

2011 Good Citizen Award Recipients

Gerald Ainsworth

Gerald has been a volunteer at the Herb Carroll 55 Plus Centre for the past 12 years including 8 as President of the Board of Directors. He has been involved in fundraising activities, special events and other initiatives for the Centre. Gerald has also been a director on his residential Condo Board, acting as President and Vice President and at West Thunder Community Centre where he also fundraised. He has been involved in his Church, St. Thomas Anglican, and has volunteered as Head Sidesman and Deputy Warden. In his earlier years, Gerald volunteered for community minor hockey as a coach and referee and as an umpire for baseball. Gerald also was an instrumental part of "The Old Fogies", a group of 6 who entertained thousands over 14 years at the senior homes in Thunder Bay.

Don Dafoe

Don has been a volunteer with the Port Arthur Curling and Athletic Club for 42 years. He has been instrumental in organizing the 'Loose End League', which is an afternoon curling league geared toward retired men. He is also involved in organizing the PACC Annual Stick Bonspiel. Don continually volunteers for projects under guidance of the PACC Building and Property Chair and spent a good part of the summer of 2010 doing carpentry work in the Club. Don is dedicated to providing a high level of performance in whatever he does. His dedication and commitment make him a truly worthy recipient of this Award.

Dawson Court Mass Helpers

This year marks the 30 year anniversary of the Dawson Court Mass Helpers volunteer group. Every week, all year round at Dawson Court Home for the Aged, this group of committed Roman Catholic volunteers porter residents to and from weekly mass, assist the priest by setting up the chapel for communion, read scripture lessons and help residents during mass. Without their assistance, Dawson Court would be unable to provide ongoing weekly masses for their residents. The significant contribution of the Mass Helpers will be marked by Dawson Court with a celebration in June.

Peter Hladyniuk

Peter has taught many youngsters and adults the sport of Shodokan-style Karate. For 44 years Peter has dedicated his time to the members of the Thunder Bay Karate School as an instructor, board member, mentor and advisor. Through his devotion over the years, 40 outstanding black belts have been attained under his instruction. In addition, Peter found time to volunteer at local running events and as assistant coach for the Westfort Hockey League for two years. Peter's

mentoring of people in the sport and philosophy of karate has produced many citizens that perpetuate the motto of peace over power.

Bill Horder

Bill has put his retirement years to good work in Thunder Bay. He has been on the Board of Directors for the Thunder Bay Prostate Cancer Support Group for eleven years. He chairs the Summer and Christmas Socials and Co-Chairs the fund-raising events. For the past five years he has volunteered at the Prostate Cancer booth at the 55+ Centre. Bill volunteers at the Wellness Clinic, Christmas Cheer and participated in the “Relay for Life” at Fort William Historical Park. He is in the choir at Corpus Christi Church, participating for the past 15 years in Sunday Services, funeral services and special events. For the past 12 years, Bill has volunteered with the two Grand Portage Senior 10-pin programs; the mixed program; men and women’s; and the men’s on a weekly basis at Mario’s Bowl. This past summer he volunteered with the World Baseball Junior Baseball Tournament hosts.

Phil Jarvis

Phil is in his 14th year of volunteering with the Northwest Ontario office of the Canadian Diabetes Association. Phil is a member of Thunder Bay & District Branch Executive Committee, and is actively involved as the Chair of the annual ‘Shoot for the Cure’ committee which has successfully run 10 sports/dinner auctions. He was involved in organizing the Lions Club coverage of one Beer store for the bottle drive campaign from 1995-2002; ensuring Lions funding for Camp Glucose Getaway, a Summer Camp for Children with Diabetes, and subsequently funding for children who wish to go to a Canadian Diabetes Association camp but are in need of financial assistance. Phil has been a member of the Thunder Bay Metro Lions Club since 1978 and has held the positions of Treasurer and President. He has been Zone Chair, leading Clubs in Thunder Bay, Armstrong and Grand Marias as well as the District Diabetes Awareness Chairman for Northwestern Ontario. Phil took the lead in ensuring that over \$5,000,000 was raised for the Vision Care Centre at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. He has been involved with the Lakehead Region Conservation Authority for over 20 yrs. He has been a Knights of Columbus member since 1983, Columbus Centre Chair, and has organized their spaghetti dinners for over 15yrs. An active member in his church, Phil has been the Chair of the Finance Committee for the past 15 years Phil also gives of his time to support the Arthritis Society by volunteering at their events. Through his many volunteering efforts, Phil Jarvis has made and continues to make a difference in our community.

