



2025 Volunteer Awards Ceremony

Wednesday, April 30, 2025 | 6 to 9 p.m.

Best Western Plus Dartmouth, 15 Spectacle Lake Drive



HALIFAX

2025 Volunteer Awards Ceremony Agenda



Our host this evening is award winning journalist Bob Murphy.

Bob began his CBC career in Charlottetown as a reporter in 1989. He worked for a year in Toronto with National Radio News and the Queen's Park legislature before moving to Moncton, working as a reporter and then as a correspondent for Maritime Noon.

In 2001, he completed the Maritimes trifecta with his move to Halifax to host CBC Radio One's Maritime Noon.

Over the years he worked in the Investigative Unit and as host of CBC Mainstreet (the afternoon show in Mainland Nova Scotia). Bob pairs his passion for truth and democracy with a love for the storytelling that makes this part of Canada unique.

6 P.M. — REGISTRATION OPENS FOR AWARD RECIPIENTS AND GUESTS

7 P.M. — CEREMONY

Host: Bob Murphy

As you receive your award:

- a brief summary of your contributions will be read
- a photo will be taken of you receiving your award from the Mayor and your district Councillor

8:30 - 9 P.M. — RECEPTION

Light refreshments served



Individual Awards



DISTRICT 1

COUNCILLOR CATHY DEAGLE GAMMON

Tyler Adamson | Youth

Tyler is an outstanding volunteer whose unwavering enthusiasm and dedication shine through in every role he takes on. Over the past three years, he has devoted more than 500 hours to various nonprofit organizations, demonstrating an exceptional commitment to fostering positive change and supporting the well-being of others. Through his actions, leadership and creativity, Tyler has made a meaningful impact on patients, their families, medical staff, university students and refugee families.

Isaac Burns | Youth

Isaac has been an inspiring leader in the Youth Leadership Program at Gordon R. Snow, completing all three levels and contributing over 78 volunteer hours. Known for his positive attitude and infectious energy, he's made a lasting impact by mentoring younger leaders, engaging with campers and supporting community events. Isaac's dedication and enthusiasm have strengthened the community and set an example for future youth leaders.

John Aikenhead

John has been a devoted volunteer for over two decades, bringing hope and kindness to Halifax's most vulnerable. From organizing community barbecues and holiday programs at Metro Turning Point to serving breakfasts at Brunswick Street Mission, John's generosity and compassion have touched countless lives, making him a cherished community builder.

Andrea Angowski

Andrea has been a dedicated volunteer for over 20 years, supporting youth sports, cancer survivors and animal welfare. From fundraising for East Hants Minor Hockey to leading Relay for Life events and fostering dogs with Anna's Angels Dog Rescue, Andrea's compassion and leadership have made a lasting impact. Her tireless efforts continue to inspire and strengthen her community.

Rick Isenor

Rick has been a dedicated volunteer at Carroll's Corner Community Centre for an incredible 38 years, supporting everything from Mastodon Days to the Mastodon Trail. Whether leading events, serving on the board or maintaining trails, Rick's reliability, diverse skills and dedication have made a lasting impact. His commitment has strengthened community connections and enriched the lives of countless residents.

Nick Yeomans

Nick has been a dedicated volunteer leader for over 15 years, tirelessly working to improve his community through roles such as Vice Chair and Bar Manager at the LWF Community Hall, Chief of the local Volunteer Fire Department and revitalizing the Keloose Annual Festival & Fair. His leadership, energy and commitment inspire others to join and give back, making him an invaluable member of numerous community organizations.



DISTRICT 2

COUNCILLOR DAVID HENDSBEE

Courtney MacKinnon | Youth

Courtney has become an invaluable volunteer at the Porters Lake Community Center. As the volunteer Canteen Manager, she oversees staffing, scheduling and operations, all while balancing high school, a part-time job and her role on the student council. Known for her reliability and leadership, Courtney plays a key role in organizing community events and consistently inspires her peers to get involved. Her dedication and initiative have made a significant impact on her community.

Sandra Conrad

Sandra has been a cornerstone of the Lawrencetown community for decades, committing countless hours to organizations like the Lawrencetown Sew-ciety Guild, Calvin United Church, Lawrencetown Community Centre and Hope for Wildlife. As President of the Sew-ciety Guild, she has expanded membership, led charitable projects, donated over 400 quilts and secured grants to support community initiatives. Sandra's leadership, compassion and tireless commitment have made a lasting impact on the community.

Sharon Dykman

Sharon has been a dedicated volunteer in the Lake Echo community for over 40 years, serving with the Lions Club, Lake Echo Seniors Club and many other local organizations. As the first female Lions District Governor in Nova Scotia, she has organized countless events and fundraisers, always working to unite the community. Sharon's passion and leadership continue to inspire those around her.

Florence Kimball

For over 20 years, Florence has been the heart and soul of the Lawrencetown Sew-ciety Guild. As the Guild's first president, she has taught countless members how to quilt while leading charitable initiatives like creating "Cuddle & Comfort" quilts and pillowcases for the IWK. Florence's enthusiasm, leadership and dedication continue to inspire, fostering creativity and compassion throughout her community.

