary school on a range of issues related to the school, such as school practices, fundraising, parent-school communication, school improvement, and student achievement and performance. He also volunteers his time as a member of the Port Williams & District Lions Club and regularly donates blood and plasma to Canada Blood Services.

Sanford, Jeremy

Municipality of the County of Annapolis

Jeremy believes that the success of rural communities is driven by volunteerism. Volunteers bring together people of all ages to participate in events and activities in their communities. In a world of increasing pressures from technology, he feels it is critical that we continue to foster spaces and activities away from "screens" where community members meet each other and form bonds.

Jeremy helped lead a project to create an outdoor recreation pad and park in his rural community. This space is used for ball hockey, basketball, ice skating and other activities. It is common to see children and adults enjoying this space and making new friends.

Over the past 20 years, Jeremy has also been an active board member with a minor hockey association, a health foundation, a community recreation facility, a community hall, a board of trade and a local festival. He has also coached hockey and school sports teams.

Inclusivity and access to recreational activities is a driving force behind many of Jeremy's pursuits. He is also an outspoken advocate for increased recreational infrastructure in rural Nova Scotia.

Despres, Valerie

Municipality of the County of Kings

Piamiw tapuiskekipunqekl apoqnmuet, Valerie tl-we'jiatesk etl-mawita'mk wutank, etl-lukwet apoqnmuaji ika'taqutite'wk mawio'mi, kisna kiskaja'toql ekina'masimkl aqq koqoey piluey teliaq kulaman wlapettaq aqq kisi-ika'lsultitaq wenik wutank! Sa'q ki's naspit aqq nikana'toqsip Kespukwitk Temkweto'timkewey Wasuek Mawio'mi, naniskekipuna'qtitew wejkwipunqek. Wi'katikna'q kisi-mknan wenik kesputua'tijik America-ewey Temkweto'timkewey Wasuek Mawio'mi aqq wejkwataqnik pikwelkl naspitl mekenutjik kespu'tua'tijik ula eymu'k Wapna'kik aqq elt Kanata aqq Pastunkewa'kik mawio'mi'l. Valerie elt nikanusewip aqq naspip mawio'mi wjit Temkweto'timkewey Wasuek Mawio'mi Kanata aqq melki-maliaptik mawiominu ula tett.

Aqq elt Valerie melki-apoqntik wutanm Nicholsville. Nekom aqq wji'nu'miml Paul, maliaptmitij tel-pmiaq koqoey etliaq etl-mawita'mk wutank Nicholsville aqq kaqi-ika'lsit apoqnmuaji wenik ewe'wmi'tij ula etl-mawita'mk. Nkutey nike' ula ewi'tasikl aqq elt me' pikwelk koqoey – weswutqikwalut naqsun, elisknuemk, aqq ila'skukwemk, Nicholsville Amali-ika'taqu'tijik Mawio'mi, kejikaw kepjoqa'asikipnek Wilmot Amali-ika'taqu'tijik Mawio'mi, No'pa Sko'sia Mawio'mi wjit Mawa'ma'tijik Amali-ika'taqu'tijik, aqq mawa'majik ukulele pipukwatmi'tij ali-pipukutijik tepow etlqatmu'titij kisiku'k aqq etlinpitekemkl.

Wiaqpit elt Kespukwitk Mawio'mi Nikwenmi'titl Meski'kl Ika'taqne'l, West Kings Wutaney Papultimk etliaq Tremont. Tliaj na tel-mili-apoqntikl mawio'mi'l Valerie wejkwataqnik, maw-keknu'e'k teli-

apoqnmuep ika'qek pessekatimkewey telui'tasik Covid. Wjit ta'n teli-apoqntikipn ula mawkwamkl wutankewaq wiaqpultijik kulaman wena'lupnik aq q welkwija'lupnik ke'sk metue'k elta'tijek, tepawtukwet keknuite'tasin aq ta'n te'sikl mawio'mi'l naspitl menaqaj maliaptikl, mu pasik ika'tukl na'kwekl aq teli-apoqnmuet we'kaw wsulieweym ika'toq kulaman msit wen wlapesitew koqoey teliaq.