Ethel Feaver

In the 1950s, Ethel volunteered with the South Neebing Winter Carnival as well as South Neebing Brownies and Guides. She also served on the South Neebing Community Centre Board and on the Planning Committee for the new Hall. Ethel has volunteered with Telecare Suicide Prevention and

Support for Depression and at the Smith Clinic, sitting on the Board of Directors and Planning Committee. In addition, for 30 years Ethel was an active volunteer with ALANON throughout Northwestern Ontario. During this time she was also on the Board of Directors for the Council for Positive Aging for Thunder Bay and District, assisting seniors with Income Tax, Old Age Security and other government services including hospital visits. Ethel was a volunteer for, and on the Board of Directors of the John Howard Society. Ethel is a most valued volunteer and is certainly worthy of this Award.

Frances and Vince Fragale

Vince and Frances have, over the past 10 years, raised \$300,000 for persons with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) in Thunder Bay through an event they initiated called the “Valentines Dinner Dance’. Vince manages the coin boxes and organizes the annual Cava Golf Tournament that gives financial support to the Chapter. He is also on the executive of the Italian Cultural Centre, and a fundraiser for St. Anthony’s Roman Catholic Church Holy Name Society and the Thunder Bay Chill Soccer team. Frances has had Multiple Sclerosis for 25 years. She has been on the MS Society Board of Directors for 15 years as Fundraising Director (and Member at Large for one year). She helped to establish the Lakehead University “Hoops for Hope” Women’s Basketball Tournament that supports MS research and in her more active years she volunteered for the Ladies Auxiliary of the Associated Canadian Travelers.

Dave Freeman

Dave has been volunteering in Thunder Bay for 20 years. He has volunteered with Camp Quality, Children’s Aid Society and Thunder Bay Area Victim Services. He also volunteers with the Fort William Rotary Club, selling tickets for Fort William Rotary Club House Lottery, preparing and serving meals at the Shelter House, Rotary Christmas Parade and Bicycles for Humanity. Through his over 1000 hours of service to many organizations, Dave has demonstrated his passion for volunteering and worthiness of recognition.

Linda Gambee

Linda has been Chairperson of the Christmas Cheer Fund in Thunder Bay for 15 years. Every year she overcomes the massive organizational challenges including fundraising, promotion, food collection, organization and distribution in order to provide food to many people and families in need in Thunder Bay at Christmas time. She has recruited an army of volunteers that returns year after year to assist in the organizing and distribution of the food hampers. Linda has touched the lives of many people and is well deserving of the Good Citizen Award.

Pat Gilbert

Pat has volunteered at Grandview Lodge for 22 years. He began volunteering with Life Enrichment Activities and later found his niche as weekly bartender. The residents enjoy Pat's companionship and appreciate the time he spends with them. He also volunteered in a musical group for five years at Pioneer Ridge. Pat is a truly dedicated volunteer.

Emilie Gosselin

Emilie has been a member of the Oliver Road Community Centre since 1999 as a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. She has been a willing volunteer and supported special events such as the Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Tea, the annual winter carnival, annual flea market and makes donations for bake table or canvasses for prizes. She also helps out at her Church by making perogies for them to sell. The Oliver Road Community Centre values the ongoing support Emilie has provided over the past 11 years.

Arlene Graham

Arlene has given the gift of music to the residents of Pinewood Court for the past six years, playing piano for special events. She has worked with the residents in the development of an intergenerational choir with School House Play Care Centre. The residents with Alzheimer's disease greatly appreciate the times that she plays for them. She also provides music for the 'getting to know you' teas for the new residents. Arlene's love of music and magic fingers brighten the days of Pinewood Court residents.

Pat Johnson

Pat Johnson has been volunteering with the West Thunder Community Centre for five years and has helped out in a variety of ways. Pat helps with the set up, clean up, and take down for cribbage, euchre and dinking programs for the 45+ club. Pat always sports a warm, friendly and welcoming smile for the other members and friends. Pat also partakes in other committee work with the church, the Scotts Tournament of Hearts, Magnus Theatre and the Lakehead Square Dancing Club. She also hosts a site for Food Box services. Her spirit of giving helps to make the Westfort community a safe, healthy, happy place to live. Pat exemplifies the term: "Volunteers make a Community."

