

2012 Good Citizen Award Recipients

Pinewood Court Ceramics Group

The Pinewood Court Ceramics Group consists entirely of volunteers working together for over 30 years. Pinewood Court is the only long-term care home in Thunder Bay with its own kiln which has been used to make wonderful ceramics. The ceramics have been entered in the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition and won many ribbons and awards. The programme is a great form of socialization for the residents, gives them skills and a sense of pride. The Ceramic Group volunteers have, every Thursday morning, over the 30 year period, potted residents to and from the craft room, brought treats for the residents and helped to set up for the session. The dedication of these volunteers will be recognized at Pinewood later this year.

Linda Bruins

Linda has been the driving force behind Evergreen: a United Neighbourhood since 2005. Linda has won such awards as the Women of Distinction Award, PARO Volunteer of the Year and PARO Volunteer Service Award. Linda is a leader and has the ability to gather people around her to help out in a way that they always feel like they are important part of the action. Linda is the kind of leader we need more if in Thunder Bay and is richly deserving of this award.

Hubertine (Tina) Bucknell

Tina has particularly benefited our community through her fundraising efforts on behalf of the Thunder Bay Museum. The funds have helped the museum complete major renovations to the building and to provide ongoing educational programmes for children and adults. The money has also allowed the museum to create stimulating exhibits within the building and special exhibits that travel across the city and district. Tina has dedicated over 2,000 hours on various raffles and many hundreds more as a bingo volunteer and on the board and committee work for the museum. She has somehow found time to volunteer with the Oliver Road Recreation Centre, the Thunder Bay Community Bingo Association and the Royal Canadian Legion, where she has been a member for 49 years.

Bev Chesterman

Bev is the best known as a "behind-the-scenes" volunteer who has contributed for more than 15 years to helping members of the Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group promote Ukrainian culture in the local community and on performing trips. She brings her expert seamstress skills and boundless energy to many details of costuming and props as a member of Chaban's Costume Committee. She is known to all for driving around town with her sewing machine in her back seat. Bev has spear-headed various fund-raising events for Chaban including Christmas raffles

and aluminum-can recycling. She is also involved in promoting the Ukrainian Easter Tradition of "Pysanky" by helping with preparations and promoting the annual event. For more than five years, Bev was an active member of the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League of the Church of the Holy Protection, helping to organize activities such as teas, socials and yard sales. Bev was also a member of the Thunder Bay Weavers Guild and used her organizational and sewing skills to promote the craft and its activities in the community.

Margaret Crowe

Margaret's caring personality encourages people to participate in programmes and makes them feel welcome at the West Thunder Community Centre. As a Board member, her skills are invaluable as she strives to make the facility accessible to all age groups in our community. Over the past 16 years Margaret had donated her time to the 50+ Club attending many meetings and organizing fundraising events for the club. Margaret has given and continues to give freely of her time and expertise for the betterment of the Community Centre.

Val Dennison

Val is a valuable member of the Renal Unit team at Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre. She has been volunteering as a friendly visitor for the past 11 years and has contributed over 7,500 hours of service. Dialysis treatments take a number of hours to complete and Val is there to sit and listen to their stories and engage them in conversation to help pass the time. She often helps them during mealtime and gets things they might need such as a snack, or a warm blanket or something to read. One staff member summed up what Val means to the Renal Unit and that was "patients just love her."

Deborah Escott

Deborah became a palliative care volunteer with Hospice Northwest in 2005. Since then, she has been a supportive companion to many individuals as they've journeyed through the final stages of life-limiting illness. Deborah has served as the volunteer representative on the Board of Directors for six years and on the Volunteer Advisory Committee, where she performs a liaison function between volunteers, staff and the Board. With her superb intuitive and kind, compassionate nature she assists with the screening of potential hospice palliative care volunteers wishing to join the agency. Deborah's ultimate goal of excellence in client services is clear in everything she does. Deborah's dedicated volunteerism is worthy of recognition.