Rod & Pam Lewis

Rod and Pam Lewis have been pillars of the Porter's Lake Community Centre for over 20 years, dedicating countless hours to ensure the centre remains a vibrant hub for the community. Together, they have served in numerous roles, including President and Chair of PLCSA, leading major projects like the rehabilitation of the tennis courts and the revival of Lake & Shore Days. Rod's hands-on dedication and Pam's leadership and event planning have kept the centre thriving. Their teamwork and passion continue to make a lasting impact.

John Macfie

John has been a dedicated volunteer for over 60 years, contributing significantly to causes such as raising funds for the provincial Eye Center and organizing disaster response initiatives. His leadership within the Lake Echo Lions, especially during challenging times, has had a profound impact on the community, ensuring continued success in fundraising and service. John's commitment and guidance have made him a pillar of his community.

Beverly Smith

Beverly has been a community volunteer for nearly 50 years, serving with the Sheet Harbour Lions Club, the Catholic Women's League and the Terry Fox Run. As a founding member of the Lioness Club and longtime organizer of the Terry Fox Run, Beverly's leadership and kindness have raised funds, built connections and inspired others. Her tireless commitment and generosity continue to make a lasting impact on her community.

Jessica Warner

Jessica has dedicated over 1,000 hours to Anna's Angels Dog Rescue, transforming the organization through her leadership and innovation. She developed streamlined systems that improved adoptions and volunteer operations, benefiting hundreds of rescue dogs and families. Jessica's dedication, empathy and strategic thinking have created lasting improvements, inspiring others and ensuring the organization's continued success.



DISTRICT 3

COUNCILLOR BECKY KENT

Dylan Blain

With over 30 years of volunteer service, Dylan has made a profound impact on his community through politics, sports and non-profit organizations. From leading campaigns with the Nova Scotia Liberal Party to coaching youth soccer and founding the Beginner Men's Kick Around program, Dylan's dedication to fostering inclusion and community shines through.

Anne Fay

Anne has been a driving force within the 1st Woodlawn Scout Group for six years, holding vital roles like Group Commissioner, Registrar and Scouter. Her leadership was pivotal in launching a new cub pack in 2024, creating inclusive spaces for youth who thrive in smaller groups. Anne's dedication to fostering growth, community and belonging has made her a cornerstone of the scouting experience in Woodlawn.

Samantha Galvin

Samantha is a dedicated community leader and co-founder of the Eastern Passage Community Fridge, working tirelessly to combat food insecurity. As President of the Eastern Passage Food Security Society, she has expanded the initiative to include a community garden and educational programs, empowering local students and families. Samantha's hands-on leadership, passion for giving back and commitment to fostering food security have transformed her community.

Erin Mosher

Erin is a visionary volunteer whose leadership has transformed her community and beyond. From spearheading the Eastern Passage Skate Park project to organizing life-changing trips with Dreams Take Flight Atlantic, Erin's dedication has made a lasting impact. She champions mental health through music initiatives, supports local schools and inspires everyone around her with her positivity, compassion and tireless commitment to making a difference.

Michael Perrier

For over 50 years, Michael has been a dedicated advocate and volunteer for the Deaf community, creating lasting change through his compassion and leadership. At Northwood, he serves as a mentor, interpreter and advocate, bridging communication gaps and ensuring Deaf seniors feel heard and included. Whether driving the bus for outings, leading sign language classes or mentoring future leaders, Mike's unwavering commitment to equality and inclusion has profoundly impacted countless lives.

Patrick Sangster

Patrick has been a pillar of the Eastern Passage community, dedicating countless hours as a volunteer firefighter, President of the Eastern Passage-Cow Bay Firefighters Association and Vice President of the Eastern Passage Food Security Society. He leads vital initiatives, from emergency response and fire safety education to spearheading the Eastern Passage Community Fridge Project. Patrick's leadership, passion and commitment to community well-being make a lasting impact on those he serves.

Tamer Sobeih

Tamer is a dedicated community leader whose passion and enthusiasm have strengthened the local residents' association. He has organized events like Party in the Park and Movie in the Park, bringing over 500 residents together to foster community spirit. As a youth soccer coach and co-founder of the Dalhousie Arabic Society, Tamer promotes inclusion, healthy living and cultural connections, impacting his neighbourhood and the broader Halifax region.



DISTRICT 4

COUNCILLOR TRISH PURDY

Rasleen Kaur | Youth

Rasleen is a dedicated community leader who has contributed over 500 volunteer hours to fostering cultural pride, education and youth engagement. As Youth Club President at Nova Noble Cause Society, she inspires youth to volunteer and bridges generations through storytelling projects. She also teaches Punjabi and harmonium at the Maritime Sikh Society and founded Citadel High's PF Air Club. Rasleen's leadership and passion have made a lasting impact on Halifax's diverse community.

