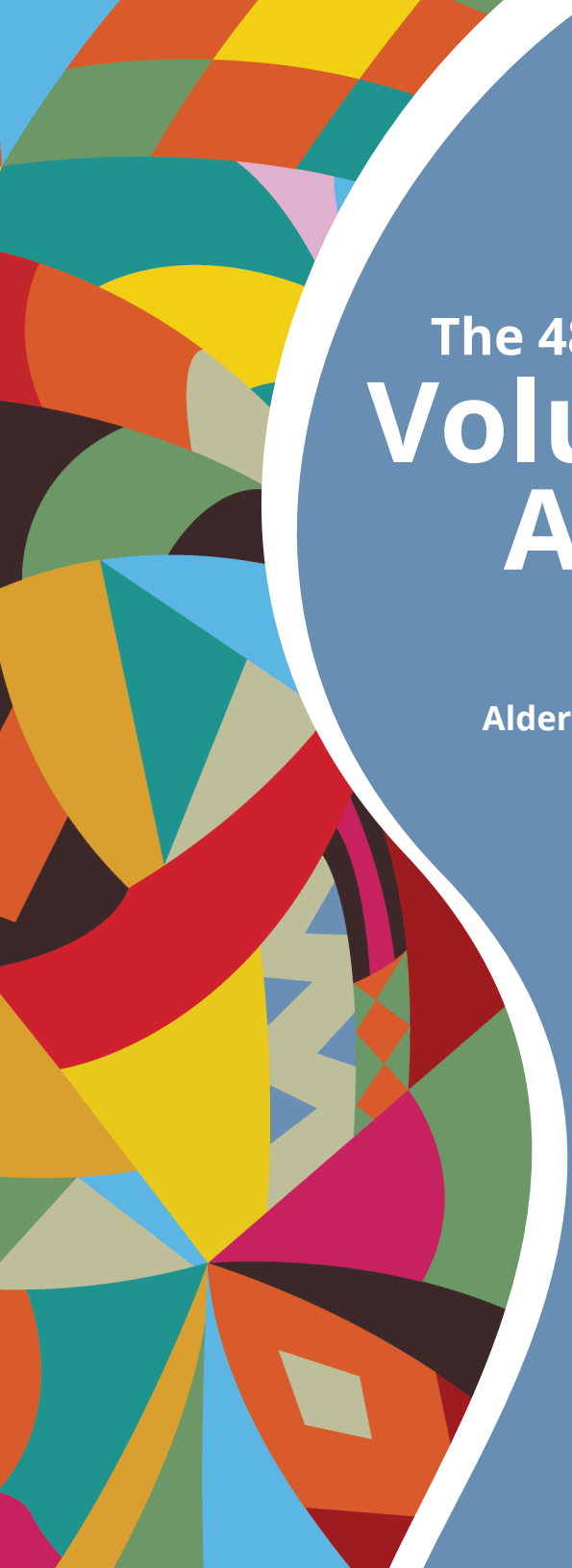


The 48th Provincial Volunteer Awards

September 26th, 2022
Alderney Landing Theatre,
Dartmouth, 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.

Lieutenant Governor's Message

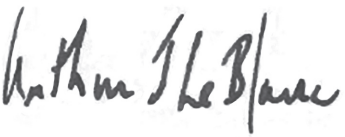
As the King's representative in Nova Scotia, it is an honour to participate in the annual Provincial Volunteer Award Ceremony. This year is particularly special, as we return to an in-person event formats to recognize the accomplishments of award recipients.

One of the great pleasures of serving as Lieutenant Governor is the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of citizens based across the province, particularly those who use their time to give back to others. Each year, individuals of all ages and walks of life work to lift up community members and create positive change. I am continually inspired by the acts of dedication, compassion and kindness demonstrated by volunteers on a regular basis.

Earlier this month, we celebrated the life and legacy of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, which was characterized by a strong dedication to service. As I have reflected upon the meaning of commitment to one's community and country over the past weeks, I am filled with admiration for Nova Scotians who have demonstrated an unwavering dedication to family, neighbours, and colleagues, particularly during the pandemic.

On behalf of all Nova Scotians, I offer my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the recipients recognized at the Provincial Volunteer Award Ceremony, along with all volunteers based across the province.

Patsy and I thank you for your contributions and acts of service. We send best wishes to all for the remainder of 2022.



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

Premier's Message

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, welcome to the 48th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Volunteers play an important role in our thriving and healthy communities. They provide support, offer their time, and help communities grow even in the most challenging of times.

These incredible people come from every corner across Nova Scotia.

We are fortunate to live in a province where so many people generously give their time to help their community. And we are forever appreciative for their efforts that help improve the quality of life for all Nova Scotians.

I want to congratulate the recipients of the 2022 Provincial Volunteer Awards. We thank you.

Yours truly,

Honourable Tim Houston, *M.L.A.*
Premier

Minister's Message

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 48th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Today, we celebrate the many exceptional people from communities across this province and of all ages who volunteer.

These annual awards provide us with the opportunity to recognize the power of the people, organizations, and communities that are making our province, and the world, a better place for everyone.

Thank you for the amazing work that contributes to the vibrancy of our province.

Sincerely,

Honourable Pat
Honourable Pat Dunn, *M.L.A.*
Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism and Heritage

48th Provincial Volunteer Awards Agenda

Monday, September 26th, 2022
Alderney Landing Theatre, Dartmouth, NS

12:50pm
Pre-Event Entertainment
Halifax Multicultural Drummers

1:00pm
Welcome
Emcee, Rouge Fatale

Indigenous Welcome and Performance
Jenna Robar & Tehya Milliea

Lieutenant Governor's Address

Minister Pat Dunn's Address

Volunteer Representative Awards
Cape Breton Region, Central Region, Fundy Region

Dance Performance
Pranitha Vattoni

Volunteer Representative Awards continued
Highland Region, South Shore Region, Valley Region

Specialty Awards Presentation

Youth Volunteer of the Year
Family Volunteer of the Year
NS Strong Award

Closing Performance
Rouge Fatale

Reception in the Rotunda

Rouge Fatale

Known as the legendary drag performer of Atlantic Canada, Rouge Fatale has a heart as big as her mouth! She holds a plethora of awards under her wig including The Coast's Entertainer of the Year and Most Halifamous Person for 2019-2020. Rouge is also known as the first entertainer in Canada to have a successful 4-year residency with Casino Nova Scotia hosting her show Rouge Fatale & Friends. She has also been a member of the fundraising society, ISCAN for 20 years.

