



The 49th Provincial Volunteer Awards

September 25th, 2023
Cedar Event Centre
Halifax, 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.*

Rising Together, Giving Back.



Lieutenant Governor's Message

As The King's representative in Nova Scotia, it is an honour to participate in the 49th Provincial Volunteer Award Ceremony. As we near five decades of excellence, I would like to thank all volunteers for giving of their time and resources over the years. Your work is valued and appreciated.

The summer of 2023 was unprecedented to say the least. There was much to celebrate as athletes from across Canada and the United States arrived in Mi'kma'ki, the traditional territory of the Mi'kmaq people in what is today Nova Scotia, to participate in the 2023 North American Indigenous Games. Because of the work of 3,000 volunteers, competitions were hosted at twenty-one venues and cultural celebrations were publicly accessible.

At the same time, province faced extraordinary challenges and significant losses due to environmental factors. First responders were called upon to battle wildfires and floods that occurred on a scale never before witnessed in Nova Scotia. Many sacrifices and efforts were made by Volunteer Firefighters, who often formed the main line of defence between the elements and their communities.

During a time such as this, there is no way to adequately thank those who have given of themselves to serve the province. The level of passion, dedication, endurance, and courage that I have witnessed is truly inspiring, and the contributions I have witnessed over the past months will remain with me.

Patsy and I thank you for the ways you have contributed to the history, culture, health, and wellbeing of the province. We send best wishes to all for the remainder of 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arthur J. LeBlanc". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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



Premier's Message

On behalf of the Province of Nova Scotia, welcome to the 49th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Volunteers generously give their time and support to their fellow Nova Scotians. They help strengthen our communities through mentoring, teaching, and so many other important acts of kindness.

Our province has recently faced troubling times, from hurricanes, to wildfires to floods. It is the strength, generosity, kindness, and resilience shown by volunteers that continues to help us overcome our challenges. We are a stronger province for this reason.

Volunteers are the foundation of our communities and come from every corner of the province.

Congratulations to our 2023 Provincial Volunteer Award Recipients. I am honoured to be in service of our province alongside you.

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

It is my honour to extend a special welcome to the 49th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards.

People are only as healthy as their communities. And Nova Scotia's first responders and volunteers help make our communities strong, resilient, and healthy with their kindness, compassion, and generosity.

This year we have faced many challenges, but we have done so together. Historic floods and wildfires have been addressed by first responders with the support of generous volunteers.

We also had a lot to celebrate, like the 2023 North American Indigenous Games which could only happen with the hard work of thousands of dedicated volunteers. Thank you to all volunteers for reminding us how to remain resilient and united as a province.

Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2023 Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Sincerely,

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

Honourable Allan MacMaster,

Minister of Communities, Culture, Tourism, and Heritage

49th Provincial Volunteer Awards Agenda

*Monday, September 25th, 2023
Cedar Event Centre, Halifax, NS*

Pre-Event Entertainment

Ian MacMillan & Ryan Fraser (SQUID)

Opening Performance

Malaria Warriors, Halifax Multicultural Drummers

Opening Remarks

Emcee Mercedes Peters

Lieutenant Governor Arthur J. Leblanc's Address

Minister Barbara Adams

Minister of Seniors and Long-Term Care

Volunteer Representative Awards

Cape Breton Region, Central Region

Nova Scotia Wildfire, Volunteer Tribute

Volunteer Representative Awards, continued

Fundy Region, Highland Region

Dance Performance

Burundian Women Dancers

Volunteer Representative Awards, continued

South Shore Region, Valley Region

2023 North American Indigenous Games Volunteer Tribute

Introduction of the Specialty Awards Judging Committee

Specialty Awards Presentation

Youth Volunteer of the Year

Family Volunteer of the Year

Nova Scotia Strong Award

The Amethyst Scottish Dancers

Closing Remarks

Reception in the lobby



Mercedes Peters ***(she/her) (Emcee)***

A Mi'kmaw PhD Candidate at the University of British Columbia and a proud Glooscap First Nation band member. Her MA in history from Dalhousie earned her the Governor General's Gold Medal for her 2018 thesis. Currently, her PhD research sheds light on the often overlooked grassroots activism and sovereignty assertion of Mi'kmaw and Wolastoqiyik women within the Red Power movement. She's dedicated to unveiling how Indigenous nations assert sovereignty through everyday actions, even in unseen spaces. Mercedes is also passionate about decolonizing education and recently authored a grade eight textbook titled "Indigenous Rights and Advocacy (2021)" for the NS Social Studies curriculum, part of Rubicon Publishing's Interlink series.



Birchtown Community Centre - 6am Breakfast Crew

Volunteers ALWAYS come together in times of need and tragedy. These are amazing individuals who step up every single time and represent the best in us, the best in humanity. They are from all walks of life, with one common goal in the face of disaster: to help alleviate the suffering of others. This was truly obvious during our recent wildfires in Nova Scotia.

Fire departments from across the Province of Nova Scotia and beyond provided support to extinguish the wildfires and help families. Many of the firefighters were volunteers! Volunteers also made, provided, collected donations of food, clothing, toys, toiletries, pet food and other necessities. They cooked and served food, set up living spaces, took care of animals and sorted through mile-high piles of in-kind donations. They continue to hold fundraisers to provide some financial assistance to those who lost everything.

Our province's volunteers have various skills and resources they can offer during a disaster. They can make an invaluable impact by increasing response capacity.



The North American Indigenous Games (NAIG)

The 2023 North American Indigenous Games was the largest multi-sport and culture event hosted in the history of Atlantic Canada, since contact. The Games brought together 5,000 participants, coaches, managers and officials for eight days of competition across 16 different sports from over 756 Nations from across Turtle Island (North America).

More than 3,000 Indigenous and non-Indigenous Nova Scotian's stepped up to support the operations of the Games by volunteering in a variety of roles from operations to culture and ceremonies and everything in between. These Games will leave a legacy well beyond sport and wouldn't have happened without their support. Games Played. Culture Shared. Friends Made. Legacy Lives.



Ian MacMillan & Ryan Fraser (SQUID) (Performers)

Hailing from New Scotland, SQUID revolutionizes traditional Bagpipe and Drum Band entertainment, delivering a thrilling multi-sensory experience. Elevating bagpipes with high-energy performances, infused with pop music influences and visually striking percussion, SQUID creates an electrifying spectacle of excitement!



Malaria Warriors, Halifax Multicultural Drummers (Performers)

Halifax Drummers, The Malaria Warriors are family drummers devoted to carry on their baby sister's memory. The group was founded by Dr. Oluju 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. 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".



Burundian Women Dancers (Performers)

Immerse yourself in the captivating world of Burundian dance and drumming with these talented women performers. Through their powerful and mesmerizing performances, they bring to life the traditional rhythms and vibrant energy of Burundi's rich cultural heritage.

With a mission to share the beauty of African culture, they have taken part in numerous events and festivals, where their dynamic showcases serve as a powerful tribute to the arts, costumes, and traditions of their homeland. Join them on a journey that celebrates the essence of Burundi's cultural tapestry through the art of dance and drumming.



The Amethyst Scottish Dancers of Nova Scotia (Performers)

The Amethyst Scottish Dancers of Nova Scotia began as a highland dance troupe that was founded in 1985 and has been entertaining audiences ever since. The Halifax Highland Dancing Association (HHDA) along with the first Artistic Director, Mr. Joseph Wallin, wanted to share their love of Scottish dancing with people in Nova Scotia, through Canada and abroad. A step dance troupe was added to Amethyst in 2006.

Amethyst dancers are highly trained in the art of highland and step dance. They blend Scottish steps and dances with both traditional and modern music and choreography. Dancers ages range between 9-25.

2023 Volunteer Representatives

Cape Breton Region

Clare Bishop

Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Clare Bishop is a very busy volunteer and exhibits a high standard of volunteer performance. She commits her time and energy to important community causes like the North Sydney Food Bank Society and The Northside and Harbourview Hospital Foundation, all while maintaining a cheerful and positive attitude.

Clare's volunteer interests span a wide range, from church groups to heritage societies and fundraising for community projects. Some of the other organizations she is actively involved in include Victory Park Society, Northern Yacht Club, North Sydney & Area Lebanese Heritage Society, Brenda's Circle of Friends (in memory of Brenda McCarthy, devoted to ongoing cancer society fundraising), St. Joseph Parish volunteer, North Sydney and Sydney Harbour Dragon Boat Club.

Clare regularly cleans the houses of new/young moms or others who may have just been released from the hospital; organizes meals for families in crisis due to illness or death; and helps run a prayer group for grieving friends. As a retired nurse, she is often on a rotation schedule as a caregiver for friends and family who are very ill and bedridden.

Clare's family is of utmost importance to her, and she is devoted to her husband, Albert, and their children and grandchildren.

Sharon Chilvers

Municipality of the County of Richmond

In 1999 Sharon returned to her roots in River Bourgeois and immediately demonstrated her passion for volunteering by engaging with several organizations.

She has been actively involved with the River Bourgeois Seniors Club's executive team and played a pivotal role in completely renovating the club through various grant opportunities, including the addition of a senior gym. As a CWL member, Sharon has provided a basket of food yearly to the needy at Christmas.

With the River Bourgeois Community Services Society, Sharon served as President and now holds the position of Past President. She continues to apply for grants and is co-chair of the Festival, Events and Fundraising committee. Sharon assists in preparing low-cost meals for the weekly Chase the Ace and Café events. In 2022, she completed a consecutive 49-week contribution.

Sharon was also co-editor and later editor of the River Roundup community newspaper for 13 years. She was a founding member of the Strait Area Transit in 2005 and served as a director for 7 years. Recently, Sharon was recognized by her peers for her Community Spirit and Volunteerism.