Terra Crowe

Terra is a passionate community leader who has significantly impacted District 4 through her work with the Cole Harbour Community Fridge and the Square Roots program. She organizes engaging events filled with fun, food and connection while raising essential funds to support those facing food insecurity. Terra's dedication, big heart and ability to unite local businesses, organizations and volunteers have made her a true blessing to the community.

Paula Eskenazi

Since moving to Halifax in 2022, Paula has become a passionate volunteer, dedicating her time to organizations like Feed Nova Scotia, Canadian Progress Club Halifax Citadel and Canadian Blood Services. She has played a key role in keeping the Dartmouth Community Fridge stocked and organizing fundraisers. Paula's leadership and dedication make her an inspiring force for change.

Rose Fraser

Rose is a beloved pillar of North Preston, known for her gentle spirit, community advocacy and work as the "Unofficial Community Nurse". She tirelessly supports her neighbours through the North Preston Rate Payers Association and the Preston Area Response to Trauma Working Group. Rose's leadership has been vital in addressing trauma and mental health awareness in the Black community, empowering others through healing and advocacy.

Nicole AM Johnson

Nicole is a dedicated community leader in The Preston Township, known for her creativity, compassion and commitment to youth empowerment. She plays a key role in the "*Fruits of Our Labour Cooking Program*", teaching African Nova Scotian youth gardening and cooking skills to combat food insecurity. Affectionately called "Auntie Nicole", she's a trusted mentor and inspiring advocate for positive change.

William G. Middleton

William is a cornerstone of community volunteerism at Cole Harbour Woodside United Church, always stepping up to help, organize, build and support wherever needed. His dedication has been vital to the success of initiatives like the Cole Harbour Community Fridge and the Square Roots program. Known for his generosity and willingness to lend a hand, William's contributions have made a lasting impact on the community and beyond.

Sheldon Miller

Sheldon is a dedicated community leader whose selfless volunteerism has made a lasting impact in sports, education and non-profit governance. From coaching youth basketball to guiding United DFC Soccer through a major merger and the challenges of COVID-19, Sheldon's calm leadership and strategic thinking have strengthened community programs. His humility, kindness and commitment to empowering others continue to inspire positive change and collaboration throughout his community.

Ellis Pickersgill

Ellis is a dedicated community leader who brings people together to fight food insecurity in Cole Harbour. She spearheaded the Cole Harbour Community Fridge and revived the Square Roots program, creating inclusive spaces where everyone can access nourishing food. Ellis connects local businesses, organizations and volunteers through fun, engaging events and tireless fundraising. Her passion and big heart make her a true blessing to her community.



DISTRICT 5 COUNCILLOR SAM AUSTIN

Ronnie Harris | Youth

Ronnie has been an active and dedicated volunteer at The North Grove since he was seven and continues to make a significant impact at seventeen. He tackles food insecurity by creating healthy meals and mentors other youth, encouraging them to get involved in their community. His leadership, passion and commitment to community-building inspire others, proving that you can make a meaningful difference regardless of age.

Sinclair Dewis

Sinclair has been a dedicated volunteer at Ronald McDonald House Charity (RMHC) for over 10 years, contributing more than 1,300 hours to maintaining and improving the House and the IWK Family Room. Sinclair goes above and beyond, creating a joyful space for families. His kindness, mentorship and unwavering commitment have left a lasting impact, making him an invaluable part of the RMHC community.

Temitope Fawole

Temitope has been a dedicated volunteer at Winners Chapel International Halifax since 2017, leading the church's finance department while mentoring newcomers in both accounting and community integration. She has supported countless immigrant families by helping them settle, find jobs and feel at home in the Halifax region. Her passion for mentorship, community service and youth empowerment has made a lasting impact across the municipality.

Kevin Forbes

Kevin has been a devoted leadership volunteer with the Emera Blue Nose Marathon since 2012. Known for his tireless energy, Kevin arrives early, stays late, overseeing essential logistics and supporting every participant. His leadership, positive attitude and passion for community-building have left a lasting impact, inspiring volunteers and fostering inclusivity and healthy living among Halifax's youth.

John Holm

John has been a passionate advocate for affordable housing in the Halifax region. His empathy, reliability and proactive solutions have made a lasting impact on Rooted and the people it serves. John's dedication and compassionate approach not only improves the well-being of our clients but also inspires others to get involved, setting a standard of service and humanity that strengthens our community.

Marty Zelenietz

Marty has been a steadfast leader at Shaar Shalom Congregation for over two decades, profoundly shaping the Halifax Jewish community. From serving as lead gabbai, chairing the education committee and mentoring future leaders, Marty's dedication spans all aspects of Jewish life. His work with the Chevra Kadisha, synagogue board and broader community highlights his selfless commitment, making him a true pillar of both the synagogue and the Halifax region.



DISTRICT 6

DEPUTY MAYOR TONY MANCINI

Emma Bowser | Youth

Emma has been a dedicated volunteer with United DFC Soccer, serving as head and assistant coach for two youth teams. Emma inspires young girls through her mentorship, fostering confidence, teamwork and a love for the game. Her commitment to youth development and her role as a positive role model make her a valued part of the community.