With over 20 years of volunteering, Valerie can most often be found in her local community hall, working with one of the many garden clubs, or hands on organizing programs or events to uplift and engage local community members.

She is a long time member and past president of our organization, the Annapolis Valley African Violet Society, which next year will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Valerie is a qualified senior judge with the African Violet Society of America and in the past has judged many African violet shows within the Maritimes and at Canadian and US conventions.

She has also served as a director and committee member of the African Violet Society of Canada over the years and has been a stalwart executive member within our local group.

Valerie's greatest service is within her local Nicholsville community. Along with her husband Paul, Valerie runs the Nicholsville Community Hall and is very actively involved in organizing many of the groups which use this facility. These include but may not be limited to the following - rug hooking, knitting, a card group, the Nicholsville Garden Club, the recently dissolved Wilmot Garden Club, the Nova Scotia Association of Garden Clubs, and a ukulele group which entertains at local senior's homes and hospitals. She is also involved in the Annapolis Valley Giant Vegetable Growers Association and the West Kings Community Fair, Tremont. Although Valerie has been involved with most of these organizations for many years, her role as a volunteer in the community was especially impactful during the recent covid years. Her service in organizing all

these groups, which distracted and uplifted the members of her local community during such a difficult time, is deserving of recognition, particularly as Valerie serves every organization to which she belongs with a quiet grace, often contributing not only her time and effort, but also her money for the benefit of others.

Harlow, Phyllis

Bear River First Nation

Phyllis is now retired from Health Canada. She has been volunteering her whole life. She takes pride in taking care of the Community Greenhouse. She hand-picks ready vegetables from the greenhouse and takes them to the community food stand for families. Phyllis also is our beekeeper and collects simple sugars that are stored in the honeycomb and processes this to make jars of honey for her community and ensures each household receives a jar of honey. Phyllis also volunteered at the Soup Kitchen in Halifax and now volunteers at the Bear River Legion once a week to make soup and rolls for the extended community. She delivers soup and rolls to families in need. She takes part in several canning classes to teach youth and adults how to self sustain through food security. Phyllis also takes community members to the greenhouse to teach them how to manage and maintain produce. You can find Phyllis in any kitchen preparing food for community events and meetings. She opens her house to staff members around Christmas time to share food that she harvested throughout the year. She strives to fulfil community needs by volunteering her time.



2024 Specialty Award Recipients
***Family Volunteer of the
Year Award***

The Chetwynd Family

***Anna, Wayne, Jennifer (Hines), James, Allyssa
and William Chetwynd***

Lockeport, NS

The Chetwynd Family of Lockeport embodies community spirit and service, spanning generations with their unwavering dedication. For many years Wayne, Anna, Kevin, Jennifer, James, Allyssa, and William have been integral to the Lockeport Volunteer Fire Department and the Lockeport & Area Medical First Responders. In this isolated rural community, their service often means the difference in life-or-death situations, answering calls with utmost reliability.

Beyond their crucial roles in emergency services, the Chetwynd's are always involved in community events, fundraisers, and festivals. They organize walks, support local causes, and enrich Lockeport's social activities with their active involvement.

Anna Chetwynd emphasizes their family beliefs of "volunteering as a family," instilling a deep sense of community pride and purpose in all their activities.

Wayne's leadership as Lockeport Fire Chief has ensured the fire department's stability, vital in a time when many rural departments struggle. Wayne was also instrumental in founding Lockeport & Area Medical First Responders, one of few independent MFR agencies in the Province.

James and Kevin, alongside their parents, demonstrate selfless dedication as volunteer Firefighters as well as MFRs. Kevin, who is a career Advanced Care Paramedic, also volunteers as an EHS/MFR facilitator, training MFRs, and as an EHS preceptor, training new Paramedics.