Sharon Johnson

Sharon has overcome her own personal grief and loss to become a leader and spokesperson in bringing the issue of violence against Anishnabe women to the attention of this community and beyond. What began in 2005 as a walk of 20 people along Simpson Street and the Neebing McIntyre floodway has now evolved to a larger annual Full Moon Memory Walk in September. This

walk commemorates those Anishnabe and Metis daughters, granddaughters, and sisters whose lives have been lost to acts of violence. A member of Seine River First Nation, Sharon began this volunteer work as a tribute to her sister, Sandra, whose unsolved murder took place in 1992. She has been an active fundraiser and takes part in presentations and events at Lakehead University., Sharon also provides refuge to Anishnabe teens to make sure they are not left vulnerable to danger.

Eva Jones

Eva is a dedicated volunteer who works alongside the staff to provide programming for the clients of the Manor House Adult Day Program at St. Joseph's Heritage. This program is a day respite for individuals with a diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia living in the community. Eva started out on the Adult Day Program Advisory Board 10 years ago and is now a direct care volunteer with for the Adult Day Program. Eva brings comfort, joy and companionship to the clients attending the Adult Day Program. She has also served on the Board of Directors of the Alzheimer's Society for the past 10 years, currently serving as the President of the Board. Eva has also been an Honorary Chair of the Alzheimer's Society Thunder Bay Walk for Memories. Eva's dedication, compassion and ongoing care have enriched the lives of many clients.

Pat Kruger

Pat's leadership is evident through her role as President of Dawson Court Residents' Council as an advocate and fundraiser for the residents. Each year Pat raises thousands of dollars that are put toward outings and events for the residents by organizing penny auctions, raffles, and yard sales. The money raised through the Council has also supported many worthy charities such as the Finlandia Club restoration project, sponsorship of an athlete for the Special Olympics, Christmas Cheer, payment of H.A.G.I. for outings into the community and an ear flush system purchased for use by the nursing staff. Pat also serves on the Ladies Auxiliary, helping them to run the tuck shop, raise funds and organize special events for the residents. For Pat "volunteering means to donate willingly of your time, giving of yourself without expecting anything in return, except a smile."

Herpeet (Herp) Lamba

Herp is a former executive member of the Port Arthur Rotary Club; formed President of Leadership Thunder Bay; is actively involved in the United Way and is a fund-raiser for a number of community and youth organizations in the city. This past December, he again initiated a food drive for Shelter House, gathering more than a ton of food in the campaign. Herp is also very active in raising funds for the Boys and Girls Club, Children's Wish Foundation, the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Confederation College and Lakehead University. Whether it is a short term Campaign (United Way Billboard) or an extended volunteer involvement (Leadership Thunder Bay), Herp can be counted on to give 110% and inspire others to do the same. Speaking from the perspective of his dedication to Leadership Thunder Bay in the past three years, he definitely

“moves the needle” with his impact on the quality of life in the city and his role in growing our emerging leaders.

Anita McDowell

Anita has been a dedicated hospice palliative care volunteer with Hospice Northwest for the past five years. She has offered the gift of compassion and loving kindness to her clients at St. Joseph's Hospital. Anita has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to her clients and their family members. Anita can be seen sitting at her client's bedside talking with them, holding their hand, or giving them a much appreciated foot massage. Anita is also a member of the Hospice Northwest Volunteer Advisory Committee where she offers advice to staff in all areas relating to palliative care volunteer management. She assists with the screening of potential hospice palliative care volunteers wishing to join the agency. She intuitively recognizes in others the unique emotional and spiritual qualities one needs to be able to serve those approaching the end of their lives.