Michelle Babineau

Michelle joined Emera Blue Nose Marathon in 2024 and became an invaluable volunteer known for her dedication, leadership and infectious positivity. Michelle consistently goes above and beyond, from managing the Blue Nose store to stepping up as a Medal Lead and walking an entire marathon route to deliver community notices. Her enthusiasm has strengthened the events and inspired others to join, making a lasting impact on our community.

Derrick Bowser

Derrick has been a dedicated soccer coach for over 23 years, volunteering with Dartmouth United and now United DFC. Known for his positive attitude and mentorship, Derrick fosters player growth on and off the field, focusing on accountability, inclusivity and mental health in sports. His unwavering commitment and leadership have made a lasting impact on players and the broader soccer community.

Sheila Pugsley

Sheila is a driving force behind the Oathill Lake Conservation Society, dedicating over 200 hours annually to preserving the lake, trail and parkland. Since joining in 2018, her hands-on conservation work has transformed the space and inspired a team of dedicated volunteers. Sheila's passion for education, community engagement and environmental stewardship has made a lasting impact, ensuring Oathill Lake remains a vibrant natural space for future generations.

Jim Vicars

Jim has dedicated over 15 years to enriching his community through tireless volunteerism. Jim's commitment to youth development and community building is unparalleled, from coaching multiple youth soccer teams with Cole Harbour and United DFC Soccer to leading Scouts Canada groups and supporting literacy at Bel Ayr Elementary. His selfless leadership and lasting impact have shaped countless young lives and inspired others to give back.



DISTRICT 7

COUNCILLOR LAURA WHITE

Graeme Coxon

Graeme has been a dedicated volunteer at Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank for over a year and a half, contributing more than 200 hours. Known for his efficiency and hard work, Graeme prepares food boxes for families in need, ensuring quality and care in every package. His commitment, leadership and positive attitude have made him an invaluable part of the team, inspiring others to serve the community more effectively.

David Griffiths

David is a dedicated volunteer, blending visionary thinking with hands-on problem solving. As a leader at Fort Massey United Church, he has spearheaded major restoration projects, welcomed community members with warmth and compassion and championed local outreach programs like the Brunswick Street Mission. A retired Naval Commander, David brings wisdom, leadership and a deep sense of service to every role, making a lasting impact on his church and community.

Joyce Jiahuan Liu

Joyce has been a driving force behind numerous community initiatives in Halifax, from her pivotal role in organizing the 70th Anniversary Celebration for the Chinese Benevolent Association of Nova Scotia to founding the Taste Asia Food & Culture Festival, which attracts over 60,000 attendees annually. Through her leadership and commitment, Joyce has fostered cultural understanding, supported small businesses and built lasting community connections, making the Halifax region a more inclusive and vibrant municipality.

Ward Skinner

Ward is a dedicated volunteer whose positivity, leadership and hands-on contributions have significantly impacted Spencer House Seniors Centre. As Board Treasurer, he balances financial oversight with practical work, leading renovation projects and inspiring his team of volunteers. Ward's unwavering commitment to improving the centre and creating a welcoming space for seniors has made him an invaluable community member.

Doug Taylor

Doug has been a dedicated volunteer and live radio host at CKDU 88.1 FM for nearly 40 years, connecting with one of the station's largest listener bases through his show, *Elegant Voltage*. Known for his incredible music selections, storytelling and support for local events, Doug's passion extends beyond the mic. His unwavering commitment has helped shape CKDU into the vibrant, listener-driven station it is today.

Gregory Thomson

Gregory has been an invaluable volunteer with Junior Achievement of Nova Scotia for years, dedicating his time as a mentor and advisor to high school students in the company program. Through his leadership, Gregory helps youth develop skills and independence while fostering community connections and encouraging personal growth. His proactive approach to volunteerism and continuous effort to improve programs has made a lasting impact on students, fellow volunteers and the broader community.



DISTRICT 8

COUNCILLOR VIRGINIA HINCH

Yasmin Hampshire | Youth

Yasmin is an exceptional young volunteer whose dedication to service has profoundly influenced her community. Whether leading recreational activities as a Youth Leader at the Needham Recreation Centre, managing finances as Treasurer of her student council or supporting key community events at Parker Street Food Bank and Adsum House, Yasmin has demonstrated remarkable leadership, compassion and commitment.

Sheleema Flint

Sheleema has been vital to the Hope Blooms community for the last six years, dedicating her time and passion to numerous events and programs. From setting up community suppers and farmer's markets to leading activities for children, Sheleema's positive energy and leadership have had a lasting impact. Her commitment to fostering inclusion, connection and support exemplifies the spirit of giving, making her an invaluable part of Hope Blooms.

Cecelia Gray

Cecelia has been a transformative volunteer at Hope Blooms, where her leadership, energy and communication skills have been essential to the success of community markets, suppers and events. Her ability to engage and mentor youth has created lasting impacts, fostering a sense of belonging and empowering the next generation. Cecelia's dedication and commitment have made her an invaluable asset to the organization and the community it serves.