Deidre Gillis

Municipality of the County of Inverness

Deidre Gillis is a steady community supporter in the villages of Margaree. She has been a hard-working volunteer for Margaree Area Development Association's Communities in Bloom committee for several years. Deidre's ongoing efforts to support the important beautification projects throughout the Margarees are truly appreciated.

Whether Dee is helping with spring planting, watering and weeding during the summer months or planter clean-up in the fall, she continues to offer cheerful, dependable support, crucial for the upkeep of Margaree's flowers and planters!

Deidre is also an active member of the Margaree Kinettes, always lending a helping hand whenever she can. Deidre is applauded for her community spirit and it is with pride that she represents Inverness County at the 2023 Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Congratulations, Deidre!

Wayne Johnson

Potlotekewey L'nue'kati | Potlotek First Nation

Wayne nuji-Apoqnmues Potlotek Mi'kmawey Inue'katiey Puktewey Saqmaw puktewo'kuo'mk ukjit tapuiska'q jel na'n te'sipunqek nike' Ma'wt elt nuji-apoqnmuet lkani-apaji-apoqnmuet, bus nuji-alayjitoq, aqq mulqwatkl etqutaqnl etqutaqne'katik. Wayne maliaptik automotive shop uklukwaqnk, apoqnmuaaji wkskwijinu'k apoqnmasuti nuta'tij msit na'kwek teli-pkwiji pmiaq Maw tekle'jk teluemk, kesikaw tekweywet ula utank eliet se'k apoqnmuen ta'n tujiw nemitoq nuta'q. msit teluemk, almi'jkat tajike'k teleyimk ukjit kikmaq pasik kishka' tel-lukwetl Wayne wesuwa'qa'toql wikmaq jiknum, kisukum, nutj, niskamij, klamuksis, aqq kji-klamuksis eyk msit wkmimajuaqnmuaq.

Wayne has volunteered as the Potlotek Mi'kmaw Nation's Fire Chief within the fire department for 25 years now. He also volunteers as a First Responder, bus driver, and gravedigger. Wayne operates an automotive shop out of his garage, attending to people in need at all hours of the day. Least to say, he is a very active member of this community who goes out of his way to help when he sees a need for it. With all said, he plays a crucial role in his family, as brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and great-uncle – being present in all of their lives.

Margie Pace

Town of Port Hawkesbury

Margie, an educator for many years in Port Hawkesbury, has been a devoted contributor to school sports in the town, particularly through Cross Country and Track and Field. In recent years, even after retiring, Margie has dedicated her time and energy to facilitating school teams in various ways, such as attending practices, encouraging students, and travelling to meets across the province. Her commitment to student-athlete success goes beyond the time students are at TEC, as she is invested in the success of students through high school and beyond. She has also assisted in fundraising efforts for school sports in both schools in Port Hawkesbury. Apart from school sports, Margie is a volunteer within her church, bringing her fun and kind nature to her community. The Town of Port Hawkesbury is proud to have her as their representative.

Margie Pelletier

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

(Malkalit-ji') Malkalit Gould Pelletier Weskwijinuwiw We'koqma'q Nipniku's Newtiska'q Jel Iluiknek, Pituimtlnaqn jel Pesqunatek Te'siska'q Jel Newiska'q. Unki'kki'k Kalolin Paul, tleyawit Potlotek, aq Loli Gould, Tleyawit We'koqma'q, aq na'n te'silisnika uktusuwaqa.

Malkalit mikwite'tk mijua'ji'juwijek paqsitpi welta'sit paqsitpi ksalsuti'miliji unki'ki ta'n maliaptmi'tisnek "uktusuwaq" kina'masultinew.

Ta'n tujiw Malkalit ukwiji, kalolin, kesnukwajek tuberculosisewijek nekm aq ukkweji'jk elkimusnik L'nueye'l Kina'matnuo'kuo'ml aklasiewiktuk Sipekne'katik ke'sk ukkwiji iltaqielijek.

*Majukwatmk espi-kina'matnuo'kuo'm Malkalit Elies St. Rita's
Ksnukwaqnuo'kuo'm Naji-apoqnmues malpale'witewiktuk. Malkalit
Mlie'witisna Ukkwisukuma, Lisa'l Pelletier, aq q ala'latisnika ne'silitka
mijua'ji'jka ke'sk wikipnik aq q elukwepnik mainek.*

*Elmuksis We'koqma'q Pituimtlnaqn Pesqunatek te;siska'q
jel pesqunatek jel si'st aq apoqnmuesnaq apatakwitk
Ksnukwaqnuo'kuomk Amkwesewey Mi'kmawey Apoqnmuet ukjit
malpale'wijik aq ta'n tujiw pipanimujek apoqnmuen poqtamka'toq
wlo'tiewo'kuo'm We;koqma'q Na ankmu wnaqaleka's.*

*Malkalit iltaqies ta'n tujiw klapis kepjoqa'tasikek l'nuey
kina'matnuo'kuo'm aklasie'we'katik aq kikmanaq poqji snmi'tis
apoqnmaseti. Nekom na tekweywaji l'nuey kina'matnuo'kuo'mey
ta'n mimajultijik aja'taqa aq apoqnmaket pqtamka'tun
tel-lukwekl aq apoqnmaketnel wkskwijinu'k Nepisimkeweyem
aqq ila'simkeweyem.*

*Malkalit Nenut ukjit mawi-ntawitoql pu'taliewe'l, weji-kinu'tmasis
ukwijl aq pu'talieweyml etekl iapjiwewe'l kelo'tasikl msit tami
wksitqamuk. Taqoey mawi-ksatk nike' na iknmuetog ula weltelk
lukwaqnl msit tami Mi'kma'kik ukjit salite'el apoqnmatemem ta'n
telawtikl etqutamkl. (salite'el)*

*Mekite'tasite'w kisuku utanmk, nekm na nuji-kina'muet ukjit msit
wkskwijinu'k Mekite'tk Tel-Mi'kmawit, klusuaqa, kisitaqa aq
wkskwijinu'k ta'n weja'toq ksalsuti te'sikiskek.*

(Ma' glit-Jlj) Margie Gould Pelletier was born in We'koqma'q on June 17, 1940. Her parents were Caroline Paul, from Chapel Island, and Roddie Gould, from Whycomag, and they had five daughters.

Ma'glit remembers her childhood as very happy with wonderful loving parents who made sure their "girls" were educated.

When Ma'glit's mother, Caroline, became ill with tuberculosis she and her sisters were sent to the Indian Residential School in Shubenacadie while her mother recovered.

Following high school Ma'glit went to St. Rita's Hospital in Sydney to become a nurse. Ma'glit married her husband, Richard Pelletier, and they had three children while living and working in Maine.

She moved home to We'koqma'q in 1993 and was a pioneer at the Baddeck hospital as the first Mi'kmaq liaison nurse and when she was asked to help set up a Health Centre in We'koqma'q she immediately stepped up.

Ma'glit was relieved when the residential school was finally closed and families started getting help. She is a member of the Residential School Survivors movement and helped set up many programs that supported people's healing and recovery.

Ma'glit is known as a master basket maker, a skill she learned from her mother and her baskets are in permanent collections around the world. One of her greatest pleasures now is to donate these beautiful works across Mi'kma'ki for auction to help with funeral expenses (salites).

As a valued elder in her community, she is a mentor for all people. She is proud of her Mi'kmaq heritage, language, art and the people from which she finds inspiration every day.

Karla Pierro

Waqmatkukewey L'nue'kati | Wagmatcook First Nation

Tujiw Newtipunqe'k aqq aqitayik, Karla Pierro ika'toq mu ekitasinuk newti-aja'sik ukjit pikwelkl utank teliaql. Kitk apoqnmuemk aqq elukwemk Paqsitpi-klu'sit wnaqamut ukjit nutqwo'tijik maljawe'jk utank aqq we'kayi nutqwo'tijik e'pite'sk utanminaq ta'n telo'tmi'tij mu wiaqa'lametjik aqq mu jiksituwametjik ta'n tujiw ika'q almi'jka'timk kisna na'taliaq. Kelu'sit nuji-ktmoqja'tiket ukjit mesenkl tel-lukwekl aqq teliaql ukjit maljawe'jk aqq ika'tuwatl weskekikwa'simkl aqq ankaptmi'tij msit mijua'ji'jk welqatmu'tijik

*ke'sk tel-lukwuti'tij. Elukwatkel Bbqe'l miaw tliaql, iknmuetoql
iknmaqnl aqq ela'toql kikuaq, aqq kaqisk iknmuetoq welte'taqn
ukjit ta'n pasik wen mu ajkine'ktnuk ta'n teliaq kisna mawio'mi
Nekm Na Te'sikiskek kisikwenaji ukkwisk ne'sijik lpa'tujk aqq nuji-
apoqnmuet ukjit malpale'wijik nuji-kina'masit Unama'kikewey Kji-
Espikina'matnuo'kuo'm Ukjit msit ta'n tel-lukwet, me' ki'kajiw ika'toq
utanm ikantuk ta'n tujiw wejiaq ukjit msit maljawe'jminaq Ma'wt
ela'toq mijipjewey kisuku'k kesik aqq maliaptek msit mijisultinew
wikuowe'l wilu'al ta'n tujiw metuwikiskekl poqnitpa'ql Nekm Na
Ketloqoey Maw-klu'sit nuji-apoqnmuet Utanminaq*

For the past year and a half, Karla Pierro has put countless hours into many community events. Both volunteer and work. She has been an excellent role model for young youth in the community and especially to the young girls in the community who always feel left out and ignored when it comes to sports or events. She has been a great advocate for supporting programs and events for youth while putting smiles on faces and making sure all the kids have fun while doing it. She works the BBQ during events, hands out prizes and delivers them right to your house, and always shows appreciation to whomever, no matter what event or gathering, she attends. She is a full-time mother of three boys and a nursing student at CBU. With all that she does, she still seems to put her community as a priority first when it comes to all youth. She also delivers food to elders in the winter months and makes sure they all eat a home-cooked meal on stormy nights. She is the real champion volunteer of the community.

