

2018 Good Citizen Award Recipients

Amanda Anderson

Amanda Anderson has touched the lives of many families in our community by dedicating more than ten years to Autism Ontario Thunder Bay and District. Amanda began as a volunteer and then became an awareness coordinator. She is now the chapter president. Amanda has gone above and beyond, committing many hours volunteering to ensure children and families are supported. She has acted as an advocate for families and children and built strong relationships with them. She has initiated and organized events such as Autism Ontario's annual awareness walk, the annual Christmas party, clothing fundraisers and the Zumba thon. She also acts as a liaison between Autism Ontario and various community partners. Amanda has become an invaluable asset to Autism Ontario.



Audrey Debruyne



Audrey Debruyne is an active and engaged volunteer with Club Culturel Francophone de Thunder Bay (formerly Club Canadien Francais) as a board member and now as president. For more than five years, Audrey has energetically created diverse projects and events to celebrate francophone arts, heritage and culture in Thunder Bay. She has developed numerous creative projects to include the general community in meaningful ways such as family fun days, concerts, games, Christmas suppers, the maple sugar cabin at Fort William Historical Park family day and many others. Audrey develops innovative activities and events to reach people of all ages and backgrounds to share and celebrate the French language. She has a talent for organizing people and recruiting volunteers to support these events. Audrey is a dedicated and committed volunteer, and Club Culturel Francophone applauds her contribution.

Dianne Eaton

Dianne Eaton volunteers at CNIB (Canadian National Institute for the Blind) as a sales assistant in the CNIB shop. She has faithfully dedicated five years and many hours to assist people who are blind or partially sighted to find products that will help with day-to-day activities. These products include magnifiers, talking watches, contrast sunglasses and other aids. Dianne is knowledgeable about CNIB's products and services and offers wisdom, patience and kindness to our clients. She always greets people with respect and a willingness to find the best solution for the person she is assisting. Clients and customers can always expect excellent customer service when dealing with Dianne who also trains other CNIB



shop volunteers and assists in other roles as needed. Dianne is a tremendous asset to CNIB's shop and front reception.

Big Band Klown Band



The Big Band Klown Band (formerly the Elks Klown Band) has been entertaining seniors and children in the community for eighty years and have been valued volunteers with the Life Enrichment Program at Hogarth Riverview Manor, a long-term care facility, for more than ten years. The band members share their passion for music and song, bringing the magic of music to our residents and to many others in senior homes in our community. The volunteers in the Big Band Klown Band dance with residents, sing to them individually on their birthdays, and most importantly make them laugh and smile. These talented musicians spend hours preparing and organizing their excellent performances. They play familiar tunes with a big band sound that encourages the residents to sing, dance and tap along. Everyone looks forward to the thoroughly enjoyable events that the Big Band Klown Band provide. Hogarth Riverview Manor is grateful to them for bringing music, laughter and joy to our residents.

Kelly Fettes

Kelly Fettes has helped Leadership Thunder Bay, a community-based leadership program, to grow and flourish during her tenures as director, vice-president and president. As president, she oversaw the largest graduating class in the program's history. Kelly was also a driving force behind the Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program, helping to lead the program to great success. As chair of the events committee, she has seen many event ideas come to successful fruition. As an example, Kelly's skills and innovation led the Turkey Drive which raised \$2,000. Kelly fostered Leadercast which is a fruitful partnership between Leadership Thunder Bay and the Chamber of Commerce. Leadership Thunder Bay values Kelly as an exceptional contributor to its goals.



Stephanie Fimognari



Stephanie Fimognari has been a mentor volunteer with the Children's Aid Society of the District of Thunder Bay for five years. She has been a constant support, companion and friend to two siblings, ensuring that they stay connected by maintaining regular weekly contact. Stephanie plans outings that engage the children in active, fun and healthy recreational activities. She has attended case conferences, inter-unit meetings and placement meetings providing valuable input and being an advocate for her charges. She is an exemplary volunteer who

has provided more than five hundred hours of service, and she is someone on whom the children rely. Stephanie has significantly improved the quality of their lives, and the Children's Aid Society is grateful for her commitment.

Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library

The Friends of the Thunder Bay Public Library celebrated their thirtieth anniversary in 2017. The organization was first established in 1987 as a grass roots volunteer, fundraising and advocacy group. Over the past thirty years, the Friends have assisted the library to refurbish and renovate the Mary J.L. Black Library, build a new Mary J.L. Black branch, build a new County Park Library and relocate this branch within County Fair Mall. Currently the Friends have two used book store locations which are volunteer staffed from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Friends have held numerous fundraisers and raffles over the years including Definition Quest, Computer Friendly Raffle, Dream Travel raffle and others. They have supported programs such as the Readers are Leaders program, a one-to-one early literacy program, and a home delivery service that brings books to library members who cannot physically visit the library. The Friends also assist by volunteering for library displays and events in the community. In the last thirty years, the Friends have helped the library system to innovate and grow, having raised and donated more than \$861,000. The Thunder Bay Public Library thanks and applauds the Friends for their support and dedication.