Scott C.R. Lawson

Scott has been an invaluable leadership volunteer for the Emera Blue Nose Marathon and its associated events for over eight years, taking on key roles such as organizing course signage and serving as the lead cyclist for multiple races. His dedication, strategic thinking and ability to work independently and with teams ensure the smooth operation of events, making him a cornerstone of the organization.

Marrilee Wilson

Marrilee is an outstanding volunteer yoga instructor known for her calming presence, deep knowledge and dedication to promoting physical and mental well-being. Her Weekend Wind Down classes are a highlight for many, providing a space for participants to relax and recharge while her commitment extends to underserved communities. Marrilee's compassionate approach has made her an invaluable asset to the John W. Lindsay YMCA and the community.

Zhaojun Xu

Zhaojun has dedicated herself to the community through nearly 300 hours of volunteer work with Mobile Food Market, Brunswick Street Mission, St. Marks Anglican Church and the Ecology Action Centre. Xu's unwavering work ethic, kindness and ability to connect with others have made her indispensable to every organization she serves. Her resilience and commitment inspire those around her, creating a lasting impact on the communities she touches.



DISTRICT 9

COUNCILLOR SHAWN CLEARY

Seryne Ouldrabah | Youth

Seryne has demonstrated exceptional leadership and community impact through her dedication to social equity and volunteerism. As President of Jeunes Femmes en Action, she organized the International Women's Day art competition, promoting gender equity and empowering women and girls. Her work with Y CAN, including leading a meal distribution campaign, has made a tangible difference in the lives of many, inspiring others to take action and contribute to meaningful change.

Patrick Cairns

Patrick has been integral to Frag for Cancer. His dedication and technical expertise have been essential to the event's success. Over the years, Patrick has contributed countless hours, ensuring smooth operations while fostering a positive and supportive environment for participants. His unwavering commitment to raising funds for cancer-related causes and his leadership in the gaming community makes him deserving of this recognition.

Charlotte Genge

Charlotte is the visionary founder and leader of the Great Halifax Clothing Swap, a biannual event that brings together hundreds of community members to support sustainable fashion, charitable causes and environmental stewardship. Through her leadership, Charlotte has raised thousands of dollars for local organizations, diverted tens of thousands of pounds of textiles from landfills and fostered a spirit of community and responsible consumption.

Eric V. Greene

Eric has been an exceptional volunteer leader, making significant contributions to Scouts Canada and the Knights of Columbus in the Halifax West End community. Eric has inspired countless individuals to give back to their community through his leadership in Scouts and his role as Volunteer Coordinator with the Knights of Columbus. His dedication to youth development and community service makes him a true role model and an integral part of the local volunteer landscape.

Margaret Ann Therrien

Margaret is a dedicated volunteer whose passion for service has profoundly impacted her community, particularly through her work with the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 and the Canadian Federation of University Women. With over 950 hours of volunteer service, her contributions have enhanced the museum's collection accessibility, supported educational initiatives and promoted gender equality. Her commitment and willingness to step up in times of need make Margaret a role model in volunteerism.

Pirah Qazi

Pirah's remarkable journey from newcomer to community leader in just over a year has profoundly impacted the lives of many in Halifax. Through her dedicated volunteer work with organizations like the Pakistani Canadian Association of Nova Scotia and ISANS, she has helped create supportive, inclusive spaces for fellow newcomers, promoting mental health, connection and community engagement. Prah's resilience, leadership and unwavering dedication to making a positive difference inspire those around her, making her a true community champion.

Lynn Wagner

Lynn is the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia's most dedicated and long-standing volunteer. Over the past 15 years, she has contributed her time and energy to nearly every event the foundation organizes. From greeting guests at black tie galas to helping with community fundraising efforts, Lynn's commitment and professional approach have made her an invaluable part of the team. Her unwavering dedication and leadership inspire others and play a critical role in the success of the foundation's mission.



DISTRICT 10

COUNCILLOR KATHRYN MORSE

Peter Bonner

Peter is a dedicated volunteer and community leader who has served his Halifax West End community for over 25 years. As a key coordinator with the Knights of Columbus, he leads numerous community programs, inspiring others through his kindness and selflessness. Peter's leadership, unwavering commitment and hands-on approach have impacted his parish and the wider community.

Curtis Hunter

Curtis is an extraordinary volunteer who has dedicated over 600 hours to Mission Mart, playing a pivotal role in helping the organization become more financially sustainable. His leadership, generosity and unwavering commitment have created a positive and collaborative environment at Mission Mart and within the broader community. Curtis's kindness, selflessness and dedication make him an inspiring role model and a true asset to the organization.

Harold Smith

Harold has been an unwavering force behind the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank for over 30 years. As Volunteer Coordinator, he has led efforts to distribute over 4,000 food kits weekly to vulnerable individuals, helping to feed more than 15,000 people annually. Harold's dedication, leadership and selfless service ensure that the food bank remains a vital resource for the Fairview-Clayton Park community.