The Big Bras d' Or Community Hall Volunteers

Victoria County

This energetic, hard-working, caring, and generous group of indefatigable volunteers and is the heartbeat and backbone of this small community and surrounding area. Since 2004, when a handful of community members formed to help bring their neighbours together, the core group of dedicated full-time volunteers has more than tripled, and today can count on nearly 25 part-time community volunteers who range in age from 10 years old to 80 years old.

The community events, luncheons, and breakfasts they organize provide essential financial support, directly benefiting community members in need. Whether offering shelter and warm food during the Fiona disaster or aiding local families and individuals struggling to make ends meet, these volunteers create a strong support network for one another.

A variety of homemade food accompanies the weekly events, necessitating shopping, preparation, cooking, and cleanup, all undertaken by the core volunteers and others. This collaborative effort is executed with eagerness and smiles. The unwavering commitment of these volunteers has led to the hall's modernization and improvements over the years, including the construction of a new roof, accessible washrooms and plans for future growth.

2023 Volunteer Representatives

Central Region

Mikayla Boucher

Halifax Regional Municipality

Mikayla's impact on her community is broad and diverse. Mikayla advocates for health and wellness for all through her extensive work on the Dartmouth Community Health Board's working groups and as a devoted volunteer at Ronald McDonald House. Here, she warmly welcomes families with sick children, offering them a supportive environment. In addition, as a varsity track athlete at Dalhousie University, Mikayla is a True Sport Athlete Ambassador where she advocates for positivity and inclusivity in sports across the province through public speaking, event organizing and filming mental health podcasts alongside Sport Nova Scotia.

Kim Conrad

Halifax Regional Municipality

Kim Conrad and the Conrad family have been champions of the Dartmouth General Hospital (DGH) for more than 45 years. Without them, the hospital might not exist, as Kim's father, Fraser, was one of the original community members who pushed and worked for the establishment of the hospital. Kim remains committed to ensuring that DGH can continue its proud history of innovation and providing exceptional care to residents of HRM.

Rob Gillis

Halifax Regional Municipality

Rob is an exceptional leader and volunteer whose selfless dedication to the community and the sport of soccer has helped not only foster the growth of the game in the Dartmouth region but also across the entire province. Rob has shown outstanding and notable leadership and dedication as the United DFC Soccer Club President and has made a long-lasting impact on the community.

Janey Hughes

Halifax Regional Municipality

As a member and director of Friends of First Lake and Sackville Lakes Park and Trails Association, Janey wanted to know more about the water quality of First and Second Lake. Janey put together a water stewardship committee, researching lake ecology and creating a network of connections with experts in the field. With her committee, Janey developed a rigorous testing schedule that will provide valuable information for protecting First and Second Lake and their watersheds in the future.

Wendy Keen

Halifax Regional Municipality

Wendy has been a valued volunteer with various organizations for more than thirty-five years, working with such organizations as the Rotary Club of Dartmouth East, the Rotary Leadership Institute, Nova Scotia College of Social Workers, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Fort McMurray Sexual Assault Centre. She has provided effective community leadership in many of her roles but has also provided personal hands-on support to those most in need. Her skills, knowledge and enthusiasm have made Wendy a very high-impact volunteer.

Colin McCrae

Halifax Regional Municipality

Colin lives his life to serve others and to brighten up the day of everyone he meets. He ensures that seniors receive their free fresh produce bi-weekly and leads inclusive walking groups several times a week, becoming an inspiration. Through his walking groups, Colin has walked so many kilometres since he started tracking them that he is on his third trip around the equator!

Hugh Millward

Halifax Regional Municipality

Hugh has provided strong leadership for the community by being an active member of the Portland Estates & Hills Residents' Association (PEHRA) for 30 years. Hugh established a Trails & Parks Committee, which led to the development of 5 km of trails in the community, and has been an administrator of the PEHRA community Facebook page for more than 15 years. Hugh continues to advocate for walking and wheeling as chair of HRM's Active Transportation Advisory Committee. For trail development, a section of trail in Portland Estates was named The Hugh Millward Trail.

Jacob Rafuse & Steven MacLeod

Halifax Regional Municipality

Jacob and Steven are a dynamic duo that have been together for more than 20 years actively volunteering in support of youth, their neighbourhood, important causes, and the 2SLGBTQ+ community. Through hosting events, they have raised over \$100,000 for various organizations including the Make a Wish

Foundation, Manna for Health, The Youth Project, AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia, Muscular Dystrophy Canada, and countless other organizations that support 2SLGBTQ+ communities. They are cheerleaders and fighters, showing up to let people know they matter.

Norman Steele

Halifax Regional Municipality

Norman has been a dedicated champion for the environmental protection of lakes and wetlands in east Dartmouth for more than a dozen years. He is a key Board member of the Oathill Lake Conservation Society and the Portland Estates and Hills Residents' Association. He has initiated and led a variety of lake monitoring and protection programs, often partnering with municipal staff or groups such as the Clean Foundation and the Scouts.

2023 Volunteer Representatives

Fundy Region

Jeffrey Cameron

Municipality of Colchester County

Since 2010, Jeff Cameron has been a leader/scout and a group commissioner. Jeff is always enthusiastic and willing to plan, meet, and help with community activities but his true passion lies in the Scouts program. Jeff is always full of great ideas so when the Covid-19 pandemic hit, he knew kids needed the Scouting program. Jeff along with other leaders held virtual, hybrid, and outdoor versions of the program during Covid-19 to bring a bit of normalcy to the unusual situation. Jeff has completed countless hours of paperwork, preparing food for events, and is always intuitive to what kids want from the program. Jeff's willingness to help is admirable, and he is always the one to step forward to help with youth programs. Colchester County has always been populated with wonderful people, and Jeff Cameron is certainly one of them. Congratulations Jeff!

Mark Crozier

Town of Stewiacke

"Stewiacke fire isn't just a bunch of volunteers, it's a family, and I wouldn't be able to be who I am today without them," affirmed Mark, a dedicated Volunteer Firefighter with 22 years of service, including 5 years as Chief of the Stewiacke Fire Department. In addition to his firefighting duties, Mark actively participates in various committees vital to the department's operations. Furthermore, he extends his volunteering efforts to Stewiacke

Town Days, assisting with the Lob Ball Tournament, fireworks, and weekend safety measures. Mark also plays a crucial role in supporting special events like Christmas in Stewiacke and Halloween, while lending his expertise to committees that provide support and advice to the Town of Stewiacke's governing body. The heart of Mark's passion lies in the rewarding experience of helping others, whether it's responding to emergencies or organizing fundraisers. The profound satisfaction of assisting the community, particularly during their most challenging moments, drives him. Through his commitment to community safety and willingness to offer assistance, Mark stands as an indispensable asset to the community.

Vernon Gloade

Millbrook First Nation

Vernon has been pivotal in shaping 3-D Archery not only in Millbrook First Nation but across Nova Scotia. His commitment to the sport has surpassed decades as a master's athlete, coach, mentor, official and course developer. Vernon has created a Millbrook Archery Club which meets regularly. Vernon takes care of the 3-D targets, does the inventory, orders what needs to be ordered and keeps the club informed of upcoming shoots, practices and events.

Vernon lends his expertise during the annual Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Summer Games as a support and coach for athletes who are learning the sport. He is helping with coordinator duties during the 2023 NS Mi'kmaw Summer Games which is being held in Millbrook First Nation.

Vernon was recently acknowledged at the 2023 NAIG for his contribution to the sport of archery and revitalizing it within the region. He performed a ceremonial shot at the NAIG 2023 Archery Opening Ceremonies.

Vernon is a humble individual who likes to work behind the scenes. This is a prime opportunity to show appreciation for his efforts over the last number of years as he is very deserving of this recognition.

Becky Grant

Municipality of East Hants

For more than 30 years Becky Grant has been contributing to the East Hants Community. From the East Hants Community Learning Association to the Elmsdale Legion Branch #48, coaching minor softball in Lantz or leading Girl Guides and Brownies. Becky always offers her time and skills to her community wherever needed. She is also a long-standing committee member with Ducks Unlimited Canada. She always goes over and above to help out. For more than 15 years with the Elmsdale Legion, she has led the kitchen for Dinner Theater fundraisers, Remembrance Day Ceremonies, Legion award ceremonies, the New Year's Levy, Friday night dinners and Sunday community breakfasts. With the East Hants Community Learning Association, she assists with programs and events.

Reham Khaled Al Radi

Town of Truro

Reham Al Radi, a grade 12 student at Cobequid Educational Centre in Truro, NS, has overcome numerous challenges in her journey from Syria to Canada. Arriving in March 2020, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Reham and her family faced a language barrier and the shutdown of activities. However, she quickly adapted, learning English, and integrating into society while making Canadian friends.

Volunteering plays a significant role in Raham's life, providing a sense of belonging and purpose while developing valuable skills and increasing her confidence. She began by volunteering at the Truro Farmers Market and continued to contribute to various organizations such as the Colchester Food Bank, PharmaChoice drug store clinics, and the United Way of Colchester.

She supported families in her community through the Ukraine Welcoming Committee, raising funds by selling falafel wraps at her school. She also organized fundraisers for Relay for Life and the Terry Fox event, contributing to cancer patients' well-being.