Jenna Robar & Tehya Milliea

Jenna is an accredited Holistic Health Coach, passionate speaker, and a traditional hand-drummer and singer. Jenna carries the title of 'National Ambassador of Hope' with Canadian organization 'We Matter', frequently travelling across Canada to speak to Indigneous youth on life promotion. Seasoned in speaking up for what she believes in, she has spoken and drummed in the House of Commons, with the United Nations Association of Canada, in schools and universities on behalf of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and with YMCA locations across the country.

Tehya represents the Millbrook First Nation and is a grade 12 student attending CEC High. She has been dancing since she could walk and performs the Fancy Shawl dance. Having roots in a ceremonial dance called the Butterfly Dance, the shawl is meant to symbolize the wings of a butterfly.

Halifax Multicultural Drummers

Halifax Drummers (AKA The Malaria Warriors) are family drummers devoted to carry on their baby sister's memory. The group was founded by Dr. Olugu Ukpai after he lost his 16-month-old daughter "Goodness" to malaria, unnecessarily in 2016. The family drums to raise funds and create awareness across schools and communities. They were the local stars at the 2018 Tattoo and received the HEROES & LEGENDS recognition from the Canadian armed forces. The Multicultural Drummers are also the recipient of the 2022 volunteer youth award for Halifax. Malaria is a poverty disease. Every 35 seconds, a child under 5 dies of malaria needlessly. No child should be left to die of malaria no matter where the child comes from. "We cannot forget those children we left behind. Let's drum up hope, smiles and support for them".

Pranitha Vattoni

Pranitha has been learning Bharatanatyam, a South Indian dance form since the age of 3. Born and raised in Kerala, she first started training in the Kalamandalam style of Bharatanatyam for 5 years. At the age of 10, she started training with Shri. Hari Das in the Tanjavur style. She completed her arangettam, at Guruvayoor temple in Thrissur, Kerala in 2012. She continued to train under Shri. Hari Das for two more years until she moved away for university in 2014. In university, she was active with the Fine Arts club and involved in various cultural events. She moved to Halifax in 2019 and has been expanding her horizons in dance since then. She now attends classes at the Daldance society in Dalhousie University and House of Eights dance studio. She has also started teaching dance through the Daldance society and hopes to grow much more as a dancer.

2022 Volunteer Representatives

Cape Breton Region

Benoit, Amanda

Potlotek First Nation

For more than 10 years Amanda Benoit has been the Post-Secondary and Student Engagement Coordinator for Potlotek First Nation, guiding youth on their journey toward a post-secondary education. She has logged many hours to help students apply for university, with tutoring, accessing technology and hosting cooking classes. One student said, “the most meaningful thing Amanda has done for me, while I was away at school, was to talk me through my anxiety when it got too bad.” That student, with help from Amanda, graduated last year. Amanda is a beacon of hope and love and is the very essence of a volunteer and Potlotek First Nation is very proud to have her in our community.

Bernard, Pauline
Membertou First Nation

At 91, Pauline involves herself in the community as an advisor specializing in traditional ceremonies and translation work, sharing her knowledge in Mi'kmaw language and culture. Throughout her life, Pauline has involved herself in Indigenous educational organizations at local, provincial, regional, and federal levels, including the Membertou Education Committee, the Provincial Education Committee through the Union of Nova Scotia Indians, the National School Committee, and the National Indian and Eskimo Education Association. She has volunteered for the local church and schools, cultural and language programs, pow-wows, St. Vincent de Paul, restorative justice, and elder and youth programs. She continues to be an active member of the Membertou Heritage Park Advisory Committee and Working Committee.

Burke, Lorne
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Lorne has been the driving force behind every football program in the CBRM dating back to the mid 1980s, giving thousands of hours of his time for more than 36 years. He has not only heled to create a successful football program but has also been a positive influence for thousands of youth. He has coached all age levels and currently coaches Sydney Academy's football team. No matter the weather, Lorne, his coaches, and players are running plays, having fun, and learning how teamwork can produce great results. He shows both first time athletes and veteran athletes the joy of football and that everybody is skilled whey they play as a team. CBRM has greatly benefitted from Lorne's volunteer efforts.

Costello, Ryan

Municipality of the County of Victoria

Ryan has been extremely active in the North of Smokey Region of Victoria County, Cape Breton. He has held numerous positions in the Ingonish Development Society, including chair. He is the Chief of the Ingonish Fire Department and organizes a range of events for the community. He has been one of the main forces behind the annual Hucklebuckle Festival and Canada Day celebrations. He is continuously working on funding proposals to support community initiatives. Ryan is integral to building and maintaining a sense of community in Ingonish and surrounding areas.

DeWolfe, Grace

Municipality of the County of Richmond

As a bilingual volunteer, Grace assists French speaking guests, at the St. Peter's Visitor Information Centre and takes care of the Richmond County events calendar. She fundraises for autism programs and for families in her area dealing with loss. Grace also bakes for community bake sales and welcome baskets, created by the local Welcome Group. She volunteers during her lunch hours at school to help with the Unified Sports program and accompany students to their competitions, and also volunteers with the local Tae Kwon Do program. Grace has a strong belief in helping her community wherever she can and sets a fantastic example for the youth in her area.

Francis, Joseph
Eskasoni First Nation

For many years, Joseph has played a large role in bringing sporting opportunities to Eskasoni. Since 2020, he has acted as a liaison for female hockey in our community working with the Blizzard Female Hockey organization as a board member. Joseph played a role in obtaining new boards for the rink and winning the Kraft Hockeyville 2022 in Sydney. He is always willing to offer a helping hand; from sharpening skates, getting on the ice to coach, coaching softball, driving youth to their games, assisting with grants, recruiting other volunteers or purchasing youth equipment with his own money. Joseph is someone that we can always rely on and is a vital asset for sports in our community.

Guthro, Deacon Berkley
Town of Port Hawksbury

Along with Deacon's church duties at St. Joseph's Church for the past 10 years, he visits the sick and shut-in at local hospitals and nursing homes. He also organizes a clothing and houseware depot for those in need, three times a year, as well as collecting and distributing school supplies for students in need. Deacon's kind and thoughtful nature has made a huge difference to many individuals in Port Hawkesbury and we are very appreciative of all of his volunteer efforts.