John Glazier

John Glazier has been a dedicated hospice and palliative care volunteer with Hospice Northwest and also a volunteer with his therapy dog Bella at Dawson Court and Pioneer Ridge since 2012. John has offered kindness, compassion and advocacy to those journeying through the end stages of their life-limiting illness. His commitment to his work takes him to people's homes, local hospitals and long-term care facilities where Bella often accompanies him so they can work their magic together. John and Bella's regular visits help those residents who are not able to spend time with their own pets or who would benefit from social interaction and stimulation. John also assists with presentations and is an eloquent public speaker, enlightening listeners about palliative care and the services of Hospice Northwest. He is willing to serve in any way possible. Hospice Northwest thanks and salutes John and Bella for their unique and special contribution to our community.



Jennifer Hill



Over the past twenty years, Jennifer Hill has volunteered with numerous charities and organizations including West Thunder Community Centre, Dragon Boat Race Festival, Benny Birch's Birthday Party and Thunder Bay Children's Festival. For the past five years she has initiated and developed the annual Mingle and Jingle with Santa which supports a different charity annually. The event has raised money for the Regional Food Distribution Association, PRO Kids, Precious Bundles, Friends of Olivia and Blessings in a Backpack. The events that Jennifer plans focus on creating memorable experiences for families and individuals. She always puts others first and has made a deep impact on our community through her dedication, commitment and involvement. Jennifer is an inspiration and model for good will.

Linda Hoard



Linda Hoard has committed a considerable amount of time to keeping our community safe through her involvement with Operation Red Nose and St. John Ambulance. For more than nine years, she has volunteered as a committee member, dispatcher, telephone operator and in-house manager with Operation Red Nose. Her dedication to ensuring the success of this important and vital program have benefitted the community by keeping the roads safe. Linda has also contributed her time to help with St. John Ambulance car seat clinics, trailer draws and other projects as needed. Linda is always willing to help and she works tirelessly. St. John Ambulance is grateful for her valuable services.

Veijo Holopainen

For the past twenty-two years, Veijo Holopainen has been a committed friendly visitor and walk-a-bit volunteer with the Thunder Bay 55-Plus Centre's support services program. Veijo has provided friendship and support to many homebound older adults in our community by visiting them weekly in their own homes to provide companionship. He shares social and leisure activities that help to decrease social isolation and loneliness in frail seniors. Veijo is always willing to do the little extras for people such as reading to his friend who is legally blind, bringing books from the library or visiting people in the hospital. His assistance also provides relief and support to the caregivers who are grateful for a much-needed break. Veijo has always been reliable, caring and dedicated to the people he visits. He is a valuable asset to our elder community.



Toni Hudyma



Throughout her fifteen years of service, Toni Hudyma has been a dedicated volunteer to Habitat for Humanity Thunder Bay. She has volunteered at the Restore, on the salvage crew and with the home builds. Her work at the Restore and on the salvage crew has assisted to effectively raise money for our cause. Toni has been instrumental in putting fifteen families, including thirty-seven children, into their own homes. She has helped to break the cycle of poverty by getting families into home ownership. During build season, Toni contributes many hours, volunteering five to six days a week. With fifteen home builds, Toni has developed an exceptional skill set that she uses as a team leader to teach new volunteers basic carpentry and construction. Toni is a dependable and committed volunteer who has made an impact on the quality of life of families in our community.

Jennifer Koval

Jennifer Koval is often quoted as saying that volunteering is not something she feels obligated to do; it is something she loves to do. She has been volunteering for many years with the Girls Guides of Canada, Precious Bundles, Wesway as a respite worker, the Catholic Women's League of St. Peter's Parish, the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation as secretary-treasurer, the Thunder Bay Museum and the Thunder Bay Health Unit. She believes in the importance of each of the charitable organizations for which she volunteers her time, skills and energy. Jennifer's optimism is infectious and her dedication to volunteering is exemplary.



Sandi Krasowski



Sandi Krasowski is well known in Thunder Bay as a journalist and photographer, but she is also an exemplary volunteer who works with children. At St. Anthony's parish, Sandi has led the Sunday children's liturgy and planned the Christmas Eve children's Mass for about twenty-five years. Every Sunday she is prepared with a craft for the youth and a lesson on the gospel. Sandi leads up to sixty children, encouraging them to love others and to give back to the community. She has touched the lives of many children who not only return every week to hear her teach but also come back to visit and volunteer many years after they have grown to be young adults. Through leadership and dedication, Sandi helps to nurture youth to become loving, caring and respectful member of society.

Lisa Laco

Lisa Laco has volunteered her expertise as a host and master of ceremonies for many community events and fundraisers for more than twenty years. As a volunteer emcee, Lisa has supported the annual Influential Women of Northern Ontario awards, the Thunder Bay Art Gallery's gala art auction, the International Festival of Authors, the Raag Rung Music Circle and many other events. She has also supported regional cancer care, mental health, the Thunder Bay Food Bank, Thunder Bay Victim Services and the Salvation Army. In her role as emcee, Lisa is able to guide proceedings over the course of the evening to ensure the success of the event. It is Lisa's preparation, her professional delivery and her confidence on stage that help many groups to achieve their goals. Lisa is generous with her time, supporting many organizations that work to improve lives in our community.