Reham's goal is to become a doctor. She has a deep passion for healthcare and desires a challenging and rewarding career where she can make a positive impact on people's lives. Despite facing adversities, she has embraced her new life in Canada, excelled academically, dedicated herself to volunteering, and aspires to become a compassionate doctor.

Courtney Knockwood

Sipekne'katik First Nation

Courtney has displayed over the past few years a great sense of community, she has brought us a wonderful beatification team that helps out with everything within the community from moving offices to lawn care for our elders she also helps organize our Sipekne'katik Food Bank, compassion closet, the list can go on. As a 30 year old single mother of two young children, Courtney has been an extraordinary mentor/leader to our youth and the programs she has dedicated her time to. The love and care Courtney pours into her work and volunteering has shined extremely bright.

Heather MacDonald

Town of Oxford

During Heather's 25-year teaching career, she gave 110% to her students while also volunteering for student council and safe grant committees. She has been involved with the Oxford Lionettes for more than 40 years, being a huge champion for the Christmas Food Boxes. She has given countless hours to various church committees and is instrumental in providing a worship space for the Muslim community during Ramadan. Heather has also been an advocate for the development and maintenance of the Oxford Area Food Bank.

Linda McCormick

Municipality of the County of Cumberland

Linda has been volunteering in many roles around the Springhill area for more than 15 years, including at the Salvation Army Food Bank. She recently assumed a leadership role in A Hand Up Society, a charitable organization that assists with food security in both Parrsboro and Springhill. Linda's resourcefulness has helped her create and source funding streams for a weekly food bag program called Food For Thought, that provides students, in need, access to nutritious foods for their families at no cost. Recognizing the need for the addition of milk products, protein and fresh produce, Linda created a special coupon program for local purchases of these items. Linda is an exceptional volunteer and uses her strengths to ensure there is adequate funding and food for families experiencing food insecurity. Linda's energy and passion for helping others have inspired so many in the community to also offer their time and services to help those who need it most.

In addition, Linda organized a campaign in memory of her son Curtis to raise money for Ronald McDonald House Halifax in Halifax, raising more than \$50,000 for the cause.

Foster Stewart

Village of Bible Hill

Foster's dedication to Senior Socials for more than 16 years, with every Friday in 2022, reflects his remarkable commitment and impact on the lives of numerous seniors. His commitment and dedication are remarkable and have made a significant impact on the lives of many seniors. In addition to his work with Senior Socials, Foster has been a valued member of the Bible Hill Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. Foster has regularly attended committee meetings and contributed to the success of several events, including Safe Halloween and Christmas events. His willingness to go the extra mile is evident through his support in the recreation department, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to project success. Foster's positive attitude, coupled with his dedication to volunteering makes him an outstanding candidate for this award. His contributions, generosity of time, and effort have made an invaluable impact on the community, with his role as an engaged and active community member being highly appreciated.

Doris Walton

Town of Amherst

Doris Walton's initiation of the After the School Bell Food Program, providing food bags to children in need, showcases how she is the heart and soul of the program. Doris and the volunteers work tirelessly to keep this program up and running to serve and address children's food poverty. This program distributes more than 100 bags of food to students each Friday through numerous Cumberland region schools with the goal of ensuring children in need have food over the weekend when they don't have access to other food programs. Doris is currently working with two other communities in Nova Scotia to help with their version of this program.

Doris is a native of Amherst, a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, a Queen Diamond Jubilee Medal recipient and an inspiration to many. Doris volunteered with the VON Day Away Program, Meals on Wheels, and the Amherst Food Bank before she coordinated the After the School Food Program. She has worked with 3 other communities in Nova Scotia to date to help provide this food program in schools. Doris' mission is to provide this program in every school in Nova Scotia and is very honoured to receive this recognition.

2023 Volunteer Representatives

Highland Region

Trevor Boudreau

Town of Stellarton

Trevor Boudreau has been an integral part of the Pictou County Recreation and Athletics Society, Pioneer Athletics Field, and Pictou County Athletics Track and Field Club since the inception of these groups. His involvement has been instrumental in their development, both in coaching and operational capacities. An educator at New Glasgow Academy, Trevor is heavily involved with athletics and finds roles during Provincial, Atlantic, and School Sport Nova Scotia track and field events. He leads by example, contributing year-round while balancing multiple roles as a coach, leader, parent, husband, and athlete. Trevor's unwavering commitment to volunteerism has left a significant imprint on Stellarton and beyond!

David Hillier

Municipality of Pictou County

Merigomish resident David Hillier has been instrumental in the development of the Merigomish School House Community Centre and as a leader with the Merigomish Area Recreation and Social Association. David joined in on the effort of transforming the former school into a community centre in its infancy. He was there in the early days with a hammer in hand, laying tiles and doing whatever was needed to help the project come to fruition. With a background as an audio engineer, he donated a sound system and began booking concerts, designing posters, and tickets and operating the sound and lighting for the

events. His dedication has allowed the center to now regularly host weddings, music bingo, trivia, dart nights and a Farmers Market and Café. Moreover, David's willingness to perform mundane jobs, such as descaling the dishwasher, cleaning, and general maintenance, highlights his commitment. In addition to volunteering, David has won 3 MIANS, 5 ECMA and 2 Atlantic Film Awards.

Mike Hinchey

Town of Antigonish

Mike Hinchey, otherwise known as "Mr. Pickleball" is well-known in the area for his love of all things pickleball. Through his tireless efforts, Mike has taken the Pickleball Antigonish Society from an organization of a handful of pickleball-loving older adults to an organization that boasts over 250 members from mid-teens to individuals in their 80s! Mike has strategically built the pickleball Antigonish membership by identifying the four pillars; community partnerships, leadership, access to education/training, and facility access.

Mike has worked closely with Antigonish Town Recreation on several projects, including the renovation of the existing tennis courts. The new courts are now multi-use courts with both tennis lines and pickleball lines. Mike was also instrumental in offering junior pickleball lessons and providing sessions to Antigonish Town Recreation's All Sorts of Sports Program.

Pickleball Antigonish ensures that everyone is welcome to join offering beginner instruction courses and a variety of tournaments. The latest tournament Mike will be organizing is the Kilts in the Kitchen, the newest event to be offered at the Antigonish Highland Games where all participants must wear a kilt!

Mike is a tireless, dedicated volunteer who is more than willing to offer his time and energy to pickleball in Antigonish.

Bryant Long

Municipality of the District of Guysborough

As the youngest child of a large family, Bryant grew up on a small farm where the daily chores of the family and the farm were what was needed for survival and growth. Alongside his wife of 45 years, Ruth, and Bryant volunteered with their 3 children's extracurricular activities during the school years and with 2 community groups in the neighbourhood. They provided support to their children with their formal education in ways that they could, and took pride in their accomplishments and the families that they raised. They also cherish their role as proud grandparents to 6 beautiful grandchildren.

When Bryant was no longer able to participate in his carpentry career, Ruth was still working, and their children were established in their own lives, he discovered a void in his life. Volunteering was there to fill that void and has provided him with a sense of purpose, a sense of belonging, and a chance to be a productive part of the community. Over time, it became evident to him that while there might be days when he questions the time invested in volunteering, he realizes that this time does as much good for him as it does for the community.

Bonnie MacInnis

Municipality of the County of Antigonish

Bonnie MacInnis's initiatives, from selling used books at Myers Tea Room to organizing more than 400 free Christmas dinners during the COVID-19 Christmas, reflect her dedication to the Antigonish community. Her efforts have raised more than \$10,000 for St. Martha's Regional Hospital. As a Board member and volunteer for the Antigonish Heritage Association, she actively contributes to preserving local history. Bonnie extends her support to Mayfest at St. FX University and the Special Olympics, showcasing her diverse involvement.

Sandy MacIntosh

Town of Westville

For more than 45 years, Sandy has given his heart to the community of Westville. Currently, he is the Chair of the Westville Social Committee which organizes a summer concert series at Acadia Park for free for anyone to come and enjoy. The Committee organizes a Christmas concert each year from which the proceeds have benefitted many groups including the Foodbank, the splash pad and the Fuel Fund. He has also helped the Westville and Area Refugee Mission, WARM Hearts, settle an Iraqi family in Westville by fundraising and collecting furniture and other items. Sandy also provides companionship and helps fellow seniors with running errands when the support is needed. He is a regular at community events and is always willing to lend a hand, often without being asked, and pitching in where help is needed. He was a former Fire Chief and Rotarian with the Rotary Club. He also built the birdhouses you see in Acadia Park! Lastly, he was selected by his peers at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church as an Ordained Ruling Elder. Here he volunteers many hours and helps with community events. Sandy is the epitome of volunteerism and his love for Westville runs far and wide.

Charles Francis Paris

Town of New Glasgow

This award is accepted posthumously on behalf of Charles Francis Paris by daughter, Sandy Paris.

Francis Paris was a well-known community-minded businessman, social activist and defender of human rights. He served on the New Glasgow Affirmative Action Committee and was an inaugural member of the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission in 1967. While raising three children with his wife, Joan, he worked tirelessly to improve housing, employment, and education for the

Black Community in New Glasgow through organizations like the Pursuers Society and Black United Front. In the 1980s, Francis being one of the founders of the Ward One Community Centre, mobilized men from the Black community for its construction. He was also a founding member of the Nova Scotia Black Business Consortium and encouraged his brother, Henderson, to initiate his first Run Against Racism in Pictou County on March 21, 1990. In 2009, he was inducted into the W.P. Oliver Wall of Honour (NS Black Cultural Centre), and in 2012 for African Heritage Month he was one of six men honoured as “Unsung Heroes: Men Who Make A Difference”. Francis dedicated himself to advocating for others, navigating legal and political systems with passion, compassion, and determination to achieve results.