Kathleen Michalchuk

Since 2001, Kathleen has contributed endless hours of volunteer time to the Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group. For the past nine years on the Chaban Executive, she has served as the volunteer secretary, and performed many other tasks. Kathleen's forte is in photography, and there are few performances where you do not see Kathleen sneaking in to capture a great photo of dancers and events. Kathleen also volunteers outside of the group, for events such as the World University Service Canada (WUSC), University International Days, Safe Grad, and Thunder Bay Yacht Club activities such as The Bounty Tall Ship in Thunder Bay and the Women at the Helm Annual Race fundraiser for Breast Cancer. With her endless energy, patience, dedication and attention to detail Kathleen is certainly worthy of this Award.

Wendy Morgan

Although Wendy has been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS), she has involved herself in a number of volunteer groups, and has taken a leadership role in all of them. While on the MS Board of Directors she was responsible for public education for a number of years and later served as fund raising chair, highlighted by her running of the highly successful 'Carnation Campaign'. Wendy also served on the executive of Beta Sigma Phi, was a member of "W.I.L.D", (Women Independently Living with Disabilities) and was President of the Thunder Bay Highland Dance Association for 20 years. Wendy's positive attitude, gentle guidance and friendly smile exemplify her belief that "she has MS, but MS does not have her."

Jackie Najvar

Jackie has been volunteering with the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital for the past ten years. Utilizing her easy going, caring and patient disposition, Jackie interacts with and engages clients in activities, even those who live with severe mental illness. In addition to her regular volunteering, she also assists with many special events at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, including painting windows at Christmas, helping at special events such as garden parties. Jackie has also contributed by acting as an ambassador for mental health. She assists staff in educating the community about mental illness and advocating for community support and care for those suffering from brain diseases. Jackie's contributions are greatly appreciated by the staff and patrons of the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, who describe her as an "outstanding and valued volunteer."

Mary Rabachuk

Mary has been volunteering for St. Joseph's Care Group since 1995, and has been part of the volunteer team at Hogarth Riverview Manor for the past six years. Mary is a member of the Caring Hearts Palliative Care Volunteer team, assists with Spiritual Care Services by facilitating the Rosary Service weekly, and is a member of the St. Joseph's Care Group Auxiliary, volunteering as a sales clerk in the gift shop. At Hospice Northwest, Mary volunteers her time providing support to residents at the end of life, bringing hope, love and friendship to residents and family during a very difficult time. Mary has demonstrated she is committed, compassionate and caring, those she works with are proud to nominate her for the Good Citizen Award.

Ken Simard

Ken is Chairperson of the Northwest Senior Games and represents Northwestern Ontario on the Ontario Senior Games Board. Ken began volunteering at the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre 15 years ago. An enthusiast of euchre, Ken has organized annual euchre tournaments at the Centre as well as Fort William Historical Park. For the past 19 years, Ken has been 'Captain of the Hunt' for the Métis Nation of Ontario in Region 2 and has also served on the Thunder Bay Métis Council and the Lands & Resources and Consultations committees for the Métis Nation Region 2. Ken is greatly admired for his leadership ability and cheerful disposition.

Christine Stark

Christine has been the leading force in the drive to make Thunder Bay a hub for darts in Canada. She has traveled to many tournaments across Canada, promoting Thunder Bay as an excellent host for darts tournaments. Christine has served as the Thunder Bay District Director for the Northern Ontario Dart Association (NODA) since 1998, and has been on the Executive Board of NODA since 2001. She organized the Thunder Bay Open Dart tournament for 13 years. Thanks to her efforts, Thunder Bay is hosting the 2012 Canadian Youth Nationals, the 2012 Canadian Adult

Nationals and the 2012 Canadian Open. These events will not only attract people from across Canada, but the Open will host players representing many countries from around the world. Christine has proven she is a tireless and enthusiastic ambassador not only for darts, but for our community.

Arlene Veurink

Arlene and her family have been a Wesway Host Family for the past 10 years. During this time Arlene has supported many different participants, including some with extremely high personal care needs. As a Host Family, they have provided respite care for many families in our community. Arlene has said, "I love working with people, whether it's young children, adults or seniors. I appreciate the different dynamics that are unique to each family. I've had some really wonderful experiences working for Wesway, and they have helped me grow as a person." Arlene and family are shining examples of what it means to make a significant contribution to our community.