Lakehead Search and Rescue



Lakehead Search and Rescue is a volunteer-based non-profit organization with a group of dedicated volunteers who assist local police agencies in finding people who are lost or stranded. They have been serving the Thunder Bay area for more than fifty years. Lakehead Search and Rescue's forty plus trained volunteers are search ready and on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Members meet monthly and training is ongoing to prepare for mandatory provincial yearly examinations. Lakehead Search and Rescue is strongly committed to building a safe and healthy community, and safety and environmental education are at the core of all endeavours. Unit members provide training programs to various groups such as outdoor survival skills to aviation students at Confederation College and Hug-a-Tree and Survive presentations to young children. Their trained volunteers are providers of Project Lifesaver which helps to save the lives of wandering individuals who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, those with other forms of dementia and children with autism. Over the last few years, an extensive fundraising campaign has taken place and Lakehead Search and Rescue has raised enough to purchase a new mobile command centre that will increase its efficiency and better serve the citizens of Thunder Bay.

Isaac Neekan



Isaac Neekan has volunteered with the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre for 10 years. Isaac is a friendly visitor in the Renal Unit and throughout the hospital. His kind, gentle, patient, compassionate nature has surely helped many Indigenous patients and their family members from Northern Communities who are unfamiliar with our hospital and community. Isaac always makes himself available when hospital staff let us know there is a patient who would benefit from Ojibwe speaking visitor. Isaac has demonstrated his dedication to patient care in many ways over the years. Isaac is a valuable asset to the hospital.

Dean Oikonen

Dean Oikonen is a founding member of Zorya Ukrainen Dance Association and has volunteered his time for 21 years. Dean has held Executive positions, has studied to become a Dance Instructor and a Dance Choreographer and is also a Dancer himself. Dean is always very willing to assist another instructor if needed and lend a helping hand at the Studio when required. Dean is always ready to do the best job he can. Dean has taught all age levels with the dance school, including his peers. As an instructor he teaches and prepares dancers to perform with confidence and pride. Dean's choreography knowledge offers the necessary know how of Ukrainian culture and tradition.



As a dancer Dean performs with skill, expertise and showmanship. Dean's performances in Ukrainian Festivals have taken him throughout Northwestern Ontario, to British Columbia and the United States. He performs annually at Malanka, a celebration of Ukrainian New Years Eve, Ukrainian weddings, anniversaries and special events. He has been involved in performances such as Folklore Festival, Canada Celebrations and Senior's homes. He is an excellent role model for young parents and the young dancers he has instructed. His commitment and leadership has made the Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association grow into the successful dance group it is today.

Amanda Orr

Amanda has been volunteering with Wesway since 2012. As a Community Friend volunteer, Amanda has touched the life of an older woman who is unable to leave her home to get out into the community. They have developed a close bond and a wonderful relationship. Amanda has been, and continues to be, a constant part of this woman's life. She spends her time weekly socializing and providing companionship while her husband is able to go out and enjoy some respite.



Amanda's volunteer activities also includes the Children's Aid Society, Operation Red Nose and Grandview Lodge. In 2012, Amanda was involved with the International Student Volunteers, with the

KWO Modwola Conservation/Community Project in South Africa. Amanda is dedicated to human services and helping to enhance the quality of life for people.

Susan (Sue) Peever

Susan Peever has been a volunteer for Christmas Cheer Thunder Bay for more than 15 years. This charity is a large part of our community during the festive period and has touched the lives of many people every year. Susan gathers and sorts clothing and food items for the less fortunate. Susan has also donated her time Lakehead School Board groups, fundraising organizations, golf tournaments, donating her time for those less fortunate. Susan gathers all of the lost and found items from the public schools. She ensures that hundreds of articles are cleaned and then sorted. These items are donated to worthy causes, with a large portion going back into the elementary school system for children in need. She has also spent many years constantly gathering various items for our local shelter house. Susan always puts others before herself. Susan's dedication has made an impact on our community and to the many people she has helped.



Mary Poulter

Mary Poulter has been a vital member of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation board of directors and the finance and audit committee for nine years. She has contributed countless hours as a board and committee member, not only managing the foundation's investments but also sharing her personal battle with breast cancer. Her ongoing commitment to good stewardship of the dedicated funds of the foundation has proven how important she considers the trust placed in her. She continues year after year to manage the investments in the best way possible and plays a vital role on the board of directors. Mary has spoken about her journey with cancer at multiple events such as the Bachelor for Hope charity auction, the Luncheon of Hope and the Think Pink basketball game. Mary's management of the foundation's investments and her willingness to share her health story have been valuable assets to the foundation.



Kristine Quaid

Kristine Quaid has been a peer supporter with the Northwestern Ontario Peer Council, Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, St. Joseph's Care Group for five years. She offers peer support to others experiencing challenges with mental health and/or addictions. She makes herself available to anyone who needs to talk or needs support in their day-to-day lives. Kristine's 5,618 hours of volunteer time reflect her commitment and dedication. She builds relationships based on trust, care, understanding and acceptance, allowing peers to share thoughts and feelings. She is flexible and non-judgmental and she tries to connect members to community resources that

could offer further support. Kristine is provincial chair on the Ontario Peer Development Initiative. She is a member of the Client and Family Council and the Comprehensive Community Support Team with St. Joseph's Care Group. As well, she is a member of Health Quality Ontario, the Copeland Centre and Psychosocial Rehabilitation Canada. St. Joseph's Care Group is grateful for Kristine's exemplary work and dedication.