Ann McNeill Porter

Town of Pictou

Ann is the epitome of friendliness and helpfulness in every situation. Her volunteering began 38 years ago with the Lobster Carnival and was coordinator of the Queen pageant for 5 years. Ann has continued volunteering over the years with many groups. She was the founding member of Team Reese raising money for cancer research, Pictou Youth Centre, Stella Maris Paris Council, Breakfast Program at McCulloch Education Centre, Pictou Academy Educational Foundation, Pictou Historical Photograph Society, and more. Ann’s constant smile and reaching out to help make her stand out. She has volunteered for 38 years throughout the community and the Town of Pictou is very proud to have Ann McNeill Porter as their 2023 Volunteer of the Year.

Michael Porter

Municipality of the District of St. Mary's

For 47 years, ever since he moved to Nova Scotia, Michael Porter has been spreading joy throughout the Municipality of the District of St. Mary's with his music. In 2019, Michael would bring his guitar and equipment to play at the grassroots community market in Sherbrooke. As he played, he collected donations for the St. Mary's Food Bank. Over time, more musicians joined him, forming the group known locally as "Market Sound." Every week, 6-10 musicians now gather, and together they have raised almost \$10,000 for the food bank since 2019. Michael consistently volunteers his time and equipment, ensuring live music at the Sherbrooke Saturday Market, which has grown and relocated to the Heritage Park at the Historic Sherbrooke Village. Furthermore, he volunteers his musical talents for local benefit concerts, supporting those in need. Michael's gift of music has brought joy to the community and raised funds for worthy causes. The Municipality proudly recognizes Michael Porter as its Volunteer of the Year.

Karen Prosper

Piktukewey L'nue'kati | Pictou Landing First Nation

Karen elukwet ki's pikwelipunqekl utank Apoqnmatkep nujo'tmn mijua'ji'jminaq Nipialasutmamkewe'l mawita'mkl aqq ma'wt ika'toq teli-aja'sik ukjit kijinaq na'kwekmuow na'kwekewey ukjit piamu asukom te'sipunqek Kesatk tel-lukwet koqoey ukjit kisa'lan msit wenl wlte'lselin, we'kayiw Kijinaq Na'kwekmuow Na'kwekewey Utank. Weja'tikemk asmi-wleyujik kijinaq jakejuwe'l na'kwekewe'l, weja'tikemk ankite'tasikl iknmatimkl, aqq almi'jkamk kisa'lan msit wen weskewe'k Suliewey Ktantutew aqq maliaptitew E'piteminaq elite'lsultinew aqq kemite'lsultinew. Karen na kaqisk ketu' tl-lukwet ta'n kis-tl-lukwet qutamka'tun teliaql, aqq ketloqo we'tuwa'toq aqq kisa'laji mi'kmawi'skwaq Utank Wlte'lsultinew te'sipunqek.

ta'n teken teliaq wiaqpit eliet asoqmiktuk aqq lame'k, aqq ula seya'toq ta'n nekm telamuksit wkskwijinu Nekm Na ketloqoey mi'kmawi'sk aqq elamkistoq kisitaqnm aqq wksalsutim pikwelkik wkskwijinu'k Utank.

Karen has worked for many years within the community. She has helped run the Children's Christmas parties and also dedicated her time to the Mother's Day Dinner for more than 6 years. She loves doing what she can to make everyone feel special, especially with the Mother's Day Dinner within the community. Whether it was spoiling the moms with a lobster dinner, to the thoughtful gifts, and games to make everyone laugh. She would fundraise and ensure that she could make the women of the community feel special and honoured. Karen is always willing to do what she has to get events going, and truly has impacted and made the matriarchs of the community feel special every year. Whichever event she is a part of she goes over and beyond, and this shows the type of person she is. She is a true matriarch and has sprinkled her creativity and love to many people within the community.

Mulgrave Volunteer Fire Dept.

Town of Mulgrave

The Mulgrave Fire Department is heavily involved with community events. They also contribute earnings from fundraisers back to other non-profit organizations within the community. They rely on a lot of local people to keep up on training and understanding the apparatuses, to be ready for any situation. There are countless hours spent on planning and volunteering. The department as a whole deserves to be recognized for its volunteering commitments, not just to the department but to the town. They provide a sense of comfort, knowing well-trained individuals are keeping them safe. They provide a source of entertainment, through Chase the Ace, as well as various volunteering at other local events.

2023 Volunteer Representatives

South Shore Region

Mary Eldridge *Town of Yarmouth*

Mary Eldridge's dedication to volunteering is truly exceptional, as evidenced by her involvement in a wide array of organizations spanning several decades. Her contributions have significantly impacted various sectors of the Yarmouth community and beyond. Mary's current engagements include key roles such as Treasurer of the Yarmouth County Historical Society (33 years), Yarmouth Public Library (33 years), Finance Chair for the Old Ladies Home Society (32 years), Treasurer of the Community Foundation NS, and Investment Chair (14 years). She is also a Founder/Co-Chair of the Yarmouth Area Community Fund (14 years) and holds positions on the Archdiocese Halifax-Yarmouth Finance Council and the St. Ambrose Parish Finance Council.

Mary's historical involvement is just as noteworthy, as she has co-chaired a \$2.4 million expansion campaign for the Yarmouth County Museum, managed all finances, and volunteered with organizations like VON Tri-Counties (13 years, Chairperson, Treasurer), the RC Diocese of Yarmouth (18 years), the Financial Administrators Atlantic Group (18 years), Yarmouth District School Board, Scouts (20 years as Assistant District Commissioner, started Beavers), Girl Guides of Canada (10 years), Family and Children's Services (6 years on the Finance Committee), CNIB (12 years, Chair), Yarmouth Figure Skating Club (founding member, Treasurer, volunteer coach), YMCA camp committee member, Duke of Edinburgh Youth Awards Program (assistant), Chair of Town Heritage Street District, St. F. X. local group, and Meals on Wheels (4 years).

Jamie Ernst

Town of Lunenburg

Jamie Ernst is a volunteer who gives to his community often and always from the heart.

Jamie has volunteered with the Health Services Foundation of the South Shore for almost 20 years, which raises funds for enhanced health care at the South Shore Regional Hospital, Fishermen's Memorial Hospital, and associated sites within Lunenburg County. Jamie served as treasurer of the Foundation's board and was the chair of the Finance Committee for 8 years. He has been involved with the "Gift from the Heart" Radio-a-thon since its inception 13 years ago, eventually assuming the role of the Radio-a-thon Chair in 2015. This role has helped to shape the Radiothon, raising more than \$1.5 million in 13 years.

Jamie has been the Clerk of Session at Central United Church for the past 15 years and two terms as Central's Chair of the Official Board. He is currently the treasurer of the Lunenburg Academy Foundation and has served as treasurer of the Lunenburg Swimming Pool Society and the Lunenburg Foundation for the Arts. Jamie has been a faithful volunteer at Lunenburg High School, the Academy, and Bluenose Academy.

Charitable organizations need more Jamie's who give selflessly of their time and skill to strengthen their communities.

Stephen Goreham

Municipality of the District of Barrington

Steve has always served the needs of neighbours, friends, and the community in any possible way that he is able. Whenever he discovers a need, Steve is there to care for and act on that need. For at least a quarter of a century, Steve has devoted tireless

hours to the South Side Baptist Church as a deacon, treasurer, trustee, Sunday school teacher, youth leader, custodian, and maintenance person. Without drawing attention to himself, Steve is willing to serve in just about any capacity that is needed within the organizations and communities he serves.

Steve is also completely devoted to the Shelburne County Special Olympics and their athletes. He has contributed countless hours as a coach, driver, encourager and fan to all the special Olympians. Steve has true compassion, a big heart, and unconditional love for all people. He is a wonderful ambassador of volunteerism and a representative of the Municipality of Barrington.

Sylvia Hurley

Region of Queens Municipality

Sylvia's outstanding volunteer work benefits various nonprofit organizations in Queens County. With a past role as a Town of Liverpool Councillor, she is dedicated to serving the community. Sylvia actively volunteers with the Queens County Victorian Order of Nurses (VON), contributing by organizing orders and making calls for the VON Meals on Wheels program. She also assists at VON Foot Clinics, handling paperwork and greeting clients. Sylvia's involvement extends to the local Kinettes Club, where she is an engaged member of the K-ettes. Additionally, she contributes as a friendly voice for Kingo Bingo winners in Queens. Sylvia serves as President of the Ladies Auxiliary of Milton Baptist Church and actively volunteers there. She also supports the Hank Snow Tribute and previously served on the Privateer Days Commission. Sylvia remains an active member of the Queens County PC Association. Notably, her volunteer journey includes leadership roles like board president for Family and Children Services, participation in NS Department of Justice's Restorative Justice Program as a panel member, and serving as a greeter

at Queens General Hospital. In recognition of her outstanding contributions, Sylvia Hurley is honoured as Volunteer of the Year by the Region of Queens Municipality.

Ann Joudrey

Town of Bridgewater

Ann Joudrey is a rock star volunteer. Her sense of community was instilled by her parents which remained consistent as she grew a successful career in the insurance industry - sitting on multiple committees for its member organization as well. On top of volunteering at her church for decades and helping others when she can, Ann has been an amazing volunteer of the Health Services Foundation of the South Shore and her volunteering with the hospital certainly predates this. Ann is the best volunteer as she truly cares about the cause she is supporting and the people who she interacts with. Ann will do whatever task you give her and will do it with a smile. Ann is a gem of the Bridgewater community and certainly deserves her credit. Bridgewater, and indeed the South Shore, is better thanks to Ann Joudrey's help. Her volunteer contributions include Health Services Foundation/ Hospital Volunteering: Gems & Gems fundraiser ("2007ish"-2011), Women's Giving Circle organizing committee (2011-2021), and the Gift From The Heart Radiothon (2011-2023).