Matthews, Holly

Municipality of the County of Inverness

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Whycocomagh, is proud to recognize the volunteer efforts of "one of its own," Holly Matthews. Holly was baptized at the church and then became a member of St. Andrews in 1982. She attended Sunday School and sang in the church choir, in years past. Holly moved to Halifax in 1990, where she worked for several years as a caregiver at Northwood Seniors Home. Returning to Whycocomagh in 2012, Holly continues to volunteer at the church. Whether baking, working breakfasts and dinners, supporting all fund-raising activities, or volunteering her time as church caretaker, Holly is always ready and willing to lend a helping hand. St. Andrew's Church sincerely thanks Holly for her friendship and volunteer efforts.

Pierro, Herman John

Wagmatcook First Nation

Herman was born in Potlotek but raised in Wagmatcook in a family that taught him the importance of community involvement and he has carried that teaching with him to today. He has volunteered countless times for any event the community holds. He has been a volunteer with the Wagmatcook Fire Department for more than 20 years and a fisherman for Wagmatcook. When the community is in need, he has always been the first to help. Herman has a love for his family and the community, and his family is very proud he is honored with this Volunteer Award.

We'koqma'q Women Group

We'koqma'q First Nation

The We'koqma'q Women Group show commitment and dedication whenever needed in the community. They always make sure there is enough food for everyone at Salite - a celebration that includes a feast and a lively auction, after saying final goodbyes at funerals and wakes. Salites are an important part of our culture's grieving process and also help to raise money to cover a family's funeral expenses.

2022 Volunteer Representatives

Central Region

De Lamirande, Daphnée

Halifax Regional Municipality

Daphnée is an exceptional volunteer who has distinguished herself in the Acadian and Francophone communities by her strong commitment to youth engagement, to Francophone pride and to young women's leadership. Daphnée gives a lot of her time and skill set to the Fédération des femmes acadiennes de la Nouvelle-Écosse, to the youth committee Jeunes femmes en action – Nouvelle-Écosse and to the Conseil Jeunesse Provincial.

Ehsan, Mohammad

Halifax Regional Municipality

Through his countless hours of volunteerism to the various causes he passionately believes in, Mohammad strives to give back to the community he loves. He firmly believes that only through volunteerism can one become part of

the broader community and, for newcomers like him this is even more important. Through volunteerism, he is not only giving back, but also gaining so much in return. Mohammed believes being a volunteer makes us rich in heart through our deeds.

Ghouti, Loukman

Halifax Regional Municipality

Loukman is a kind, gracious, and warm-hearted soul who has contributed greatly to our community. He has generously donated more than 3000 hours to multiple organizations that serve our population. Loukman talks often about is his role as an English tutor at ISANS. He enjoys meeting individuals from all over the world and learning about their stories, cultures, and traditions. This experience also allowed him to support newcomers during their transition to Canadian life. Loukman continues to inspire others through his devotion to the welfare of others.

Gullage, Margaret

Halifax Regional Municipality

Margaret has given incredible opportunities to so many Girl Guides. She became a Board Member of Duke of Edinburgh Awards and continues to support that organization. Margaret knows that being a part of her community means rolling up her sleeves and pitching in. She has spent a lifetime giving in so many ways, always going above and beyond. Margaret is always looking for ways to help those less fortunate or mentor youth. She is quick to step into leadership roles and motivate others.

Maybank, Aline
Halifax Regional Municipality

Aline is the definition of a leader. From providing mental health crisis support through Kid's Help Phone to in-person meal assistant for veterans at the QEII hospital, she is a volunteer to all. Her impact as a volunteer on the Nova Scotia community is extensive and diverse, positively impacting individuals of all ages, socioeconomic classes, and abilities. With more than 500 volunteer hours from just this past year, Aline truly reflects the true essence of volunteerism.

McGrath, Heather Nicole
Halifax Regional Municipality

Heather volunteers in many areas of her community including youth sport, PTA fundraising and awareness for cancer research and Camp Brigadoon. With almost a decade of commitment to the Give to Live's annual Big Swim, the event has raised more than 1.5 million dollars to sponsor children to attend Camp Brigadoon. As event director, Heather pours countless hours and energy into the organization and running of this important event which benefits children, youth and families in Atlantic Canada. Heather's commitment to service is unparalleled, and her dedication to community is inspiring.

Peveril, Lauren
Halifax Regional Municipality

Lauren is passionate about helping children, she loves to coach volleyball and soccer. Lauren started a charity to help IWK patients and participates on Student Council and in a student leadership association. During Covid, she

volunteered at testing sites and assembled test kits. She has also volunteered with Hope for Wildlife, Feed Nova Scotia, Special Olympics, United Way and Adsum House.

Ruan, Michael

Halifax Regional Municipality

Michael is a dedicated volunteer and influential role model in the Chinese community in Nova Scotia. As former president of the Chinese Benevolent Association of Nova Scotia and former president of the Atlantic Canada Ping Pong Association, he has shown his charm and enthusiasm. Michael has organized many successful events to help immigrants live better in Canada. He is actively involved in charitable and social well-being activities to help those in need. He contributed time and energy and spent more than 5,000 hours volunteering in these events. His selfless dedication has made life better in the Chinese community.

Sparks, Asiah

Halifax Regional Municipality

Asiah is a vibrant, passionate, and deeply caring individual who has turned negative life experiences into opportunities to get involved to cultivate a sense of community and inclusion. Our community is a better place because of thousands of hours Asiah has committed to the Boys and Girls Club, Prince Andrew High Black Student Union, Darren Fisher's Youth Council, Imoni Tutoring Program, School and Community Committee and the Dartmouth North community. She is a powerful advocate for social justice and the first on the ground to lend a helping hand. Asiah is truly a community builder.

Wilcott, Patsy

Halifax Regional Municipality

Pat has contributed to the community through various organizations for more than 45 years. Her volunteer time for the Cuddles & Comfort Quilting Program can be measured not in hours but in weeks during any given year for the past 15 years. Not only has she contributed to this valued Community Program, but when a request is made for volunteers to set up an event, Pat is always a reliable person to call. She is always there to help and to bring an entourage of helpers with her.

2022 Volunteer Representatives

Fundy Region

Borden, Harold (Butch)

Town of Truro

Support from elders in the Community inspired Butch to give back; this combined with his love of sport led him to multiple coaching and mentoring positions, both within school and community environments. He has cultivated a culture of giving back through volunteering. He has given selflessly and has empowered the African Nova Scotian (ANS) Community, and the youth of Truro, in ways that the community will benefit from for years to come. Although Butch has retired, he still provides substitutes at local schools and volunteers his time with many projects including, Apex Scholarship Committee, Town of Truro Diversity Advisory Committee, African Nova Scotian Community Strategy Committee, and the Community Enhancement Association.