Ian Robson



Ian Robson has been involved with the Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps for the past fifteen years. He started as a volunteer commanding officer, and as a retired police officer he has been able to use his policing knowledge and experience to teach the cadets how to become positive role models in the community. Ian is involved with many cadet activities including public speaking. The new recruits might start out shy and reluctant to speak in front of their peers, but with Ian's help they gain the confidence to stand up and speak in a room full of dignitaries. Ian's quick wit and humorous approach have made him popular with the cadets. When Ian stepped away from the position of commanding officer, he joined the board of directors and in 2016 became chair of the board. Ian will help with the Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps 25th Anniversary celebration this year. He also volunteers with Heart and Stroke and the Power Sails Squadron. Ian is a well-respected member of our community and The Thunder Bay Police Youth Corps is appreciative of his valuable volunteer involvement.

George Romick



For more than thirty years, George Romick has willingly and extensively volunteered in our community. Many organizations have benefitted from his volunteer services. Since 1988 he has service in various capacities with St. John Ambulance, and he has been active with the Royal Canadian Legion for thirty-nine years. George has been a coach and/or convener with Grandview Recreational Hockey Association since 1996, and he has been with the North End Recreational Centre Soccer Association since 1988. He has been a beaver, cub and scout leader and coach at Volunteer pool. Through the Knights of Columbus, George assists with charity events and with repairs to church and cathedral bells. Since 2014 he has been an advisory member at the Thunder Bay Military Family Resource Centre. George has enhanced the lives of numerous citizens and influenced many youths to develop good citizenship, strong civic responsibility, life skills and a positive sports attitude. George has made an exceptional contribution to our community.

Reggie Shasko



Reggie Shasko volunteers in various ways for a number of organizations. Reggie was a Special Olympics athlete in the 1980s and he volunteers with other special needs people. For sixteen years he has helped with the Dew Drop Inn kitchen, welcoming volunteers with his favourite brewed coffee. For Summer in the Parks, he has distributed flyers and interacted with people for more than fifteen years. He has sung in the special St. Andrew's Roman Catholic church choir for ten years, and he has been an usher and greeter at Magnus Theatre for four years. At the Festa Italiana in midsummer he can be seen giving a helping hand to servers in the food booths. His photographic memory enables him to remember names, places, songs and stories so that he can entertain people and show them that he cares. Reggie's outgoing personality and willingness to help make him a valued and special citizen of our community.

Shirley Szychter

Shirley Szychter has been a member of Oliver Road Community Centre since 2008. She joined the ladies' auxiliary, has faithfully attended the monthly meetings and has served as vice president. Shirley makes perogies, meatballs and sandwiches and also works the canteen. She donates to the bake table and canvasses for prizes. She volunteers for special events such as the ladies' auxiliary spring tea, the annual spring and fall yard sales, the children's Christmas party and the annual winter carnival. Her cooking, baking, canvassing and board leadership are much appreciated. The Oliver Road Community Centre is grateful for Shirley's hard work and commitment.

Keith Taylor



Keith Taylor has volunteered extensively for the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) and also with the New Hope Dog Rescue, Our Kids Count and the Arthritis Society of Northwestern Ontario. At TBRHSC Keith is co-chair of the Patient Family Advisory Council, and he was instrumental in introducing "NOD," a protocol whereby when staff meet a patient they state their name, occupation and what they are going to do. Keith's dedication to "Patients first" and the NOD protocol have enabled TBRHSC to become the only hospital in Canada to be awarded a Leading Practice designation for patient and family centre care. Through New Hope Dog Rescue, Keith has united hundreds of dogs with new owners. He is also active with the Red River Rumble Show, a motorcycle event that raises funds for Our Kids Count. While Keith has been board chair of the Arthritis Society, the donation rate per capita has been the highest in Ontario. Keith is an exemplary and exceptional volunteer.

Janice Trush

Janice Trush has volunteered her time for more than twenty years to the sport of swimming in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario. She is a member of Thunderbolts Swim Club and volunteers as a meet referee, officials mentor and educator. Janice's achievements in the world of officiating for swimming has allowed the swim clubs of Thunder Bay and region to host swim meets to the benefits of the swimmers, coaches and other officials. She has been instrumental in swimming's popularity and swimmers' love for the sport as they experience competing in well-run meets. Janice has instructed and mentored many new officials, ensuring that all participants have a strong understanding of the sport and its rules. Janice's enthusiasm for officiating and sharing her knowledge is a vital resource for the next generation of competitive swimmers. Janice is an invaluable asset to the great sport of swimming in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario.

Olga Turk



Olga Turk has been a North McIntyre Recreation Centre volunteer since 1978. She organizes the ladies' auxiliary for perogy making to help support the centre. Funds raised from perogy sales help keep the recreation centre open. This activity not only raises funds for the centre but allow for other volunteers to come out and socialize with friends. Olga's volunteer involvement includes planning, organizing and implementing teen dances, 55 plus dances, New Year's Eve dances and the winter carnival. Olga does the pre-event activities and works hard in set-up and clean-up of events. Olga has just been re-elected as treasurer of the centre. The North McIntyre Recreation Centre values immensely all of Olga's work and tireless commitment.