Terry Wainwright

Terry has been a committed volunteer with the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation for over five years. She comes to the office on a weekly basis, ready and willing to help any way she can. Whether assisting with database entry, raffle ticket sales or providing reception coverage, Terry can always be counted on to do a great job. Her cheerful and friendly attitude makes her presence a welcome addition to the office. Terry's dedication to improving healthcare in our community is inspiring and with her support, the Foundation has helped countless people receive the highest level of care possible.

Catherine Wallace

Catherine had been volunteering in our community for 69 years, predominantly in the field of music. She began singing in choirs as a child and still continues today at the young age of 85. She was choir director for St Andrew's Church throughout the 1960's and choir director for funerals starting in 1988. Although her eyesight is deteriorating, she continues to sing using large print or memorizing most songs. Catherine has found time to volunteer with other groups including Corpus Christi choir, Catholic Women's League (a recipient of their 60 year pin), Interlink Choir and The Saints singing choir. In addition, she is a life member of the Auxiliary to St. Joseph's Care Group. Catherine has made a significant volunteer contribution to our community.

2011 Spirit of Thunder Bay Award Recipients

Lorne Allard

Since the 1950's, Lorne has coached hundreds of children in the City. He coached hockey, football, little league baseball, boxing and track and field. Along with coaching, Lorne was instrumental in obtaining donated materials from local building supply companies for recreational buildings at: Castlegreen, George Burke Park, Kinsmen Northwood Park, Lakehead Canoe Club at Boulevard Lake and Fisherman's Park at Current River. He also had local contractors donate their services to build all these satellite recreational facilities at no cost to the citizens of Thunder Bay. Lorne's dedicated volunteerism is worthy of recognition.

Peggy Brescia

Peggy has been a dedicated, reliable volunteer at St. Joseph's Hospital for over 40 years. She brightened the patients' day with her genuine, caring personality as she went from room to room with the canteen and library carts. She presently assists with fund-raising by volunteering in St. Joseph's Hospital Gift Shop on a weekly basis. Peggy is also involved in fund-raising at Corpus Christi Catholic Women's League, and was one of the original volunteers for the Christmas Cheer Fund for the City of Port Arthur. Peggy, with her friendly and outgoing manner, is always willing to find time to help others. Peggy exemplifies the mission of St. Joseph's Care Group through her care, compassion and commitment to those with whom she works.

Wendy Ferris

Wendy, who has had multiple sclerosis (MS) for 43 years and is wheelchair dependent, has not allowed this to slow her down. Over the last 40 years, she has volunteered with the MS Society and other agencies mandated to improve accessibility for persons in wheelchairs. Wendy has been a continuous board member of the MS Society for 40 years—five years as Treasurer and for 35 years as Director of Public Relations. Wendy's colourful and cheery quarterly newsletters have kept members up-to-date on MS issues and events. Wendy was a member of the HAGI transit committee, representing wheelchair users, for 10 years. She also served on the City of Thunder Bay's Steering Committee on Accessibility for three years. Wendy's championing the cause of accessibility for those with limited mobility merits the Spirit of Thunder Bay Award.

Kelly Kadolph-Hilton

For the past 25 years Kelly has worked hard to garner youth participation in Scouting programs. She has been a major fundraiser for travel and other expenses for youth to attend The Scouting Jamboree. Kelly chairs her group and also heads various area events, including: Spring and Fall camp, Winter Games and Rapid Rally Races. She trains and mentors new leaders and encourages

the youth in her group to be involved in ScouTrees for Canada, Apple Day and Popcorn Sales. Her work with youth helps to create awareness of how to build a better community and inspires good citizenship.

Al Law

Al has served as Director of the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition (CLE) for the past 25 years. He has served as Associate Director and Vice President. He has been responsible for the Entertainment and Special Needs Committees during the Fair. Al has also served on the CLE Finance, Security and Agricultural Committees. By virtue of his longstanding work with such a staple of Thunder Bay, Al Law has proven he is well deserving of this Award.