Darryl LeBlanc

Municipality of the District of Argyle

Darryl has been volunteering for approximately 30 years. He began coaching soccer and baseball in the mid-90s, when his children were younger, and it evolved from there. Now, his commitment to volunteering has more to do with giving back to the communities to ensure their success.

Although volunteering can take on several forms, he enjoys being involved with the large event productions the most, such as the 2017 Canadian Mixed Curling Championships, the 2015 Canadian National Over 35 Baseball Championships, and the Canadian National Over 35 Baseball Championships in 2006 & 2009.

Darryl's commitment to volunteering extends to several other organizations he has been involved with in the past, including the Building Committee for the new Municipal Building for the Municipality of Argyle, the Coastal Financial Credit Union Relay for Life Team from 2005 to 2020, the Argyle Abuptic Festival Organizing Committee, the West Pubnico Legion Chase the Ace Fundraiser, serving as a Board Member for the local Big Brother Big Sister Chapter, and contributing to the West Pubnico Golf Club Association.

Presently, Darryl remains dedicated to his volunteer efforts within the following organizations: serving as the President of Yarmouth Seafest, actively participating in the West Side Improvement Society, being a member of the 100 Guys that Care, contributing to the Planning Advisory Committee for the Municipality of Argyle, and lending his support to the Argyle Recreation Commission for the Municipality of Argyle.

Darryl, you are a tireless worker for your community and are applauded for your dedication. Congratulations!

Darrell Locke

Town of Shelburne

For more than 47 years Darrell has been a serving member of the Shelburne County Volunteer Fire Department. As the Fire Chief for more than 10 years and the President of the Shelburne County Firefighters Association, Darrell is a true leader who is looked upon with the greatest respect and admiration. Darrell

has a strong dedication to his community and goes above and beyond the call of duty, spending countless hours volunteering. Whether that is driving Santa through the streets at Christmas time, organizing BBQs when events are happening in the town, giving tours of the Fire Station to the local elementary school children, organizing fire training and competitions with other local departments, or responding to the many calls all year round, day and night, you can always count on Darrell. The Shelburne Fire Department is well respected in the community with Darrell at the helm. Darrell is a true gem and is proudly nominated as Volunteer of the Year!

Amy MacGowen

Region of Queens Municipality

Amy's connections in the community have led to her being a trusted volunteer who helps many by organizing fundraisers throughout Queens County. While holding "no official titles" on any not-for-profit organizations, she always steps up, leading the way with fundraising initiatives for community members in need.

Each year, Amy organizes benefits for at least two families dealing with health concerns or devastating loss. She also holds professional portrait sittings and Santa photos, with the profits directed toward supporting several local organizations, such as community centers, churches, and the SPCA. Most years, her fundraising initiatives total approximately \$20,000. This year, between Dec 1st -June 30th, she has coordinated fundraising efforts exceeding \$35,000. This includes two separate fundraisers for families dealing with diagnoses of cancer, raising more than \$27,000.

In June, when the wildfires were raging in the Shelburne and Barrington areas, she quickly organized her team of volunteers and donors, forming the Queens County Convoy. Together, they

raised more than \$6,000, delivering 12 carloads and 3 trailers full of food, supplies and gift cards to aid firefighters and those displaced by the fire.

It is with pride that Amy MacGowan is recognized as one of the Region of Queens Municipality's Volunteers of the Year.

Karen MacKenzie-Stepner

Municipality of the District of Chester

Karen has been a lifelong volunteer. Karen currently volunteers with the Chester Playhouse, St. Augustine's Church Women's Guild, Bridgewater Red Cross Personal Disaster Team, LCCC#12 Board of Directors, and the Chester Basin New Ross Chester Lions Club. Recently Karen volunteered time to establish a Comfort Centre at the Chester Basin Fire Station. She has volunteered 9 hours a week at the Chester District Elementary School since 2018. Karen tutors local Syrian families to help them learn English and also helps the children with their high school academics. She also works with new deaf immigrants to Nova Scotia with limited to zero English skills, teaching them both English and Sign Language. Karen volunteered with Deaf Literacy Nova Scotia for 5 years. Karen volunteers internationally with Team Canada Healing Hands Deaf Education Team. Since 2009, she has travelled to Haiti, Belize, Peru, Guatemala and Panama to "Teach the Teachers" and work with children.

Karen Pinsent

Town of Mahone Bay

Karen Pinsent is well known in Mahone Bay for her many years of tireless volunteer service. As a long-time member of the Mahone Bay Tourism and Chamber of Commerce, she has spearheaded fundraising initiatives to beautify Mahone Bay and helped to

organize the events that bring visitors to the town. Karen is also active with the Three Churches Foundation which works toward protecting the future of Mahone Bay's most iconic landmark, and volunteers organizing fundraising events for the Mahone Bay Museum, preserving its history. Thank you to Karen for her hard work and dedication to Mahone Bay!

Danyelle Rapp

Municipality of the District of Shelburne

Danyelle has been volunteering for many years in various capacities and currently sits on more than five committees. These include the Shelburne County Basketball Association, Shelburne County Youth Health & Wellness Association, SRHS School Advisory Committee, Shelburne County Arena, SRHS Senior Girls Basketball Team and the Shelburne Events Committee. Danyelle is a leader and a doer. She is very resourceful, savvy with grants and tirelessly sees projects through from start to finish. In a time of need, she took on the role of president for the Shelburne County Arena Association and worked hard to address an equipment emergency to ensure the opening and successful operation of the arena this past season. She recently joined the SRHS School Advisory Committee and is already making headway on a project to revitalize the track and field amenities. As president of the SCBA, she has worked hard to increase the number of kids playing basketball and has contributed to the planning, coordination and implementation of the local signature events; Dock Street Days and Miracle on Dock. Danyelle's volunteer efforts have accumulated to have a substantial impact on the community, especially over the past year. She is truly deserving of the award and recognition.

Alvina Robicheau

Municipality of the District of Yarmouth

Alvina Robicheau lives out the term “volunteer.” She comfortably and willingly takes on any role that enhances the community or aids individuals in need. For over five years, including during the unpredictable COVID era, Alvina has led the Yarmouth Garden Club as both its president and the most consistent volunteer at the Brown Street parking lot, the club’s community project. Whether it’s picking up garbage along the airport stretch, clearing stubborn weeds from the cracks in the Brown Street parking lot, providing house cleaning services for seniors, or cooking meals for drivers and crew at the Greenfields Motor Speedway during race weekends, Alvina is dedicated. In 2022, alongside Yarmouth town councillor Heather Hatfield, Alvina formed welcoming and farewell committees, serving as chauffeur guides for the Communities in Bloom judge’s visit to Yarmouth. Alvina’s energy, enthusiasm, and consistency set a standard that few can match. She serves as an ongoing decision-maker on the Yarmouth Garden Club executive. Alvina’s life embodies the meaning of service, and she gives it away every day.

Debbie Scott

Town of Lockeport

Debbie Scott, Lockeport’s representative for the 2023 Provincial Volunteer Awards, has been an active and dedicated volunteer in the community for most of her life. With an impressive 30 years of service as treasurer for IODE, Debbie has exemplified commitment. Within the Lockeport United Baptist Church, she has held various roles including Deacon, Assistant Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer of Sunday School, and Secretary of the Women’s Missionary Society. Debbie’s involvement extends to being a Sunday School teacher and

serving as Treasurer for many years. During the Lockeport Sea Derby, she wholeheartedly contributes to planning and actively participates on the front lines each year. Additionally, Debbie is an unwavering supporter of school activities and an enthusiastic sports fan. While she quietly operates in the background, Debbie tirelessly supports numerous community causes and is always ready to lend a hand. Presently, she actively engages in fundraising efforts for the Helen Ghent tennis court upgrades through pickleball. Known for her inner and outer beauty, the Lockeport community is incredibly grateful for Debbie's kindness. The Town of Lockeport takes great pleasure in recognizing and expressing gratitude to Debbie for her immense contributions to the community.

Lisa Tanner

Municipality of the District of Lunenburg

Lisa, a founding member of the Burg Classic, dedicates countless hours each week to volunteering, averaging over 10 hours/ per week. Her unwavering commitment spans a decade, during which volunteers have come and gone, however, Lisa's commitment to raising funds and helping her fellow Community members remains steadfast. Her impact can be seen in the success of her playing an instrumental role in organizations like the Canadian Dory Rowing Association, Lunenburg Heritage 5km race, and Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. Whenever anybody is in need the first name that comes up is "Lisa Tanner will help". Lisa was instrumental in obtaining much-needed transportation and raising funds for the "Coles pack" for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society. As the fundraising chair for the Canadian Dory Rowing Association, Lisa's involvement over the last 6-7 years has been vital in persevering this heritage sport.

2023 Volunteer Representatives

Valley Region

George Phillip Comeau

Municipality of Clare

Mr. Comeau's volunteer involvement with Gran Fondo Baie Sainte-Marie's Terra Fondo event has earned him recognition. He has been a volunteer for Terra Fondo since its inaugural event in 2022. Mr. Comeau used his ATV to explore the community and identify the best routes for cyclists, investing countless hours to ensure a successful, safe, and enjoyable experience. He assisted with event planning, including route selection, security, and logistics. On the event day, he arrives early to set up equipment, place trail signage, and provide training to other volunteers who are responsible for road security. Mr. Comeau continues to search for trails for future Terra Fondo events, never seeking recognition or thanks for his dedication. Additionally, he actively volunteers for other organizations in the Municipality of Clare, including the Little Brook Fire Department since 1996, the Clare Rails to Trails Association (of which he was the first president in 2003), and the Sou'West Nova ATV Association since 2020.