Valerie Van Diest



For more than ten years, Valerie Van Diest has been volunteering at Hogarth Riverview Manor. She assists residents at meal time and in any other way she can. Valerie escorts residents to the salon, chapel services, the gift shop and the coffee shop. When there is live entertainment in the "town hall," she can be seen socializing with the seniors – singing, dancing and laughing. Valerie shares her precious gift of time every day by getting to know the residents and their needs. She ensures that the people she visits are happy and content. Valerie often spends much of her time with residents who have no other visitors. They appreciate the time and caring that she so freely gives. Her daily committed volunteer work contributes greatly to the quality of life of residents of Hogarth Riverview Manor.

Donna Veley



Long-term care facility Lakehead Manor celebrates Donna Veley for her innovative program called “Dinner with Donna.” Once a month, Donna prepares a home-cooked meal for ten to twelve residents. She buys all the food supplies, does the cooking and brings mouth-watering meals for the seniors to enjoy. Over the years she has cooked a great variety of homemade meals, but some favourites are lasagna, shepherd’s pie, liver and onions, jellied salads and many desserts. Each month, Donna asks a group of residents what they would like her to cook and then she decides on a menu, complete with salad and dessert. In coordination with the recreation department, the monthly date is set and the council room is decorated with tablecloths, napkins and centerpieces. “Dinner with Donna” is greatly appreciated by Lakehead Manor and is a highlight of the seniors’ lives.

Jonathan Watts

Jonathan Watts is active with the Lakehead Shrine Club, the Canadian Ski Patrol and the Masonic Lodge. For the Shrine Club he is director of past presidents and the equipment manager for the Shrine Club Cycos mini cars. At various venues in the summer, Jon drives the Shrine train to raise funds for hospital care for sick children. He has also worked at the annual Shrine Circus and many other Shrine fundraising projects. For the past eight years, Jon has been a first responder with the Canadian Ski Patrol and he is Past Master at Port Arthur Masonic Lodge 499 which supports the Child Identification Program and other activities. Jon has volunteered for the Christmas Cheer Fund, sponsored co-op students, participated in Eco Superior’s cause and helped with the annual Salvation Army kettle drive. Jonathan has truly given back to the community with exemplary volunteer work.



Susan Wright

Susan Wright has been a dedicated Our Kids Count volunteer since early 2012. During that time, she has contributed generously with more than four hundred volunteer hours. Her busiest role is serving as team leader for the Our Kids Count face painting team. In that role she regularly takes on many responsibilities at events around the community. She is a warm, positive and energetic leader to other face painters. Susan is particularly skilled at engaging the children who participate. She assists with anything that will benefit the Our Kids Count organization including fundraising, special events and assistance with the older children during the “Every Parent” group functions. At these functions, parents and care givers have an opportunity to take time for themselves in an adult setting to learn new skills such as cooking, child development, positive discipline and self-esteem. The Our Kids Count organization is very grateful for Susan’s extraordinary volunteer help.



2018 Spirit of Thunder Bay Award Recipients

Richard Carson

Richard Carson has been on the board of directors for the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Volunteer Community Corporation as secretary-treasurer since 1986. VON Thunder Bay Community Corporation raises funds to support VON's community support programs which help individuals to remain in their homes independently for as long as possible. The community corporation gives an annual grant to enhance and subsidize these programs and assist in developing new programs. Richard has raised awareness in the community of the importance of home and community health care programs, together with raising funds for support services in Thunder Bay and the district. Over the last thirty-one years Richard has also been a founding member of Girls Day Out golf event planning committee which has raised and contributed \$100,000 to VON programs. Richard is also a member of the Children's Wish golf tournament planning committee that works to grant wishes to terminally ill children. Richard's belief in VON programs has helped the organization to grow and become a strong and vital health care provider in our community.



Doreen Cummine



Doreen Cummine has dedicated her time as a volunteer with the Royal Canadian Legion and ladies' auxiliary in Thunder Bay and the district for thirty-four years. She is an active member and leader in various positions within the auxiliary. As president of the legion's shuffleboard club, she organized teams, made up schedules and managed the event. Her involvement has encouraged veterans, seniors, legion members and the public to remain active, to socialize and to develop new skills. She worked many years at the CLE and Superior

Shores Bingo to raise dollars for various Thunder Bay charities, supporting and improving the lives of many citizens. As convener of veteran funeral receptions, she has provided crucial support to grieving families. The Royal Canadian Legion ladies' auxiliary and the community of Thunder Bay are indeed fortunate to have received the benefit of Doreen's leadership, hard work and countless hours as a dedicated volunteer.

Michelle Cvornjck

Michelle Cvornjck is a committed, active volunteer for Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group. In the position of Assistant Artistic Director, Michelle is a patient, organized and positive influence in teaching teenagers and adults at weekly rehearsals. Michelle can be counted on to help with the dancers at community performances at senior and retirement homes, at Folklore and at Chaban's annual concert rehearsals. As a member of the executive, Michelle attends



monthly meetings, organizes annual dance workshops and participates in fundraisers. She has undertaken responsibility for Chaban's web site and has participated in the review process of Chaban's constitution and by-laws. She enjoys taking on new challenges as a teacher and dancer and helping the dancers in her classes learn new skills that will benefit them not only in Chaban but in their everyday lives. Michelle is committed to preserving Ukrainian culture and heritage. Through instruction and performance, she is able to keep the spirit of Ukrainian dance alive while sharing her passion with fellow dancers, students and audiences alike.