Margaret MacLean

Margaret has been an outstanding advocate for the Thunder Bay Public Library. Her dedication and commitment to our library system has been evident as she has assumed leadership roles in chairing such committees as: policy and planning, the CEO search committee, strategic planning, and the fund raising committee for the County Park Library and the new Mary J.L. Black Library. Margaret has volunteered on regional, provincial and federal levels as well. She was Director of the Ontario Library Services North Board as Chair and Vice Chair. She served on the Ontario Library Association Board of Directors and Ontario Trustees Association as President and as Executive on the Council Canadian Library Association. In 1999 she received the Ontario Library Trustee Association's 'Trustee of the Year' and the Ontario Library Association's James Bain Medallion for distinguished service as Library Trustee. Margaret has volunteered on other Thunder Bay committees including: Cambrian Players theatre group, Arts in the Community Task Force and the Summer Games Cultural Committee. She is deserving of recognition in our community, especially for her work for those who use our library system.

Ron Ross

For over 30 years, Ron Ross has volunteered his time and efforts to improve the quality of life of persons living with disabilities. In 1980, Ron was the recipient of the Vanier Award for Outstanding Young Canadians for his community involvement in sports and activities for the disabled, including Chairing the Northwestern-Northeastern Summer Regional Games for the Disabled in 1979. Since then, Ron has been involved in a wide range of initiatives for people with disabilities. These activities include the Housing Standing Committee, multiple boards for the HAGI, Wilderness Discovery programs at Shebandowan Lake, Support Services Standing Committee, President of the Fish & Game Board, and as an advocate working with Citizens with Disabilities-Ontario and Canadian Citizens with Disabilities. In his current work with PUSH Northwest, Ron works to remove barriers to inclusion faced by people with all types of disabilities in Northwestern Ontario. As a leading figure in disability awareness and advocacy, as well as a longstanding volunteer, it is an honour to be able to recognize Ron with a Spirit of Thunder Bay award.

Elaine Sprovieri

Elaine has been a longstanding and reliable member of the Auxiliary to St. Joseph's Care Group for over 50 years. She has contributed countless hours assisting with fundraising events, including penny auctions, bake sales, jewellery sales and modeling for fashion shows. Elaine participates in all Auxiliary educational workshops and regional conferences. Most notably, Elaine has received numerous Certificates of Appreciation, Outstanding Service awards and a Life Member award from the Auxiliary. In 2009, she was one of three people to receive a Provincial Life Membership. Elaine's enthusiasm for fundraising and hard work is one of the main reasons that the Auxiliary's events have been so successful. She gives willingly of her time and has contributed greatly to the wellbeing of the clients of St. Joseph's Care Group.

Stella Stakiw

Stella is a long time member of Helping Hands Auxiliary to Pioneer Ridge Home for the Aged. She has served on the executive as President for 10 years. She was also on the Family & Friends Committee for five years. With her leadership, the group hosts the residents' annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations, Halloween parties, monthly Bingos, Mother's Day and Christmas Bazaars and an annual raffle. The Auxiliary also helps fundraise for HAGI transportation for outings such as shopping, baseball games and Conservatory visits. With her tremendous dedication, devotion and caring nature, she helps to provide a better quality of life for the residents of Pioneer Ridge. Under her leadership the successful fundraising efforts have led to the purchase for the residents of needed items such as the Neurogym Sit-to-Stand Trainer. Stella has been the Regional Chair of the Healthcare Auxiliary Association of Ontario for the past two years. She volunteers for St. Mark's Roman Catholic Church annual yard sale and also with the MADD Red Ribbon campaign.

Rob Thompson

Rob has been volunteering as a coach with Thunder Bay Minor Football (TBMFA) for more than 25 years. During these years he has represented youth football as a member of the TBMFA Executive Committee and is currently the President of Thunder Bay Minor Football. Under Rob's leadership Thunder Bay Minor Football has contributed to the growth and positive development of youth in Thunder Bay. Rob has taken players without any football experience and taught them how to be good football players, better athletes and outstanding individuals. The goal of Rob's coaching is not to win every game, but rather to always succeed. The importance of practice, but never at the expense of education and responsibilities, has always been stressed. Thunder Bay Minor Football has grown in recent years and had its best registration in the 2010 season. This is a direct result of the proactive and strong leadership provided by Rob. Rob sets an ethical, integrity-based example for so many young men in the community. Rob has made a significant contribution and has had a great impact on Thunder Bay community families and players.