Brooks, Noel & Erica

Milbrook First Nation

Noel and Erica are both volunteers with the Bible Hill Truro Minor Baseball Association T-Ball and U13 Leagues. They also recently volunteered their time as coaches for the 2022 Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Summer Games for T-Ball and Bantam Softball. Erica continues to coach throughout the summer and fall, co-leading the Millbrook Summer Baseball Program in partnership with the Jays Care Foundation. They are strong advocates for recreation, sport and physical activity and great examples of community leaders to children and youth.

Calder, Paul

Town of Amherst

It is volunteers like Paul Calder who truly make Amherst an outstanding and caring community. Paul is the recipient of the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal for his community service while an RCMP member. He is a long-time member of Trinity-St. Stephen's United Church and served on the Amherst Regional High School advisory council for several years. Paul also served eight years on the Amherst Board of Police Commissioners as well, was the regional co-director for the RCMP Veterans Association and served six years on the board of the local United Way Organization. Paul has also dedicated many hours as an active member of the Amherst Rotary Club.

Carruthers-Fury, Cara
Municipality of Colchester County

Since 2016, Cara has volunteered her time as Vice President of the Tatamagouche Minor Hockey Association. She has spent countless hours at the North Shore Recreation Centre and other rinks across the provinces coaching and watching the area children play hockey, meeting with parents, executing tournaments, and proudly cheering from the stands. She is always available to help at any event related to minor hockey including tournaments, fundraising, and taking photos or videos to send to parents who cannot attend the games. She helps organize recreational leagues, broomball tournaments, and is a great supporter of memorial games. When she is not at the rink you can find her sharing her musical talents at the local Grain Elevator Market and a variety of open mic nights and fundraisers at the Grace Jollymore Joyce Arts Centre.

Colpitts, Penny
Town of Stewiacke

Penny started volunteering her time when her children were in school to help with extra circular activities and sat on the home and school board. Penny has helped with the Remembrance Day Ceremony for many years, to organize and prepare for a social gathering. She volunteers time at the Legion to support community breakfasts, the Levee, and other events. Penny worked at the Library in Stewiacke for years then continued to volunteer her time there after retirement. Penny also volunteers at the Community Meals Monthly dinner to cook, clean and deliver meals. Penny is one of the few that continues to give back to her community and we couldn't be happier to have her in our Town.

Galbraith, Shawn
Town of Oxford

Shawn has been a parent volunteer and great role model in our school community for the past 10 years. He has been a leader at the RCMP Cops and Kids Leadership Camps, chaperoned many class trips and volunteered countless hours coaching Junior Boys Basketball, Junior Boys Softball, Junior Boys Soccer and Senior Girls' Softball, who most recently won for their district. He has also volunteered his time to organizations around the community, including Oxford Minor Baseball. Shawn Galbraith is one of the good guys.

Keilty, Allison & Beryl
Village of Bible Hill

Allison and Beryl Keilty have been volunteering for more than twenty-five years. In 1994, Beryl formed a "Newcomers Club" to welcome and assist people moving to the area, to meet new people. Allison has served for 20 years as Hospital Auxiliary Treasurer and has been involved in activities such as the hospital's coffee and gift shop, Hub-bub event, physical activity programs, blood donor clinics, Read to Me program and the SPCA. Beryl is a long-time member and Officer of the IODE Nova Scotia - a federation of Canadian women focused on community service, education, and citizenship programs. With great appreciation, the Village of Bible Hill celebrates them as extraordinary community volunteers.

MacIntyre, Norma
Municipality of East Hants

Norma started volunteering in her childrens' schools as a chaperone for many activities and was the founder of the Elmsdale School craft sale. She is a valuable member of the HEART Society and also volunteers as the school liaison with the Caring and Sharing Foodbank, to help with their Christmas program and co-founded the Angel Tree for Adult Angels program. In addition, she is also a dedicated volunteer with the East Hants Family Resource Centre. Thank you, Norma for giving your time to so many great organizations in East Hants.

Seymour, Charles
Municipality of the County of Cumberland

Charles has been a dedicated and hardworking member of the Cumberland Y Service Club for more than 20 years, having served as President on three separate occasions. Charles also served as Regional Service Director of the Maritime Region of Y'dom, Board Chair for the YMCA of Cumberland and currently serves as the Area Service Director of the Alexander Scholarship Fund Project. He has provided countless hours and expertise to both local and international projects including food drives, Christmas parades, tree fundraisers, conventions, and scholarship funds. His enthusiasm for his community and passion for helping inspires others to also volunteer their time and skills.

2022 Volunteer Representatives

Highland Region

Campbell, Hugh & Sandra

Town of Pictou

Hugh and Sandra have been exceptional volunteers and coaches for the past 5 years with the New Caledonian Curling Club to introduce the sport of curling to youth. They have grown the program from 4 curlers to more than 25 participants. They have held several youth bonspiels and fun days and organize curling camps during school breaks that involve young students from all over Pictou County. Sandra ensures each event is well organized and includes parents as much as possible to make each event a success. In addition to his curling mentoring and coaching, Hugh can often be seen entertaining at our local nursing home, sharing his talents as a musician and singer.

Denny, Cheryl

Pictou Landing First Nation

Cheryl works many evenings to teach fellow community members how to create our traditional crafts, such as beading, painting, sewing ribbon skirts, shirts and regalia's,

flower arrangements, medicine pouches, baskets and much more. It's important to our culture that these traditions be passed down to the younger generations. She is a great asset to have for our Mi'kmaw community and we are thankful for her knowledge and her willingness to share.

Hale, Tracey

Town of Stellarton

Tracy is always there to help - she volunteers her time to fundraise for Stellarton Stingers Girls softball teams and works with Northumberland Regional High School fundraising to help with their girls' hockey team. Tracy is also extremely helpful to solicit donations for the Karma Closet at Northumberland Regional High School. More than just fundraising and helping at events, Tracy has been a huge part in Challenger Baseball to get their program and events out to the community. Tracy's positive approach to helping is second to none and we love that she is part of our community.

Legge, Ruth

Municipality of the District of St. Marys

Ruth is one of the founding members of the St. Mary's Genealogy Research Centre, located in the community of Sherbrooke. The Society collects, processes, and makes available genealogical and historical materials that have been preserved for the municipality and communities beyond. It is a vigorous and healthy organization that has attracted many members to carry out successful projects. Ruth commits several days a week to volunteer at the Centre to obtain grants, supervise employees, and train volunteers. The valuable historical records of this county would be lost or inaccessible without the Centre, and it would not exist without Ruth and her tremendous dedication.