Sharon Dawson



Sharon Dawson has been a dedicated volunteer with the Alzheimer Society for sixteen years. She has held numerous positions on the board of directors, serving as director, vice president, president and past president. These positions help to monitor the effectiveness of the organization's programs and services as well as guide the organization to fulfill its mission. In addition to her time on the board and chairing committees, she selflessly volunteers her time at the Alzheimer Society reception desk on a weekly basis. She assists with incoming donations, mail-outs, client service, transferring calls and other office duties. Sharon has provided support to individuals and families in the community and has assisted at fundraising events. The Alzheimer Society relies heavily on donations in order to continue its mission and vision, so Sharon's contributions to each committee creates an impact on our existence. She is an absolute pleasure to work with, kind-hearted, genuine and reliable. Sharon enriches the lives of staff members, volunteers and clients alike. The Alzheimer Society is grateful for her outstanding contributions.

Larry and Lesley Fontaine

Larry and Lesley Fontaine have been volunteers with West Thunder Community Centre for more than twenty years. They have acted as a team throughout their volunteer service and are still very active. Together they have dedicated much of their free time to the centre in both leadership and volunteer work. They have held numerous positions on the board of directors. They have coordinated fifty-plus dances and fifty-plus programs. Larry has volunteered as a cleaner and is the "go to" guy for building projects. Both are long-term volunteers on the set-up crew for events such as the Christmas craft fair, Canada Day, corn roasts, special events and ongoing activities. Their contributions have helped the centre programs meet the needs and interests of the local community. West Thunder Community Centre thanks Larry and Lesley for their leadership, dedication and longevity of service.



Susan Jaward



Susan Jaward is a master gardener and has spent enormous amounts of volunteer time sharing her knowledge and skills with others. She is a board member of Master Gardeners Thunder Bay, the Horticultural Society, Trees Thunder Bay and Earth Care Community Greening Working Group. Susan has helped to promote the values of vegetation in Thunder Bay for more than thirty years. She was a founding member of Earth Care and Trees Thunder Bay. She participated in the first group of Thunder Bay's Citizen Pruners in 2010 and has volunteered to prune city trees every year since. Susan participated in the organization of National Tree Day with a tree planting in a Thunder Bay park. Through her endless commitment of volunteer time she has educated citizens about how to care for plants and why they are important. Susan's dedication has made possible a greater appreciation of the beauty and usefulness of the greenery in our city.

Denita Minoletti

Denita Minoletti has been the heart and soul of Special Olympics Thunder Bay for the past decade. Officially she serves the dual roles of treasurer and special events coordinator. She oversees all aspects of the complex budget including fundraising. She is responsible for arranging all travel for athletes and coaches to numerous regional, provincial and national games. Denita also organizes all special events for the athletes and plays a key role in volunteer and coach recruitment, orientation and training. Her leadership has been the catalyst for a 200 per cent growth in the number of athletes and volunteers since 2010. Beyond fulfilling her job description, Denita does whatever it takes to help. She recently drove to Fort Frances to deliver uniforms to athletes travelling to the provincial games. She has spearheaded numerous fundraising initiatives including the NHL alumni hockey game and Conquer the Fort Run. She is an important liaison with the Law Enforcement Torch Run. She is a fixture at many practices and competitions, and she organizes the spring and fall registration events. Denita does all this while working full time and raising her own special needs daughter. Denita's outstanding dedication to the Special Olympics exemplifies the generous spirit of volunteerism.

Katriina Myllymaa



From more than thirty years, Katrina Myllymaa has taken on many voluntary roles. Of Finnish heritage, Katrina coached children of the Reipas Sports Club baseball team and held various roles with the Lappe Nordic Ski Club, the 1995 World Nordic Championships and Lutheran Community Care. For the past ten years she has served on the executive and as entertainment chair with the Thunder Bay Naval Association. Katrina has also been a volunteer with the Royal Canadian Legion Port Arthur Branch 5. Her ability to socially connect with legion members, veterans and the community has helped make others feel welcome and encouraged

them to participate in various programs. Katrina is a strong and caring advocate of veterans and their families, and a competent and respected volunteer with many community organizations.

Warren Philp



Warren Philp is the co-founder of the Thunder Bay International Baseball Association which has twice hosted the Under 18 Baseball World Cup, most recently in 2017. This event contributed to a new passenger record for the Thunder Bay Airport and according to Paul Pepe, the City's Tourism Manager, "It was a strong summer for sport tourism in 2017 and the Under 18 Baseball World Cup was a contributing factor." Warren also founded the CAN-AM Baseball Instructional Clinic which has been running for fifteen years for players aged 14 to 19. Warren is also a current director of the Port Arthur Rotary Club. As a Rotary volunteer, Warren has served several terms as a board member in various capacities and will accept the position of president in 2018. He has volunteered with the United Way, the Chamber of Commerce and the Thunder Bay Senior Baseball league. Warren Philp is an outstanding volunteer who consistently displays dedication and leadership.