Elaine Waring

Elaine has been a strong supporter of volunteer development in our community. Elaine served on the Official Recognition Committee for 25 and was instrumental in creating the Spirit of Thunder Bay Award. She also served on Sister Cities Committee from its formation in 1994 to 2010. She hosted breakfasts at her house for Sister City guests as well as pot luck suppers with dishes representing each country. She spent many hours ensuring that the cultural and historical sites of Thunder Bay were highlighted on every visit and personally escorted visitors to City venues. Elaine chaired the first All Sister City Festival in 2003, which involved delegates from every Sister City, and took place over five days, including the July 1st celebrations. She was a recipient of the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship for her volunteer work with Welcome Wagon, Jeux Canada Games, Thunder Bay District Health Unit and the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Elaine is deserving of the Spirit of Thunder Bay Award for her passion for recognizing the contributions and accomplishments of members of our community and for being an enthusiastic promoter for Thunder Bay.

John Zahn

John has been an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Thunder Bay since 1994. He has served as President of the Club and chaired a number of Committees over the past 16 years. John is past Lt. Governor of Division One (Northwestern Ontario) of Kiwanis International, Western Canada District. John also serves on the Board of both the George Jeffrey Children's Centre and the George Jeffrey Children's Foundation. He has been very active in fundraising for the new Centre. John has also been involved as a volunteer with Easter Seals, HAGI and the Lakehead University Alumni Association. Through his volunteering and leadership John has made a significant contribution our community.

2011 Youth Award Recipients

Ashley Bjorlund

Ashley has accumulated over 400 hours of community service throughout her time attending Superior High School. For the past three years she has been a coach for youth bowlers at Superior Bowladrome. She has also entertained several audiences playing violin for youth and parents at open houses at her High School. Her teachers are very appreciative of all the work she has done.

Matthew DeGagne

Matthew has been volunteering in the community for over six years. As a grade twelve student at St. Patrick High School, Matthew is dedicated to providing service and leadership to the City of Thunder Bay. Currently he is a volunteer at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Matthew has volunteered with: Elk's Minor Hockey, the Thunder Bay Youth Strategy Planning Committee, the Ontario Student Trustee's Association, the Thunder Bay Youth Action Council and the YouthScape project which engaged youth in renovating the New Hope Youth Centre. Matthew has many notable achievements in athletics, business, community and leadership, all of which have helped to build a better Thunder Bay.

Candace Ferguson

Candace has been a student and active volunteer at Sir Winston Churchill Collegiate Institute for over three years. She is very involved in organizing events to raise awareness about the schools Gay-Straight Alliance. In addition, Candace has also helped organize events such as Take Back the Night to help raise awareness of the group's objectives. Candace has also appeared in commercials to raise awareness of racial tolerance and acceptance. Candace is an active member of the Regional Multicultural Youth Council helping to spread awareness of services offered by the organization.

Stephanie Harri

Stephanie has proven herself to be a leader both in and out of the classroom at Westgate High School. Stephanie maintains an excellent academic record while boasting exceptional extracurricular achievements. Stephanie has volunteered with the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, leading several tobacco free youth initiatives and collecting student input on matters pertaining to youth. She is an active volunteer at Volunteer Thunder Bay Canadian Blood Services and the Lake Superior Ski Division.

Aisa Kuper

Aisa has been a determined, talented and generous member of the Kam Valley Fiddlers for over eight years. Aisa performs for senior citizens, at church functions, hospitals and many other events for the city of Thunder Bay. Aisa is a strong role model for young fiddlers at the Kam Valley Fiddlers. She shares her love of music with new, younger musicians, teaching them the basics and passing on her love for the music.

Brittany LaFontaine

Brittany has been an active volunteer at the Thunder Bay Therapeutic Riding Association for over two years. Brittany is always looking to help the riders. She works well with children, encourages them to ride the horses and take part in activities with the Association. She is a fundamental part of the Association and they are very appreciative of all the work Brittany has done for them and are looking forward to working with her in the future.

Vanessa Lyhtala

Vanessa is active volunteer at St. Ignatius Catholic School, boasting over 500 hours of community service in the Thunder Bay community. Vanessa has volunteered at Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario (B.I.S.N.O), Oliver Road Recreation Center, Murillo Fall Fair, Scouts Canada, Shelter House Thunder Bay, Easter Seals, Volunteer Thunder Bay and several church groups in the city. Vanessa has been very generous with her time in Thunder Bay and agencies she volunteers with are very appreciative of her help and support.