MacDonald, Karen

Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Karen has been instrumental in her role as Treasurer of the Antigonish County 4H Leaders Council and as a St. Joseph's 4H Club leader to mentor several volunteers and members. She was a key member of the county organizing committee for the public speaking and demonstration competitions, hosted by St. FX Leadership Conference, and was a key leader in the 100th Anniversary planning committee. She plans 4H events, builds club spirit and promotes strong community values which provides for inclusion of all ages and abilities. The St. Joseph's 4H Club and Antigonish County 4H program are both grateful for Karen's 25 plus years of volunteer leadership and are fortunate for her continued work developing youth and community in Antigonish County.

MacGregor, Arlene

Municipality of Pictou County

Arlene started volunteering at the age of 15 and continues to volunteer today with various organizations including the Bridgeville Church Council, Hopewell Pastoral Church, Churchville Cemetery, Churchville Community Club, Senior's Time-Out, the East River Valley Group, the Women's Institute of Nova Scotia and Riverview Home Volunteer Association. She is a CBC Radio Information Morning contact and is on hand to give tours of her diary farm to elementary schools through the Agricultural Awareness Program. In the past she was a 4-H leader in Springville and set the groundwork for the Churchville 4-H Club, was a Beaver leader and a member of the School Advisory Committee. She recruited volunteer drivers and organized the monthly schedule for Meals on Wheels, as well as managed to deliver meals herself.

MacLaughlin, Shaun
Town of Westville

Shaun has not missed a volunteer shift in the 15 years he's served as a medical first responder with the Westville Fire & Rescue Department, to help organize many community events. Shaun has always been fascinated by emergency services, which is why he became a paramedic in June 2005. He has since taken on additional duties as a MFR facilitator, travelling across the region and helping to onboard fire departments to the EHS Medical First Responder program and facilitating refresher sessions for existing agencies. The local fire department also helps organize various fundraising activities including Canada Day and several community barbecues. For anyone considering volunteering in their community, MacLaughlin highly encourages it, no matter how big or small the contribution may be.

McKenna, Jim
Town of New Glasgow

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in 2020, Jim founded the Facebook Group, Helping During Coronavirus Pictou County, to organize a team of volunteers to deliver food from the Pictou County Food Bank. This initiative resulted in over 6,000 food orders being safely delivered to those in need. He is also a founding board member of Pictou County Safe Harbour, a member of the Pictou Academy Educational Foundation, the Trinity United Church Council, and Habitat for Humanity Pictou County. Jim has also been involved with the board of Pictou County Fuel Fund, past president of the New Glasgow Rotary Club, former member of the Kinsmen, and served on the board of Summer Street Industries and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pictou County.

O'Handley, Susan

Municipality of the District of Guysborough

Susan has been an active volunteer for five decades working with youth, seniors, local trails, sports, community events, church, crisis intervention, women & gender work and much more. Susan believes that it is important to lead by example, share and transfer your knowledge and experience to others, especially young people. The many local projects and groups Susan participated in have helped develop the Canso area into a thriving community of volunteers who put their heart and soul into making Canso a wonderful place to live. Susan is proud to represent the many amazing volunteers in her community.

Pellerin, Kenneth

Town of Antigonish

Kenneth, known as Kenny to most, has served as a volunteer fire fighter for the Town of Antigonish Fire Department for 64 years. He remains active as a volunteer fire fighter at 92 years old. During his years of service Kenny has had many roles, from Pump Operator to Engine Driver. He takes a lot of pride in his training, never shying away from the difficult and demanding tasks that come with the territory of being a first responder. With his soft demeanor, grace, and kindness, he embodies the attributes we all look for in a first responder. The Town of Antigonish is proud to be recognize Kenny - a man who has given so much to serve his community.

Skinner, Charlie
Town of Mulgrave

Charlie has been a member of St. Lawrence Parish Council since 2017 and parish volunteer for many years. He serves at weekend masses and works on parish issues during the weekdays. Through the pandemic he was instrumental in implementing Covid protocols for our services. There are so many things that Charlie does behind the scenes - he is the type of person that when something is mentioned that needs to be done, he just goes about his day to get it done. Charlie is a very treasured volunteer for the Parish of St. Lawrence and thank Charlie for all you do.

Tupper, Kennedy
Town of Trenton

County Ground Search and Rescue member for the past 3 years. Kennedy is also very quick to drop everything to help fundraise for people and families in Trenton and the surrounding communities who are experiencing tragedy. Kennedy has raised thousands of dollars through her fundraising efforts. Kennedy is also a regular blood donor. When Kennedy isn't with the fire department, fundraising, or volunteering in some other capacity she can be found at Oulton College where she is attending paramedic school.

2022 Volunteer Representatives

South Shore Region

Ayer, Mary

Town of Shelburne

If you attend a community event in Shelbourne, chances are you will see Mary. She may be entertaining the kids with a bubble show, welcoming new residents or updating the community bulletin boards. Over the years, Mary has given her time to Totties Crafts, IODE, Shelburne Garden Club, Mission to Seafarers, "Rose Buddies" Care Clowns at the Roseway Hospital/Manor, South Shore Festival of the Arts, Shelburne Historical Society, Eastern Star, Salvation Army Kettle Campaign and SHARES – an organization that enabled a Syrian family to move to NS. Mary is a wonderful ambassador for Shelburne and we are proud to recognize her efforts.

Brophy, Marc

Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

Marc brings an excitement to every activity he is involved in. As a former Provincial Curling Champion for the province of Newfoundland, he now volunteers as Junior Director at the Yarmouth Curling Club. Marc will tell you one of his

greatest passions is advocating for a cleaner community and leads by example. Marc was instrumental in organizing a beach clean-up at Port Maitland Beach which brought the television show "Land & Sea" to the community to shed light on a growing pollution problem. He participated in the Yarmouth Earth Day Weekend and helped the group to remove more than 25,000 pounds of trash from our community shores and ditches.

Christian, Scott

Region of Queens Municipality

Scott has devoted years pouring his heart and soul into the Queens Daycare Association, working toward a sustainable and thriving Daycare. He was instrumental in ensuring that the new infant care centre was constructed. This new service provides licensed childcare for children under 18 months of age, a vital service that was not previously offered in Queens County. Scott has also contributed his time to the Harrison Lewis Centre, and various other initiatives in Queens County. He is a knowledgeable, caring, and compassionate person, working hard to improve Queens County now and into the future.