Brenda Reimer



Brenda Reimer has been a valued volunteer with Diversity Thunder Bay since 1991. She has been treasurer in the past and currently serves as secretary and communications officer. In 2003 Brenda brought forward the concept of developing a complaint resolution mechanism where incidents of discrimination could be reported, heard and tracked. She became chair of a working group to steer the project, and in 2017 the Incidence Reporting Initiative was launched and became a reality. Brenda has been a volunteer with Meals on Wheels for the past twelve years and Age Friendly Thunder Bay since its inception in 2009. She has volunteered with the United Way community capacity building committee and served on its steering committee. Brenda has volunteered with the Peng You Taiji Quan Association as treasurer for the International Forum on Taijiquan and as a proposal writer and member of the fundraising committee for the Moongate project in Marina Park. At St. Paul's United Church Brenda has served as chair of the board, chair of the transition committee and chair of the stewardship and outreach committee. She currently chairs the worship committee, plays in the hand bell choir and is part of the team for St. Paul's partnership with Keewatinook Okimnakinak secondary school support services. Brenda's services have included taking meals to isolated seniors, working with third world countries, providing leadership through Age Friendly Thunder Bay, working on the racism issue and welcoming new citizens to our city. Brenda makes an exemplary contribution to our community.

Elizabeth and Gerardo Sacino

Thirty years ago, Liz and Jerry Sacino started serving at the senior banquets at St. Dominic's Church. Ten years later they joined the seniors club and for the past seven years Jerry has served as president and Liz as treasurer. They have guided the social activities of the parish with their welcoming and friendly nature and have increased membership to more than one hundred seniors. With the help of others, they provide a venue where parishioners can come to play bocce ball, cards or bingo. Liz and Jerry convene Christmas and Mother's Day dinners and dances as well as luncheons. These activities are held in the church hall where Liz usually serves her homemade pasta sauce and meatballs. They also organize summer picnics and bocce ball tournaments. Any funds raised by these activities are donated to the church or other community charities. As an accomplished carpenter, Jerry also volunteers to build or repair items at St. Dominic's Church. Liz and Jerry provide leadership and organize special events that are much appreciated by the seniors of St. Dominic's parish.

Jo-Jo Sandberg

Jo-Jo Sandberg has been a valuable St. Joseph's Care Group volunteer for more than thirty years. Jo-Jo started volunteering as a meal time companion in 1985 at Bethammi Nursing Home, aiming to improve resident nutrition by actively encouraging residents to eat in a calm but sociable atmosphere. Her gentle approach provides positive dining experiences for the residents. Jo-Jo is also a therapeutic recreation assistant, providing support and helping residents and staff with recreation activities to increase their enjoyment of life. Jo-Jo not only volunteers at Bethammi Nursing Home but also entertains at both the Manor House and P.R. Cook Apartments. Jo-Jo's piano playing and singing provide the clients and residents the opportunity to enjoy a music program that enhances their quality of life. The participants respond favourably to her loving and caring manner and look forward to seeing her each week. Some of the participants have dementia, and when Jo-Jo is performing they are "in the moment," smiling, singing and clapping to the tunes they remember. Jo-Jo's talent and her friendly and outgoing manner promote the mission of St. Joseph's Care Group: care, compassion and commitment.

Pat and Henry Wielobob



Pat and Henry Wielobob have been host family volunteers with Wesway since 1999. Wesway provides respite services to people of all ages with disabilities. The responsibilities of ongoing twenty-four-hour care can be stressful and relentless. Caregivers need breaks to "recharge their batteries" while individuals being cared for also need to socialize, develop new relationships and gain or maintain as much independence as possible. Pat and Henry have touched the lives of many participants whom they have hosted over the years. Currently they are hosting an adult male who lives with his mother/caregiver. Since Pat and Henry sell homemade products at the farmers' market, this gentleman attends the market with them to help and to enjoy

a Saturday morning brunch. Once the market is over, they head to Pat and Henry's home where he might enjoy a movie and a snack. His mother says that not only are Pat and Henry a great help to her, but her son always looks forward to spending time with them. Pat and Henry have made wonderful connections with other caregivers and are described as easy-going and very caring people. They have made genuine connections with the participants and families while developing lasting friendships. Pat and Henry are valuable assets to the Wesway team.

2018 Youth Award Recipients

Kevin Bai



Kevin Bai has touched the lives of many young children as a helper, teacher and mentor. For the past two and a half years, he has been volunteering for the Lakehead Public School's International Heritage Languages Program every Sunday, teaching students from grade one through eight how to speak, read and write Mandarin Chinese. Kevin is developing a web site for the Thunder Bay Chinese-Canadian Association. This web site will have a great impact on the association by bringing together the Chinese community through a platform of communication and information-sharing. Kevin also volunteered at the Superior Science summer camp in 2015 where he helped campers participate in science activities daily for four weeks. Kevin endeavours to promote multiculturalism in Thunder Bay. His dedication to volunteer work has contributed to the education of children and youth in our community.

Thomas Brassard



Thomas Brassard is a grade twelve French immersion student at St. Patrick's High School. His many volunteer activities include work with Shelter House, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Staal Foundation golf tournament, Thunder Bay Minor Hockey Association, St. Anthony's Church "Children Helping Children" program, the Canada Games Complex and others. He also organized the "My # Make 150 Count Public Skating Event" with participants being encouraged to donate used hockey equipment to northern reserves and/or non-perishable food items to the Regional Food Distribution Association. Tom serves as a student trustee for the Thunder Bay District School Board, is a member of the Ontario Student Trustee Association and has participated in many programs across Canada such as Encounters with Canada and the Explore Program. Thomas has volunteered more than five hundred hours in the school and community and is an exemplary youth leader.