DISTRICT 11

COUNCILLOR PATTY CUTTELL

Valarmathy Kaliaperumal

Valar has been a transformative leader in her community, serving as president of the Indo-Canadian Association of Nova Scotia and the Maritime Tamil Welfare Association. Her visionary leadership has led to impactful initiatives such as establishing the Indian Visa Processing Center in Halifax, organizing blood donation drives and promoting cultural awareness. Valar's dedication to community service, healthcare research and cultural preservation makes her an inspiring changemaker.

Chuck Marshall

Chuck has dedicated years of hard work to planning and establishing an emergency shelter for the community, ensuring it provides a safe, warm environment in times of crisis. Through his leadership, the facility now includes essential upgrades, such as a fully functional kitchen and a reliable heating system. Chuck's commitment has transformed the region's emergency response capabilities and set a new standard for community service.

Lynn Rotin

Lynn is a dedicated volunteer who has been a key figure in sharing Jewish culture and history in Halifax for over 15 years. As Chair of the Atlantic Jewish Film Festival, she has inspired and organized numerous events, including art exhibitions and Holocaust education initiatives. Lynn's leadership, creativity and passion for fostering understanding have impacted the community.



DISTRICT 12

COUNCILLOR JANET STEELE

Layla Hussain | Youth

Layla is a dedicated volunteer who has mentored over 60 students as a debate coach, helping many achieve provincial and national recognition. She founded the Art Action Alliance, contributed to the Make a Wish Foundation and supported families through free babysitting services. Layla's leadership, kindness and commitment to positive impact make her an invaluable asset to her community.

Daniel Yun | Youth

Daniel's enthusiasm and leadership made him a standout youth leader in the Youth Leadership Program at the Bedford-Hammonds Plains Community Centre. Over 197 hours of volunteering, he became a favourite among campers and staff, fostering meaningful relationships and creating lasting memories. His passion, positive attitude and commitment have left a lasting impact on the camp and his peers.

Paula Blackmore

Paula is the founder of Beechville Walkets, a community initiative that has enhanced the well-being of Beechville's residents. Through her leadership, she has created a space for seniors and youth to connect, stay active and support each other, especially during the pandemic. Her dedication and innovation have made a lasting impact, fostering intergenerational relationships and a strong sense of belonging in the community.

Barb Charteris

Barb is an exceptionally dedicated community volunteer who has made a profound impact through her work on food security and social initiatives. As the founder of the BLT Community Cupboard program and the Free Will Lunch, Barb has created essential resources that help provide food and foster social connections. Her tireless dedication, organizational skills and caring spirit have made her a beloved figure in the Timberlea community.

Malaka Habib

Malaka is a remarkable volunteer whose resilience, leadership and generosity have profoundly impacted her community. As a cancer survivor and a pioneer in the Muslim community, she played a key role in establishing a vibrant center in Bedford, providing a safe space for families and children. Known as "Mama Malaka", she fosters unity, supports others and creates lasting change with her warmth and unwavering commitment.

Efua Inkoom

Efua's leadership and dedication have profoundly impacted the Halifax community, particularly through her work with WINA Canada. As the Volunteer Management and Community Engagement Specialist, she has organized events like the Annual Newcomers BBQ, fostering unity and intercultural understanding. Known for her empathy and proactive approach, she continues to empower others, leaving a legacy of inclusivity, collaboration and positive change.

Ahmed Mahgoub

Ahmed's leadership as Chair of the Infrastructure Committee at the Ummah Society has been integral to the maintenance, development and expansion of the society's facilities. His dedication and strategic vision have transformed the society's infrastructure, ensuring it meets the community's needs for years. His tireless work and ability to navigate complex logistical challenges make him a true asset to the organization and a model of selfless service.



DISTRICT 13

COUNCILLOR NANCY HARTLING

Roderick Doane

Rod has been a dedicated volunteer firefighter for over 22 years with Station 52, responding to emergencies at all hours, including 160 calls in 2023 alone. As a multiple-time “Firefighter of the Year” and “Top Responder”, Rod’s selfless commitment, leadership and compassion have impacted his community through his life-saving work and support of local initiatives.

Kattie Misener

Kattie is a dedicated and passionate volunteer who has significantly impacted her school and sports community. As the chair of the Student Advisory Committee, a coach and a team manager, she demonstrates exceptional leadership, organizational skills and a commitment to fostering collaboration and unity. She motivates others to get involved and make a positive difference.

Teri-Lynn Rhyno

Teri-Lynn has been an extraordinary volunteer and leader for South Paw Conservation Nova Scotia, dedicating countless hours to rescuing and rehabilitating over 1,500 animals. Her efforts extend beyond animal care as she advocates for responsible pet ownership. She also builds strong community relationships and inspires a culture of volunteerism. Her selfless commitment has made a lasting impact on animal welfare in Nova Scotia.