Comeau, Judy

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Judy established a Show Chorus in 2017 after 2 years of organizing informal singing gatherings, by volunteering up to 8 hours per week. Judy's combination of energy, enthusiasm, experience, and skill are what set her apart as an inspiring director. Her goal is "ordinary women coming together to make extraordinary music". Judy is an extraordinary woman, very talented musically, but more importantly she is extremely generous when giving of her time and yet very humble about her efforts.

Cook, Crispin

Town of Lunenburg

Crispin embodies the spirit of volunteering in Lunenburg. He is an active and faithful member of the Zion Lutheran Church for more than 74 years through various roles including greeter, worship leader, choir member, and soloist. Crispin has sung in various community choirs for funerals, weddings, and numerous community events and, has played the role of Santa for many parades and in nursing homes. Crispin is constantly running errands for neighbors and friends, driving them to appointments, taking them shopping, and/or making deliveries or pick-ups. Caring and helping others is a way of life for Crispin and he has embraced that life fully.

Freeman, David

Region of Queens Municipality

David has been a valued volunteer with Queens County VON for the past ten years getting clients to their appointments or delivering VON's frozen meals. He is a friendly, familiar face for many and a point of contact, that for some, makes all the difference in a person's day. David has also been involved with Queens County Historical Society. He is a member of Kings Orange Rangers, a local historic re-enactment group that brings the late 18th century to life at many festivals and events across the province. He serves as Treasurer of Milton Baptist Church and is a long serving member of two Masonic lodges in Queens County.

Gallagher, Linda
Town of Yarmouth

Lynn comes from a family with a long history of giving back to their community. She has always been generous with her Linda has spent more than two years dreaming of a splash park for the kids of Yarmouth County. This summer we will see that dream become reality. Through the creation of the Yarmouth Splash Park Society Linda has led a dedicated group of volunteers in raising more than $330,000 for the building of the splash park. Linda has fundraised, submitted numerous grant applications, and advocated to all levels of government to make this project happen. Her kind, caring and huge heart is the reason the splash park will be open in the fall of 2022.

Hansen, Gary
Municipality of the District of Argyle

Gary began giving back to his community by sponsoring hockey teams. He then went on to support Fire Department fundraisers as well as fundraisers for the Wedgeport Tuna Museum. As a member of the board for the HOPE Centre, Gary organizes BBQ fundraisers every Friday in the summer months, as well as selling tickets on a car every year. He is now the Entertainment Chair for the Wedgeport Legion Branch #155 where he runs bingo every Monday night, organizes monthly Wing Nights and oversees the Lest We Forget Lottery. He has also chaired the Honors & Awards Committee and is the past treasurer of the Legion.

Muldoon, Cara
Town of Mahone Bay

Cara and her family moved to Mahone Bay in 2007 and became the best example of what young families can bring to a small town. In her time living in our community, Cara has volunteered on the Home and School Association Board and the South Shore Refugee Reunification Project. She has spent years as a member of the Mahone Bay Pool Society, most recently serving as the Society's President, and on Friday mornings she can be found helping with the breakfast program at Bayview Community School. Cara has supported many of the projects that grow our community and make Mahone Bay a wonderful place to raise a family.

Nickerson, Jennifer
Municipality of the District of Barrington

Jen has been an active part of the Forest Ridge Academy (FRA) Home and School as well as School Advisory Council (SAC) for many years. She plays an important role in making decisions that directly impact the staff and students of FRA. Her initiative and dedication to providing fun activities and events for students, leadership on the school's HPS and advisory committees, and simply making time to assist in day-to-day activities is commendable. Teachers and school staff have had a very difficult couple of years so having a volunteer like Jennifer has been incredibly valuable.

Rae, Sterling
Town of Bridgewater

Sterling has spent more than a decade volunteering as a youth program instructor with the Town's Recreation Department. He offers Bridgewater's youth the opportunity

to build skills and leadership through adventure, exploration, and science workshops. Sterling also volunteers his time as a Scouts Canada leader, often leading youth on overnight adventures and challenging them to think outside the box. Sterling's shared wisdom has helped many of Bridgewater's youth connect with new friends, create new experiences, build resiliency, and blaze their own trail.

Swim, Emily

Town of Lockeport

Emily is full of creative ideas and gives of her time to make festivals and events happen, including the annual Fall Fest, Christmas by the Sea and the Lockeport & Area Canada Day celebrations. During the Recreation Department's Chip Bingo for Seniors, Emily can often be seen in the kitchen preparing for the lunch break, then she sticks around to clean up. She grew up in Sable River, where she also pitched in with community events. Now living in Lockeport, she's always ready to bake or serve at a community supper. We are all very fortunate that Emily has chosen Lockeport to be her home.

Woodland Multi-Use Trail Association

Municipality of the District of Shelbourne

Since June 2006, the Woodland Multi-Use Trails Association has constructed and maintained 79 kilometers of trail in Shelburne County. They have relied on grants, memberships, fundraising, and the in-kind contributions of their members and trail users for construction and maintenance of their trails. In addition to trail development they organize recreational events, do litter pickup, and encourage proper trail use through their Etiquette program. Their accomplishments are the result of the dedication, expertise and hard work of their members and the vision of their leaders.

Zwicker, Barbara (Barb)

Municipality of the District of Chester

Barb has been a volunteer at the Lighthouse Food Bank for the last 8 years. She is loyal, hardworking, reliable, and up to any task. Over the years, she has coordinated the Christmas Hamper program. Which provided 98 Christmas hampers to families in need in 2021. She procured all the groceries, managed several other volunteers with packing and sorting and led everyone on distribution day. Distribution day went off without a hitch and all our clients were very impressed and thankful. Barb's dedication and desire to help others with her time and abilities has provided a direct impact to those in need in our community.

2022 Volunteer Representatives

Valley Region

Baltzer, Linda

Municipality of the County of Annapolis

Girl Guides has always been close to Linda's heart and over the years she has been a group leader and Regional Coordinator at both the local and provincial levels. Linda is well known in the Lions Club for her dedication to its motto, "We Serve". She has held the position of President for three terms, has acted as Lions Zone Chairperson for Annapolis and Digby Counties for three years, and is presently serving a four-year term with The Lions Foundation of Canada. At the Provincial level she is Chairperson and Funding Coordinator for Guide Dogs. She also serves her community as representative on the Board of Directors of The Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Fancey, Cheryl
Town of Berwick

Cheryl has been an active volunteer in the Town of Berwick for more than thirty years. While her children were young; she was a volunteer with hockey and ringette, Berwick Girl Guides, the Berwick and District School band parent association, St Anthony's Catholic Church, the Kings West PC party, and Berwick Gala Days. More recently, Cheryl has taken on roles with the BDS School breakfast program and the Berwick Ringette canteen. For seven years, Cheryl was also the volunteer Billet Coordinator for the Valley Wildcats Junior A team. This lead to her sharing her own home with over forty teenage hockey players, to provide a "home away from home" environment for her own players and many others over her long tenure.