Abbie Houlding



Abbie Holding, through volunteering at Fort William Historical Park, showcases and preserves the unique cultural history of the region by learning, practicing and sharing heritage food, games and traditional crafts with park visitors. Abbie has volunteered at a number of Fort William Historical Park annual events including Haunted Fort Night, Canada Day, Voyageurs Winter Carnival and the Battle of Fort William. During the latter she engages and submerges visitors in the terrors of war during the historic battle tactics showcased at the event. Abbie's dedication to volunteering has inspired other youth to become engaged in the community, and her enthusiasm for our cultural history has contributed to the enjoyment and education of park visitors.

Allison Jones



Allison Jones is an exceptional community volunteer. She has served as the co-chair for the United Way of Thunder Bay's Youth Granting Committee. In that role, she planned and executed meetings with agencies within the community which demonstrated financial need. The funds raised were distributed to various agencies including employment services and local food banks. One area of special interest to Allison which benefited from this initiative was the Community Clothing Assistance not-for-profit organization. Allison has expressed that this experience has taught her both humility and profound appreciation for all that she has. Allison has been an advocate for the Student Voice throughout her high school career. She has been in positions of leadership in the Northwestern Ontario Secondary Schools Student Association. She was voted by the Student Cabinet to be one of eight executive members, specifically, Minister of Leadership Development. In this role, she selected 60 student leaders to run the annual conference. Allison has been an active community volunteer throughout her high school career, and is an outstanding candidate for the Youth Award.

Sarah Kajorinne

Sarah Kajorinne is a strong leader in her school and community and is dedicated to improving the lives and well-being of others. Since seventh grade she has used her musical talents to assist in organizing and performing at multiple events and fundraisers, raising more than \$20,000 for local and international charities. She serves hundreds of hours volunteering at Redwood Park Church, Shelter House, the Canadian Cancer Society, Urban Abbey and the United Way. She has also dedicated a significant amount of time as a spiritual care giver at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre where she is able to use her musical talents to bring peace and comfort to patients and their loved ones. Sarah is a vital member of her school community, advocating for others. She has been pivotal in the



development and coordination of a grade nine orientation program called “Come as you Are.” She is an executive member of her school’s government and has initiated, planned and coordinated events such as a community bonfire, fall ball and others. Sarah’s strong work ethic and dedication to the community through the arts and volunteer work have deeply enriched the lives of others.

Lahama Naeem

Lahama Naeem has dedicated herself to serving her community. She has volunteered hundreds of hours with the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre helping with the Elder Life program and in the pediatric ward. She has also volunteered for the United Way and Shelter House. Lahama is an advocate for youth, serving as a student trustee for Lakehead Public Schools. She works hard to be a voice for students who are marginalized or disengaged from school. As a young Muslim woman, Lahama has dedicated herself to raising awareness about the Muslim faith and combatting Islamophobia in our community. She is an active member of the Thunder Bay Masjid and Lakehead University Muslim Students Association. Lahama’s work has helped Thunder Bay to become a more inclusive and welcoming community which celebrates diversity.



Ishaan Sachdeva



Ishaan Sachdeva has been involved in the community in a multitude of ways throughout his three years in secondary school. He volunteered fifteen hundred hours of his time to the Canadian Cancer Society, the Children’s Aid Society, the Heart and Stroke Foundation and Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. Ishaan helped form a committee of dedicated teens when he heard that the Canadian Cancer Society was cancelling the Relay for Life. In response, he and his committee organized a Relay for Life at his school, Sir Winston Churchill CVI. Ishaan also demonstrated his leadership and dedication as a coach and mentor, and in his involvement in the Churchill student government. Ishaan is a model of youth leadership and commitment to community.

Hafsa Siddiqui



Hafsa Siddiqui has been volunteering for eight years with the Canadian Cancer Society, the Blue Sky Community Hearing Centre, Hope and the City and Frontier College. She began undertaking leadership positions at the age of sixteen when she joined the Canadian Cancer Society’s Relay for Life planning committee where she served for six years. As chair of the Rites of Passage project, she helped to organize youth-led cultural events designed to facilitate understanding and cross-cultural exchange between different groups in the city. Hafsa oversaw the erection of a traditional Indigenous teaching lodge at the 2017 Canada Day event. Hafsa

initiated, planned and implemented the creation of Do or Diabetes, an organization dedicated to helping diabetics living in the north to improve their personal management of the disease. Hafsa exemplifies the value of youth who are dedicated to community improvement.

Erick Werner



Erick Werner volunteers with the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre as an emergency department volunteer. He offers help and friendly visiting to patients in one of the busiest emergency departments in Canada. In addition to providing comforts such as pillows, blankets and refreshments to patients, Erick also provides assistance to the department's support workers, helping to distribute meals and providing other help such as making splints. Erick has demonstrated his commitment through his two years of service, faithfully reporting for weekly scheduled shifts and completing volunteer training. He is a valuable asset to the hospital's emergency department.