DISTRICT 14
COUNCILLOR JOHN YOUNG

Saydee Beaton | Youth

Saydee is an outstanding volunteer whose leadership, positivity and dedication have impacted the Youth Leadership program. Her patience, kindness and strong work ethic have made her a role model for younger youth leaders and her commitment to the community has influenced others to join and contribute. Saydee’s work with camps, community events and her 121 volunteer hours demonstrate her true excellence as a volunteer.

Rick Burns

Rick has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication to his community. He chairs the Greater Hammonds Plains-Lucasville Remembrance Day committee, coaches his son’s baseball team and is a key advocate for community safety through the Tantallon Wildfire Life Safety Coalition. His selflessness and ability to unite people around shared causes have strengthened community bonds and made a lasting impact.

Jenna Kedy

Jenna is a passionate and selfless volunteer who has dedicated over 600 hours in 2024 alone to making a difference in her community. From organizing and staffing events to advocating for disability awareness, Jenna’s commitment to service is unwavering. Her work with organizations like Arthritis Society Canada, IWK and Autism Nova Scotia demonstrates her dedication to inclusivity and support for others.

Johanne Lohnes

Johanne has been a cornerstone of Suburban Football Club, selflessly dedicating countless hours to the club’s success while balancing her full-time job and family commitments. As the “Manager of Managers,” she has mentored dozens of team managers and organized life-changing trips for young athletes, fostering a culture of growth, collaboration and community.

Lisa Purdy

For the past five years, Lisa has been an invaluable Halifax & Region Military Family Resource Centre, serving as Treasurer and Chair of the finance committee. Her expertise in finance, transparent leadership and commitment to ensuring the organization’s financial health have had a lasting impact. Lisa’s dedication to supporting board members and strengthening the organization’s policies has helped secure a strong foundation for the future.

Nova Zhang

Nova has demonstrated leadership and dedication through her work with the Chinese Benevolent Association of Nova Scotia, organizing and promoting cultural events like the 70th Anniversary Celebration and the Chinese New Year Banquet. She has also made a lasting impact through initiatives like English Corner for new immigrants. Nova’s leadership, creativity and commitment have strengthened community bonds, making her a true changemaker.



DISTRICT 15

COUNCILLOR BILLY GILLIS

Batoul Al Mallah | Youth

Batoul is an inspiring volunteer whose compassion, resilience and dedication have positively impacted her community. From organizing fundraising events to supporting newcomers at the YMCA, Batoul's volunteer journey has been a testament to her deep commitment to helping others. She has also launched the "Hope in Every Can" initiative to provide resources and hope for those experiencing homelessness.

Bruce Colborne

Bruce has dedicated many years of volunteer service to the Lower Sackville community, motivating others to give back and fostering collaboration. As a leader in the Knights of Columbus Sackville Council, Bruce's teamwork and kind words have inspired many to participate in community initiatives, strengthening bonds and encouraging volunteerism. His commitment and leadership continue to have a lasting impact on the community.

Jen Donaldson

Jen is the founder and General Manager of the Nova Scotia Monarchs Baseball Women's Division, the first all-women's baseball league in the province. Through her leadership, she has empowered women of all skill levels to play baseball and step outside their comfort zones. Jen also coaches youth and advocates for inclusivity in sports, leaving a lasting impact on her community.

Mandi Louise Holness

Mandi has become an indispensable part of Parker Street, dedicating 749 hours in just four months to managing registrations, sorting donations and distributing food to those in need. Her unwavering commitment, tireless work ethic and passion for helping others have made a lasting impact. Mandi's exceptional leadership and compassion make her a true community builder.

Sean Kelly

Sean has been an unwavering force in his community for over thirty years. He dedicates hundreds of hours annually to coordinating the Nova Scotia Special Olympics event in Lower Sackville and volunteering with the Knights of Columbus. His leadership, kindness and work ethic inspire others to volunteer and contribute to local charitable efforts. Sean's service and dedication to community building make him an exceptional volunteer leader.

Jonathan Primack

Jonathan has been an invaluable volunteer at the Back to the Sea Centre for over seven years, bringing his expertise in graphic design, leadership and community building to the forefront. His contributions include redesigning the website, spearheading fundraising events and tirelessly supporting the centre's operations and initiatives. Jonathan's infectious enthusiasm, dedication and collaborative spirit inspire everyone around him.

Dani Squires

Dani has been an outstanding volunteer for the Mental Health Foundation of Nova Scotia since 2020, raising over \$50,000 for mental health programs and services across the province. She is a passionate advocate for mental health awareness and brain injury support, using her platform to end stigma and raise crucial funds. Dani's tireless dedication and courage in sharing her story continue to inspire and impact the community.



DISTRICT 16

COUNCILLOR JEAN ST-AMAND

Chiemeziem Achunike | Youth

Chiemeziem has made a remarkable impact through her dedication and commitment to community service. With over 210 hours of volunteering with Halifax Parks & Recreation, she actively fosters inclusivity and unity while taking on extra responsibilities to ensure the success of various programs. Awarded the Change Maker Award and Most Enthusiastic Volunteer, she continues to inspire others with her passion for making a positive difference.