Haight, Debbie
Municipality of the District of Digby

Debbie has made a significant impact in our community since arriving to Digby ten years ago. Her positive outlook and willingness to help others is evident in all that she does. Established in 2014, Debbie is one of the co-founders of Digby Cares 25 - an organization that brings women together four times a year to create positive change in our community one $25 donation at a time. She has been a volunteer with the Digby County Exhibition for ten years and is a parent rep for the Digby Elementary Home & School and School Advisory Committee. And, within the past two years she has become a volunteer coach with Digby Area Soccer Association and Clare Digby Minor Hockey Association.

Harlow, Phyllis
Bear River First Nation

Since her return to Bear River in 2019, Phyllis has dedicated extensive hours volunteering at the Community Greenhouse. She has mentored several youth throughout all stages of gardening from seed to food preparation and preservation. They have participated in canning, preserving, and preparing meals for community functions under her guidance. Phyllis also donates her time caring for the community's honeybees and volunteers with Friends of Feral, giving of her time and finances, while also fostering cats in need of a loving home. Whenever anyone is in need, Phyllis is the first to lend a helping hand.

LeBlanc, Sophie
Municipalité de Clare

Sophie, qui a 16 ans, participe beaucoup à la vie de son établissement, l'École secondaire de Clare. Elle est membre du conseil des élèves et organise des activités comme des journées thématiques, des rassemblements d'avant-matchs et des tournois scolaires. Elle exprime son point de vue de jeune comme membre du conseil d'administration de la Société acadienne de Clare et est responsable du comité jeunesse de cette dernière. Sophie fait du bénévolat pour les Jeux olympiques spéciaux de Clare, l'École de danse Helena's et l'Association de soccer mineur de Clare; elle fait de plus partie du comité Jeune femme en action Nouvelle-Écosse. Elle a récemment fait du bénévolat dans le cadre des Jeux d'Acadie de la Nouvelle-Écosse 2022 pour l'équipe de mini-handball. Sophie se soucie toujours des autres et veut que tout le monde s'amuse, aussi bien à l'école qu'ailleurs.

LeBlanc, Sophie
Municipality of Clare

As a 16-year-old high school student, Sophie is very involved in her school at École secondaire de Clare. She is a member of student council and organizes school activities such as theme days, pep rallies and class tournaments. She also brings a youth perspective as a member of the board of directors for the Société acadienne de Clare and is responsible for Société acadienne de Clare's youth committee. She also volunteers with the Clare Special Olympics, Helena's School of Dance, Clare Minor Soccer Association and sits on the committee Jeune femme en action Nouvelle-Écosse. Most recently, she has volunteered for the 2022 Jeux d'Acadie de la Nouvelle-Écosse for the mini handball team. Sophie is a person who always cares about others and wants everyone to have fun, within her school, and within her community.

Lockerbie, Peter
Town of Digby

Peter joined the Digby & Area Community Gardens Society in 2020 with the idea of revitalizing the community garden in Digby and has played an integral role with the expansion project. Peter secured funding, designed the new layout, and selected the tools required to make the gardens more welcoming and accessible for the community. Peter is also a board member of the Annapolis Historic Gardens since 2020 and sits on their Horticultural Design Committee and Sculpture Committee. The Board works at overseeing the Historic Gardens together with the staff and a large group of volunteers who contribute to the Garden's success.

Lutes, Robert
Town of Wolfville

As a university town, Wolfville welcomes many young women and men to our residential neighborhoods. Bob has worked very hard to nurture positive relationships, forging lifelong friendships with many students over the years, offering unconditional support and mentorship. When pandemic restrictions changed the social dynamic of the community, students lacked recreational activities and social opportunities, resulting in negative impacts in campus neighborhoods. Bob started the Good Neighbours group to ensure issues were being discussed with residents, student leaders, town staff and University administration to work towards reasonable solutions. Bob's tenacity keeps him working to increase awareness and understanding amongst community stakeholders and continues to inspire positive change in our community.

Newman, Anna Kate
Town of Annapolis Royal

Anna Kate is known as the person who gets things done and is very involved in the community connecting people to resources and activities. She supports artists and independent curatorial projects as a volunteer with the Mary MacDonald Foundation and writes grants for the Friends of the Annapolis Pool Society and the Annapolis Royal Friends of Library. She is a member of the Playground Committee for Annapolis Royal Recreation, the Champlain Elementary School Advisory Committee and an ARFC Board Member who oversees the Annapolis Royal Summer Soccer program.

Riley, Janice
Village of New Minas

Janice's love for Pickleball began when she retired in 2018 and in 2021 Janice took on the Pickleball lead role for the Louis Millett Community Center. She felt it was time to give back and help with the direction of this new sport. An organized group was formed covering the Annapolis Valley from Windsor to Greenwood. Many roles were created to provide several options for play, at various levels, ensuring a welcoming environment for new and seasoned players and everyone in-between.

Rose, Lisa
Municipality of the County of Kings

While sitting at her kitchen table with her best friend recounting a TLC show about extreme couponing to stockpile items for pennies, sparked an idea for Rose. This conversation led to the co-creation of the Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms outreach and support movement - an online information-sharing resource for parents interested in couponing, price matching, sale updates, saving money, preserving food and more. The grassroots movement has adapted and expanded throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, and added Facebook sites offering an affordable buy, sell and trade forum and a helping hands site for free items.

Smith, Linda
Glooscap First Nation

Linda loves to be involved and regularly helps out in her community in any way she can. Linda is well-known to always be the first to step up and help the fisheries department deliver and distribute lobster to community members. She has worked hard to overcome her fear of

live lobster and now handles each one with gusto. Her warm personality is infectious and those in her community who have the privilege of knowing her consider themselves fortunate.

Tupper, Betty Jean

Village of Port Williams

Betty Jean has contributed a lifetime of encouragement and support to the youth in our community and the Annapolis Valley. Her involvement with the Apple blossom Leadership Candidate selection Committee and Girl Guides Canada has contributed to building self-confidence and life skills in young people. She has helped the Lions Club, organized children's parades, is a member of the Port Williams Recreation Committee, EMS Committee, Historical Society and Safe Grad Committee. She is also a Sunday school teacher and leader with Girl Guides of Canada, Sparks and Brownie's.