Joey Feith

Town of Kentville

Joey, along with his family, relocated to Kentville in 2021 and promptly engaged in various initiatives and projects benefiting the community. Leveraging his background in Physical Education, Joey's passion for working with youth led him to actively participate in the KCA Parent Teacher Association and

hold the current Chair position of the KCA SAC. Joey volunteers for the school's "Taste the Rainbow" program, fostering food education and encouraging students to explore new culinary experiences. He organized the "Take Me Outside" day Animal Quest event and spearheaded the 2023 KCA Rock & Roll to School Week, promoting active transportation for commuting. Joey taught skateboarding in a 4-week program for KCA middle schoolers, and in 2022, he led the BIRT program for 5 weeks. As a dedicated volunteer coach, Joey contributes to the U5 Saturday morning soccer program and arranges a Family PhysEd session for parents and their children. Joey's impact on the Kentville community extends beyond youth opportunities, encompassing his involvement in initiatives fostering youth leadership and development. His infectious positivity enables him to inspire others in ways everyone aspires to.

Garnet Francis

Town of Berwick

Garnet has been an integral part of the local Lions Club for many years. Throughout their tenure, they have consistently gone above and beyond to make a lasting impact on the lives of those they serve. Their unwavering passion for making a positive difference is evident in every task they undertake.

During his time with the Lion's Club, Garnet made notable contributions that stand out. He served as the King Lion for the Berwick and District Lions Club. His involvement extended to the assistance with their 400 Club fundraiser which donates funds to benefit local initiatives. Additionally, he served as a chair on the Berwick Lions Club breakfast committee. In this capacity, he dedicated himself to organizing the monthly breakfast events and played an instrumental role in their execution, as he was always one of the first to arrive to begin preparing food at 5 a.m.

Beyond that, Garnet has consistently shown an extraordinary level of commitment and initiative. They have eagerly taken on various responsibilities and projects throughout the years, and are someone who thoroughly embodies the true spirit of volunteerism.

Jeff Hafting, Ph.D.

Town of Annapolis Royal

Jeff Hafting is a founder and current President of the Annapolis Innovation Lab Society, an accessible maker space that houses digital equipment, much of which can be borrowed as easily as signing out a library book. He coaches Soccer and Track and Field and recently led the Annapolis West Education Center's (AWEC) Senior Boys Soccer Team to a Provincial Championship, the first since 1990. He also coaches the Royal Robots, a competitive robotics group that has won 11 consecutive Maritime Championships since 2014 and has won Gold and Silver at international World Championship events. His robotics teams have helped to raise funds for accessibility improvements at the Annapolis Community Pool, where he volunteers, maintaining equipment and operations. He is the Scientific Advisor to the Annapolis Royal Space Agency, a group of high school students who launch and retrieve high-altitude balloons into the stratosphere from the field at AWEC.

Jo-Ann Hightower

Town of Middleton

Jo-Ann moved to Middleton about 7 years ago and immediately began volunteering at the Macdonald Museum. Eventually, the organization persuaded her to join the Board and she is now President and an amazing ambassador for the Museum. Jo-Ann

is always promoting the Museum to everyone she meets, has helped find vendors for the weekly market, supports all events, and is always the first to step up and say "How can I help?" and "No really, what can I do?!". Jo-Ann introduces innovative fundraising ideas and actively participates in the execution. From one of the current volunteers who became a part of the Museum in October 2022, "Jo-Ann has not only been hugely supportive but has been a great resource for all things Middleton. Without her, I would not have found the transition as smooth as it has been. For all that she has done for the Macdonald Museum and me, she is the most deserving of this award."

Sharon Lloyd

Town of Wolfville

Sharon has been volunteering with the Wolfville Children's Centre for the past 25 years! When Sharon relocated to the Valley with her family, her mom reached out to the Wolfville Children's Centre, by chance, to see if they might need a volunteer. From that day forward, Sharon has been volunteering her time 3 days a week. Her main duties have been to support the cook, Melissa, in the kitchen. From setting up and delivering the classroom bins for snacks and lunch, helping with the dishes, and prepping the vegetables Sharon is always ready to jump in to help, especially with the kitchen being a busy spot as they prepare meals for over 40 children each day.

Sharon's bright smile and happy disposition have been a joy to have in the building. She is relied on to keep things flowing and has a routine down pat. Rain or shine, Sharon never misses a day at WCC, except for her well-deserved vacations!

Recently, Sharon even shared some music with the children when she brought in her guitar. At any celebrations, such as WCC's recent 50th birthday, Sharon is there to help celebrate.

Sharon is more than a volunteer at WCC, Sharon is part of the Wolfville Children's Centre family. The entire WCC is grateful for the countless hours that she has supported us for the past 25 years and is excited for many more years ahead.

Burnell Lyons

Village of New Minas

While Burnell does not live in the Village of New Minas, he volunteers countless hours to benefit the Village and surrounding areas. Burnell is a member of the New Minas Sunrise Rotary Club, the Annapolis Valley Apple Blossom Festival Board, and the Greenwich Volunteer Fire Department. He volunteers for many events in New Minas such as Canada Day, Celebration Days, and more! Burnell recently planned and executed the annual golf tournament at Ken-Wo Golf Course for the New Minas Sunrise Rotary Club and it went off without a hitch. Burnell is a huge asset to the Community and improves the lives of countless residents each day.

William McCormick

Town of Digby

William has been a dedicated and unwavering volunteer for the past 18 years. He is the secretary of the Digby and Area Lions Club and helps in numerous fundraisers not only for the Lions Club but for anyone in need. Starting as a "Digby Pines Staff" volunteer for the Children's Wish Foundation Golf Tournament, William has continued with this tournament and become a key organizer even after changing career paths. William was a Big Brother in the past and continues to support events for Big Brother Big Sisters of Annapolis Valley. It is also important to recognize that Will is a great actor, who is passionate about

volunteering his time on and off the stage with The Digby Area Theatre Society and the Electric City Society. He is also known as one of Santa's key helpers in the busy months of November and December, offering his time and his ho ho ho at many community events, including the Digby Elementary School Breakfast with Santa, spreading holiday cheer! The Town of Digby is lucky to have William in the community and thank him for all that he does!

Cindy O'Neil

Municipality of the District of Digby

Cindy demonstrates enthusiasm and dedication as a volunteer, utilizing her organizational, bookkeeping, and media skills to greatly benefit numerous organizations. During her children's early years, she actively volunteered for Digby Neck Home and School, the School Advisory Council, Digby Neck Development Association, and Digby Area Minor Hockey. As her children grew, Cindy extended her volunteering to other causes close to her heart. For many years, she participated in and served on the board of Digby Relay for Life. In support of the Annapolis/Digby Christmas Daddies, Cindy organized volunteers, manned pledge phones, and supervised the purchase of food gift cards for families in need. She also volunteers for the Maritime NHLers For Kids Society, an organization dedicated to ensuring minor hockey continues to enrich the lives of Maritime boys and girls whose families face financial challenges. Within Digby, Cindy holds key roles as the Leadership Competition Coordinator and Secretary for Digby Scallop Days, as well as Treasurer for the Admiral Digby Library Historical Society and the Digby Splash Park Society. She sets an excellent example for the next generation, inspiring them to step forward and take on positions that ensure the continued success of these beneficial organizations in Digby.

Domenic Padula

West Hants Regional Municipality

Upon his arrival in West Hants, Domenic Padula initially volunteered with the Friends of Harmony Park and with Dr. Arthur Hines School as he taught youth to grow and eat healthy food. He was president of the Hants County Federation of Agriculture and acted as a board director for the Hants Shore Community Health Centre. He was a member of the Halifax Brewery Market Board and of the West Hants/Uniacke Community Health Board for six years, where he was co-chair for three terms.

As a Hants West Food Action Council volunteer, Domenic leads a team of volunteers to make soup which is distributed to those who face barriers. Domenic annually hosts a Community Christmas Dinner which feeds over 200 people and has created a Free Community Market where he collects produce and gives it to anyone, barrier-free, with great success.

Recently, Domenic joined the West Hants Regional Municipality's new Diversity Committee and the West Hants Middle School Advisory Committee.

As a friend and fellow volunteer said "Domenic is a passionate believer that all people deserve good healthy food. He lives his beliefs". For his efforts, West Hants Regional Municipality recognizes Domenic as the 2023 Volunteer of the Year.

Tyson Rovers

Village of Port Williams

Tyson Rovers is a valuable member of the Village of Port Williams, contributing both as a business owner and a dedicated community volunteer. Over the past decade, Tyson has actively engaged in the village, devoting his time to two significant

projects: the preservation of the Farnham Marsh Body, a 192-acre marsh located in Port Williams, and the Working with the Tides Project, focused on enhancing the province of Nova Scotia's vulnerable dykes. Tyson also invests in the community by inspiring and supporting youth in after-school programs like soccer and basketball. His passion for trivia has garnered appreciation from various organizations in Port Williams. Through a monthly event with a free-will offering, Tyson has raised more than \$35,000, assisting multiple community groups. Beneficiaries include the Port Williams Elementary School Nutrition for Health Committee, local sports teams, the Annapolis Valley Honor Choir, the Port Williams Lions Club Christmas Hampers, and winter clothing for children in Kings County, among others. Tyson is a highly respected and community-minded resident of the Village of Port Williams.