Mohamed Aly | Youth

Mohamed is a dynamic and dedicated volunteer whose leadership and passion for community building have made a lasting impact. As a Camp Planner, Fundraising Assistant and Youth Committee Leader at the Sabeel Muslim Youth and Community Centre, he has organized impactful programs and raised essential funds. His tireless contributions to various organizations reflect his unwavering commitment to service, making him a true leader and inspiration in his community.

Sakina Jariwala | Youth

Sakina is a passionate and dedicated volunteer who has made a lasting impact in her school and community. As co-president of the RISE Club, she has led initiatives like bake sales for the IWK and the Salvation Army's Santa's Workshop while inspiring countless peers to take part in meaningful community service. Through her kindness, leadership and tireless efforts, Sakina continues to uplift those around her.

Sheila Bruce

Sheila has been a dedicated volunteer for over 28 years, serving in numerous capacities with St. Ignatius Catholic Women's League and Bedford Lionettes. Known for her efficiency and commitment, Sheila has selflessly contributed thousands of hours to her community, supporting organizations such as Beacon House and St. Vincent de Paul. Her leadership and unwavering dedication inspire those around her and impact her community.

Jonathon Frontain

Jonathon has made an incredible impact on the debate community in Nova Scotia, coaching and mentoring students for over a decade. His dedication to fostering public speaking and leadership skills through his work with K-12 students and university debaters has been transformative. Jonathon's leadership and contributions to the Nova Scotia Debating Society and Dalhousie University's debate team have left a lasting legacy.

Eileen Millett

Eileen's contributions to the Joseph Howe Elementary School community have been extraordinary. With over 2,500 volunteer hours, she has dedicated herself to supporting both students and staff, providing personalized academic support, fostering emotional growth and creating a welcoming, inclusive environment. Eileen's compassion and ability to adapt her teaching methods to meet the unique needs of every student have left a lasting and transformative impact on the school and the broader community.

Ian Ronaldson

Ian is an exceptional volunteer whose leadership has had a lasting impact on the Bedford Lions Club and the community. As Chair of the club's largest fundraiser – the Christmas tree lot – Ian has contributed over 200 hours annually, enabling the club to support numerous local charities. His innovative ideas and positive attitude have fostered a strong sense of community and volunteerism, making him an invaluable asset to the Bedford Lions Club.

Yao Yao

Yao is a dedicated community leader and volunteer whose impact transcends multiple organizations, including the Halifax West Liberal Association, the Chinese Society of Nova Scotia and Freemason Virgin Lodge No. 3. His leadership and commitment to fostering civic engagement, cultural connection and inclusivity have inspired those around him to participate in meaningful service actively.



VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



Sharon Arsenault

Sharon's volunteer work in the Musquodoboit Valley has spanned decades, enriching the lives of residents of all ages. From creating youth programs to supporting seniors, Sharon's leadership has led to lasting positive change in the community. She has spearheaded key initiatives, such as the PAUSE for Lunch program and the Well-Being Hub, while also leading fundraising efforts and supporting local organizations like Riverside United Church and the Halifax County Exhibition. Sharon's dedication, resourcefulness and deep connections with the community make her a true changemaker.

PROVINCIAL AWARD WINNERS

Sharon Arsenault

Rick Burns

Barb Charteris

Jonathon Frontain

Yasmin Hampshire | Youth

Layla Hussain | Youth

Valarmathy Kaliaperumal

Joyce Jiahuan Liu

John Macfie

Nick Yeomans

Group Awards



CATEGORY 1:

Community group with an annual budget under \$50,000

Joint Emergency Management (JEM)

Joint Emergency Management is a volunteer-driven program that plays a vital role in supporting the Halifax Regional Municipality during emergencies and disasters. With over 200 dedicated and highly trained volunteers, JEM provides crucial humanitarian support by operating comfort centres, offering essential services such as food, warmth and access to power. These volunteers also work year-round to promote emergency preparedness, educate the public and strengthen community resilience, ensuring that Halifax Regional Municipality is better equipped to handle crises.

CATEGORY 2:

Community groups with an annual budget over \$50,000

Halifax Meals on Wheels

Halifax Meals on Wheels has been a cornerstone of the community for over 55 years, delivering over 25,000 meals annually to residents facing food insecurity. With a dedicated team of volunteers, the organization provides nourishing, affordable meals to individuals of all ages and circumstances, ensuring no one goes without. From supporting seniors to addressing urgent food needs in times of crisis, Halifax Meals on Wheels plays a vital role in maintaining the well-being of the Halifax regional community.

CATEGORY 3:

Youth group

Abenaki Aquatic Club

The Abenaki coaches and youth paddlers who volunteer for the PaddleALL program exemplify dedication, inclusivity and creativity. Their work has provided a space for children and adults with intellectual disabilities to experience the joy of paddling, build confidence and form lasting relationships. Through their tireless efforts, the program has grown from a small group to nearly 40 participants, offering a welcoming environment that fosters community connection and empowerment.





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HALIFAX