Alyssa's efforts at Lockeport Elementary School highlight her commitment to enhancing educational environments, currently spearheading a major fundraising initiative for a new play space.

Jennifer, balancing family life, initiates activities benefiting young families, while fourteen-year-old William already embodies the family's spirit by assisting with local festivals and Student Parliament.

The Chetwynd Family's legacy echoes deeply in Lockeport, encouraging safety, community spirit, and enriching lives across generations. Their impact extends far beyond emergency response, representing the true principle of community service and selflessness.



2024 Specialty Award Recipients

Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

Alexander Poplar

River Herbert, NS

Since the age of seven, Alex has committed to supporting his fellow youth and enhancing his community in many ways. Alex's dedication extends to numerous volunteer roles, where he balances multiple responsibilities with enthusiasm.

Alex's passion for creating a supportive environment for teens is obvious in his project of securing a safe space for them to gather on Friday evenings. He also manages the River Herbert District School Junior High soccer team, organizes school badminton tournaments and has a position as a goalkeeper for the High School Senior soccer team.

In addition to Alex's involvement with sports and social activities, Alex assists with the food pantry and breakfast program. In his role with the River Hebert Community Centre, Alex has demonstrated exceptional skill in grant writing. His efforts secured an \$18,000 food pantry grant, which is so important in rural Nova Scotian communities struggling with food security.

At the Community Centre front desk, Alex offers valuable support to the center's operations and as the secretary for the River Hebert Jogging and Area Development Association, he plays a key role in coordinating local development initiatives.

Alex's passion for volunteering is driven by a genuine desire to make a difference, rather than seeking recognition. His various contributions and steady dedication make him an outstanding member of his community, exemplifying the spirit of service and leadership.



2024 Specialty Award Recipients

Nova Scotia Strong Award

The Ultimate Online Nova Scotia Kitchen Party (Heather Thomson)

Rocklin, NS

Heather Thomson is the founder of the Ultimate Online Nova Scotia Kitchen Party, which emerged in March 2020 during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic. From the beginning, Heather and her dedicated team of administrators, performers, and audience members poured countless hours into growing this online community. Their mission was to create a safe, inclusive space where musicians of all ages and skill levels can showcase their talents without barriers.

Under Heather's leadership, the Kitchen Party has gone beyond Nova Scotia, reaching close to 100 different countries, uniting

musicians and audiences worldwide through the love of music. What began as a response to isolation has grown into a global phenomenon.

This online group fosters friendships, mentorships, and collaborations among musicians, offering a platform where amateurs and professionals alike can thrive. Through virtual performances, it has touched countless lives, providing comfort during difficult times and celebrating happy moments together.

Heather's dedication to community extends beyond the digital world. Through partnerships with local organizations like Feed Nova Scotia and the Mental Health Association of NS, the Kitchen Party has raised over \$130,000 to support vital causes, symbolizing its commitment to making a positive impact.

Heather Thomson's vision and passion have transformed the Ultimate Online Nova Scotia Kitchen Party into more than just an online musical gathering—it's a testament to the deep impact of music in connecting hearts and uplifting spirits worldwide.



2024 Specialty Award Artist

Nova Scotia Strong Award

Benoit Paradis

Originally from Montréal, Québec, moved to Pictou , Nova Scotia, in April 2022.

He grew up with a pencil in his hand as a medium of expression. Books, comics and cartoons on television feed my imagination and covered the sheet of paper. Studies in mechanical design drawing followed by a career in aerospace design did not satisfy his artistic thirst.

Benoît began to study Visual Arts at Cégep du Vieux Montréal and subsequently Film Animation at Concordia University, which recognized his talent by awarding him prizes and mentions. He tries to recreate the beauty of the world around him, giving it bold colours and expressions

Benoît's love of colour, nature, beauty, and life inspires his colourful and vibrant work. He starts by sketching in situ when possible or taking a photograph and tries to observe and feel the emotion of the place.