Doreen Smith

Klu'skapewey L'nue'kati | Glooscap First Nation

Doreen Na Amskwesewey Uktusl ta'n amkwes (Horton L'nue'kati), nike' klu'skapewey l'nue'kati we'jiteket Saqmaw (Rita Smith) Doreen Kesatkesnek Teli-pkwiji lukwet Lnu'k tela'matulti'tij nuji-ila'kwenawet Mount Saint Allison University Sackville, New, Brunswick. Utan mekite'tk Doreen mu pasik wejikwek ula utank, kisi-kina'matk ula utan , aqq ika'lsit aqq wiaqa'lsit kaqisk utank. Doreen Nuji-Apoqnmuet kaqisk piluwamu'kl tel-lukwekl Klu'skapewey L'nue'kati. Doreen Ala'toq pemiaq ksalsuti ukjit knijannaq aqq kaqisk amkwesewey nuji-apoqnmuen head start tel-lukwek aqq kesatk ekiljewaji Mu pasik ala'tuk pikwelk kijijitaqn ukjit mi'kmawey telo'timk kitk klusuaqn aqq tel-lukwemk. Kinu'tmaqneym l iknmuetog pikwelk kina'masuti kis tl-lukweten ukjit msit wejkwikwutijik. Doreen Weskewikwa'sit apua'toq tepisaqesik aqq tel-ki'kaje'k kisa'toq welkaqnik Doreen lapjiwewey Mimajuaqney Ekinu'tmasit aqq welmitog, elite'tiket, kisi-skmat, kelu'sit nuji-kina'muet, ukjit maqmikew, mpisunl, ta'n kis-tliaqep aqq tel-lukwekl mijipjewe'e' l ekitmkl.

Doreen is the daughter of what was originally (Horton First Nation), now Glooscap First Nation founder Chief (Rita Smith). Doreen enjoyed a lengthy career as an Indigenous Affairs Coordinator at Mount Allison University in Sackville, New Brunswick. Community means a lot to Doreen. She not only grew up in this community, she has taught this community, and she engages and participates continuously within her community. Doreen volunteers her time continuously within different programs at Glooscap First Nation. Doreen has an ongoing love for their children and is the first one to volunteer with the Head Start program and enjoys reading to them. She not only has a wide base of knowledge about her Mi'kmaw culture, both language and tradition. Her teachings provide many learning opportunities for all generations. Doreen's smile always warms a room and her sense of humour provides fun. Doreen is a lifelong learner and she is a kind, empathetic, patient, wonderful teacher of the land, medicines, history and traditional recipes.

John Smith

Municipality of the County of Annapolis

After moving to Nova Scotia in 2019, John quickly carried on his volunteerism for more than 35 years by getting involved with community groups and nonprofits. He was immediately recognized as a dedicated volunteer who cares deeply for the community and everyone's well-being. John's volunteerism extends well beyond his local community, reaching municipal and provincial levels. He is a strong advocate for accessibility, healthcare and the importance of youth involvement. The following organizations are very fortunate to have John on their team: Annapolis County Accessibility Advisory Committee (Chair); Bridgetown Regional Community School Advisory Committee (Community Rep.); Soldiers Memorial Hospital Foundation (Vice Chair); Annapolis County Active Kids Healthy Kids Society (Chair); Annapolis Community Health Board (Chair); Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation Accessibility Advisory Committee (Community Rep.); Mid Valley Region Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee (Community Rep.); Middleton Accessibility Advisory Committee Working Group (Member); and the Goods and Services Standards Development Committee where he assisted the Accessibility Advisory Board in preparing recommendations for the Justice Minister of Nova Scotia. Believe it or not, this list just scratches the surface of John's community involvement. The County of Annapolis is extremely grateful and proud to have John as their Volunteer Provincial Representative.

Kevin West

Municipality of the County of Kings

For more than 25 years Kevin has served the Kings County community as an active volunteer, board member, executive team member, fundraiser extraordinaire, team leader, yardman, painter, plumber, and an overall Mr. Fix It for numerous arts, culture, and general community centred organizations. Since retiring from the Flower Cart, Kevin seamlessly, without hesitation stepped into volunteering in the community as his full-time job. Described by community members as “an amazing problem solver, practical, infectiously positive with boundless energy, always the first person to jump up to help, and the glue that holds it all together”, it is hard to find many deserving of this award! For being an incredible role model for community volunteerism, Kevin’s friends and neighbours from the Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Society, Memory Café, West Brooklyn Community Association, Acadia Cinema Cooperative, ValleyEvents, Devour! The Food Film Fest and The Municipality of the County of Kings recognize his hard work and dedication with this nomination!

2023 Specialty Award Recipients

Family Volunteer of the Year Award

Joanne & Cammie Cumminger

Plymouth, Pictou County, NS

Volunteering is highly valued by Joanne, Cammie, and their family and friends in the cozy Plymouth Pictou County community. The fire department acts as the central hub for community gatherings, where they have invested 48 years of dedicated involvement, and fundraising constantly.

The fire department can be seen as a community support center, especially during critical times like the Westray mine disaster and Hurricane Fiona. The hall serves as a venue for weddings, funerals, and community events. Joanne and Cammie manage these events, aiming to portray that the community is welcoming, safe, and cares about those attending the events.

Following Hurricane Fiona and the onset of COVID-19, they observed community members feeling isolated. To combat this, they organized a free community meal for folks to come together, register for wellness checks, and learn more about the range of services that a comfort center can offer. Their positive influence resonates with their children and grandchildren, who have followed their example and become involved in various volunteer organizations.

Joanne, a retired nurse working with cancer patients, knows that listening and caring matter most, both in her profession and volunteering. She started cancer support groups for breast, prostate and brain cancers. Alongside her husband, she worked with a breast cancer dragon boat team, contributing to their annual festival. Additionally, her family arranged lunch for 150 breast cancer participants during the event. Now retired, she spends time with a group called PALS, supporting palliative patients.

For them, volunteering gives back more than they give. It's brought their family closer while supporting the community. They're grateful for the recognition and honoured to receive an award for doing something they truly value.

2023 Specialty Award Recipients

Youth Volunteer of the Year Award

Mohamed Nashnoush

Bedford, NS

Mohamed is a 21-year-old diagnostic medical sonographer specializing in vascular and musculoskeletal ultrasound, working full-time at Nova Scotia Health. Mohamed is a passionate volunteer and scholar. He is involved in multiple machine-learning projects that aim to improve the sensitivity and accuracy of ultrasound at the University of Toronto. As a student, Mohamed served as a student advisor on Sonography Canada's Board of Directors. Mohamed founded RadScholars to help hundreds of students overcome entry barriers into research. RadScholars raised more than \$15,000 to facilitate and coordinate student-led scholarly contributions, partnering with Harvard Medical School, the International Myeloma Foundation, and the Canadian Medical Association. Mohamed is also the COO of Erevna 501(c)(3), coordinating the donation of 350k+ articles of PPE through Supply Crate. He recently presented statistics-based research to government leaders from the United Nations, European Union, and African Union. In his free time, he loves making card games, playing board games, meeting new people, supporting non-profit organizations, tutoring, 3D printing, and origami.

2023 Specialty Award Recipients

Nova Scotia Strong Award

Rath Eastlink Community Center

Truro, NS

Volunteers embody the core values and the resilient vision of the Truro/Colchester community, as exemplified by the Rath Eastlink Community Centre (RECC). At the Rath Eastlink Community Centre, the value of volunteering goes deeper and well beyond the number of hours that volunteers contribute. Understanding and recognizing that value has been the key to the organization's success because most volunteers want to know and experience the impact they are having.

The RECC Volunteers provide value through their leadership and governance and by setting strategic direction as a member of the Board, by raising needed funds, building community alliances, and executing fiscal oversight. RECC Board members help raise the profile of the organization, open doors and bring important perspectives from members and stakeholders. The value of a board's role goes well beyond the number of hours spent preparing for and attending meetings. Board members also bring cultural competencies to the organization that expand the capacity to serve diverse populations and create bridges with new stakeholders.

And of course, many other volunteers provide direct hands-on support services that have increased the impact of RECC programs and major events. Together through strong volunteerism and a dedicated staff team, the RECC was able to remain resilient through the pandemic and offer the region a comfort centre during Hurricane Fiona. This was then capped off with the delivery of a free "Re-Ignite the Spirit" campaign featuring a variety of free live entertainment opportunities for residents and using this platform to recognize the contributions of front-line workers.



2023 Specialty Award

Nova Scotia Strong Award Artist

Lorne Alexander Julien

Millbrook First Nation

Lorne Alexander Julien is a proud Mi'kmaq artist and member of Millbrook First Nation, near Truro, Nova Scotia, where he grew up. His given Mi'kmaq name "Warrior on the Hill" was earned in his youth when he learned about the spiritual ways of his people. Lorne is a self-taught artist, who has been following his passion since childhood.

In his practice, he uses bright colours and is known for the bold beauty of his artwork that touches hearts.

Lorne's artwork is inspired by visions and dreams and the love and respect he holds for his people. His paintings have an uplifting hopeful energy. Lorne's artist journey is a healing journey, a way to heal himself and inspire healing in the world.

Over the last few years, Lorne has painted many murals to support the creation of safe spaces in public, schools, government and private offices. Outdoor murals can be seen on Main Street in Kentville, on the corner of Agricola and Willow Street in Halifax, and at the amphitheatre Oqwa'titek in Annapolis Royal. Lorne often uses his favourite subject, the eagle, as it is important to First Nation's people as a symbol of love and protection, in which his paintings are like a prayer.

"Spirit and Revitalization "

Acrylic on gallery stretched canvas by Lorne A. Julien ,
Mi'kmaw artist

The painting shows 2 eagles. Eagles are important to the Mi'kmaq people, they are a symbol for strength, respect, love and protection. There is strength in partnerships and community.

The eagles are also having fun and look relaxed. A reminder that play is important for our health and builds relationships.




NOVA SCOTIA