Wilcox, Juanita (Wheet)

West Hants Regional Municipality

Since her arrival in Hantsport in 1955, Juanita (Wheet) has volunteered with more than 13 groups and organizations including Dykeland Lodge, Hantsport and Area Memorial Community Centre and United Church Women, to name a few. She established the local Canadian Girls in Training (CGIT) Leadership Program and was the longest serving female chairperson for the Hantsport Board of School Commissioners. Wheet and her late husband, Jerry, also founded the Nova Scotia Provincial Parks Campground Host Program. At 94 years young, she is still actively volunteering with the Historical Society, the Riverbank Cemetery Memorial Garden Project, Craig's Cause, and is coordinating the Hantsport and Area Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Specialty Award Winners

Family Volunteer of the Year Award

The Laurie Family

Amanda Laurie Brown & Janet Laurie
Springhill, NS

Amanda and Janet are passionate about positive change in their community and eager to inspire others to give back and encourage those who they have helped to pay it forward. Between them, they have volunteered their time to Springhill and surrounding area for more than 20 years.

Janet and Amanda created and operate the Cumberland Magic Facebook page dedicated to raising funds for those impacted by tragedy, school breakfast programs, sports groups and a Christmas For Kids program. In creating this group, they have also strengthened community ties by creating opportunities for others to volunteer to help a neighbour or friend in need. They have a successful, on-going fundraising campaign with over 900 active members.

"We love involving my children and my niece", says Amanda. "It has helped to teach them that kindness and respect doesn't cost much and can make a huge difference in bettering someone's life." When asked why their family chooses to volunteer she says, "Because we are Maritimers, it's in our blood."

Specialty Award Winners

Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

Megumi Ozawa

Wentworth, NS

The Wentworth Learning Centre has always been a safe and inclusive place for Megumi. She started off volunteering for a few events such as jubilees and Christmas fairs then began to lead a series of educational day camps for school-aged children and evening events for families. Megumi now works with people of all ages, from toddlers to senior citizens, through the Centre's intergenerational program which provides opportunity for youth and seniors to teach and learn from each other. Without Megumi's dedication and persistence, a lot of these programs would not be offered. Recently she implemented and lead a program she developed called the Girls Empowerment Camp. This is a free opportunity for young girls to explore their self-esteem, develop life skills, and to learn in an accepting and inclusive environment.

Megumi is also a volunteer with the Colchester Residential Services Society, an agency providing support to people with disabilities and was instrumental in developing their Youth Day Program. Volunteering in a community where many are marginalized and devalued, Megumi was able to lift-up and support those around her to discover their value and recognize themselves as part of the greater community. She ensures everyone has a place to learn in a way that suits their specific needs. No one is left out.

Megumi is a special force. Her passion, commitment, and dedication to learning cannot be matched. Aside from her volunteer pursuits, she is an honour student, the President of her student council, captain of her school soccer team and a youth instructor at Ski Wentworth. When asked why she volunteer she said, “I have met so many people of different ages and backgrounds, but all looking for the same thing: community. I feel like I am a part of something special and making a difference.”

Specialty Award Winners

Nova Scotia Strong Award

Ummah Masjid and Community Centre

Halifax, NS

Representing over 40 different nationalities, the Ummah Masjid Community Centre (UMCC) is widely known in Nova Scotia as the heart of the Halifax Muslim Community. They have taken lead on multiple community and youth activities to establish the local Muslim community and build extensions to rural Nova Scotia.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, they took initiative on every front. The Centre provided rapid test kits to anyone in need of them, encouraged testing to the larger community and acted as a facility to provide vaccinations during the spread and peak of the pandemic. Dozens of volunteers cooked thousands of meals for front line-workers. In one month alone the Centre was able to feed 10,000 people hot meals, free of charge to all who came. They also

established the 24/7 program aimed at addressing the acute spike in domestic and mental health problems, during the pandemic. An unexpected benefit of the program was a more engaged and integrated community now boasting over 500 volunteers.

Working together on common interests in public safety and community support, UMCC has been a key advisor for Halifax Regional Police on the creation of a new unit dedicated to investigating hate crimes and incidents. As a training initiative, UMCC has welcomed HRP cadets to the mosque to discuss diversity and cultural awareness. UMCC also spearheaded the creation of Bill 12 which is now Bill No. 96, Dismantling Racism and Hate Act. This Act lays the foundation for Nova Scotia to create systems and policies aimed at eradicating forms of hate that would otherwise result in injustice and discrimination.

Specialty Award Winners

Nova Scotia Strong Award Artists

KG Ceramics

Kaashif Ghanie [he/him] is a mixed first-generation Guyanese Canadian Muslim Ceramic/Potter and Visual Artist working in Kjipuktuk/Halifax in the Wonderneath Art Society Ceramic Studio. He graduated from NSCAD University in the fall of 2015 with a bachelor's degree in ceramics and a minor in art history.

Kate Grey [she/her] is a Ceramic/Potter and Visual Artist working in Kjipuktuk/Halifax. Grey has her bachelor's degree in Ceramics from NSCAD University [2016] and an art history minor focusing on the history of craft. Grey is a white settler Canadian with ancestry from Denmark, England, Italy and Germany.

Together, Grey and Ghanie share a ceramic studio in Wonderneath Art Society. This is where they run KG Ceramics, a handmade pottery company. KG in the name is based on both their initials in their names.

Assalamu Alaykum (peace be upon you). For the Nova Scotia Strong Award, Kaashif Ghanie from KG Ceramics created an Alhambra Vase with an inscription on the base. The Alhambra Vase is a historical Islamic vessel shape which is seen either highly decorated with floral patterning or with textural glaze application. For the award, Ghanie decided to represent both the award winner, Ummah Masjid and Community Centre, with the historical Alhambra vessel shape and a colour glaze palette that signifies the shores of Mi'kma'ki/Nova Scotia. The vase is made from porcelain clay with iron impurities that give its speckled appearance. This award represents strength in the community in the space we occupy in Mi'kma'ki. Alhamdulillah (praise be to God) and Congratulations to the Ummah Masjid and Community Centre.

This work was created in the Wonderneath Ceramic Studio in Kjipuktuk/Halifax by Kaashif Ghanie and with support from his partner Kate Grey

NOVA SCOTIA