Grace Esquga

Grace has been volunteering at School and Church for 40 years. She serves as Director at Kateri Parish. She organizes and hosts Kateri Days two times a year, usually on weekends. Grace travels to surrounding communities to give talks. She visits people from communities that are in Thunder

Bay Regional Health Science and St. Joseph's Hospital. She invites family members who accompany patients to Thunder Bay, to service and lunch at Kateri on Sunday and Mondays. Grace loves to help her people anyway she can and is well deserving of an award.

Elizabeth Gobel

Liz has put her heart and soul into volunteering for the past 16 years at the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. She started in the canteen in 1995, assisting patients to make purchases and listening to their many stories. Later, Liz began assisting the Therapeutic Recreation staff with weekly recreation activities. While Liz continued to volunteer at the LPH, she took on an additional role assisting the recreation staff at St. Joseph's Hospital. She continues to volunteer weekly at both sites. Liz has overcome numerous obstacles in her life and still enjoys helping others. Liz is committed to her volunteer role, taking the bus several times a week so she can help others. Liz personifies the spirit of volunteerism with her welcoming smile and selfless concern for others.

Rauni Griffiths

Rauni has been a member of Northwood Park Church of Christ since 1965. She has been leading a monthly team from the church to volunteer at Shelter House since 2001. She has been involved in planning the meal menus and assigning and supervising the other volunteers in preparing of monthly meals at Shelter House. Rauni has also been involved in the leadership of kitchen and cleaning matters at the Church. In the mid 90's Rauni volunteered monthly with the Dorion Bible Camp. Rauni, at age 80, through her continued volunteer contributions, is worthy of this award.

Rosemarie Hakansson

Rosemarie has been a member of the Oliver Road Community Centre Ladies Auxiliary since 1999. She attends the ladies Auxiliary monthly meetings, volunteers her time at special events such as the Ladies Christmas Tea and Winter Carnival. She helps by donating baking, making sandwiches and perogies and canvassing for prizes for the events. She also volunteers her time at fundraisers hosted by the Centre which help to purchase necessary items to keep the Centre open. Rosemarie's dedicated volunteerism is worthy of recognition.

Marguerite Littleford

Marguerite plays an important role in the operation of the Herb Carroll 55 Plus Centre as a member, past secretary of the Board, front desk hostess, tea server, pancake breakfast helper and special event assistant. Prior to her active involvement at "the Herb", Marguerite served as an executive board member with the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre. Her involvement at both Centres goes back at least 15 years. She began volunteering with McKellar Hospital and the MS society. Marguerite can be counted on to pitch in enthusiastically and confidently and the Herb Carroll Centre is lucky to count on her as a volunteer.

Dave Lysak

Dave has been a long time member of the Port Arthur Curling and Athletic Club for over 30 years. He has dedicated many hours of service, on behalf of the club, towards many events within the club. He has been the driving force behind the Port Arthur Curling and Athletic Club and the city's most successful club bonspiel. His dedication in making the annual Superbowl Bonspiel a fun-filled spiel with emphasis on sportsmanship has been admirable. Dave has also worked tirelessly to keep major sponsors returning year after year. Dave has also volunteered in the year-end staff bonspiel that brings together staff, volunteers and sponsors. Because of these contributions, Dave Lysak is deserving of this award.

Theresa Matijasic

Theresa began volunteering 20 years ago with Hogarth Westmount Hospital, in Spiritual Care. When the Hospital closed in 2004, she continued volunteering and assisted the clients with the move to the new Hogarth Riverview Manor. long term care home under St. Joseph's Care Group. Theresa volunteers, as Eucharistic Minister and Canadian Women's League, with St. Dominic's Parish and Hospice Northwest, who provide end-of-life care and support to residents, family and staff. She also volunteers for Red Cross and the Arthritis Society.

Bill McCracken

Bill had started the Kelly McCracken Memorial Golf for Hope 15 years ago. This prestigious tournament is in memory of his son Kelly, and has supported golf, hockey, education and health care in our region. The tournament has brought together golf teams and received praise for the longest drive. For hockey, the tournament has raised funds for the Thunder Bay Kings to develop sportsmanship and teach teamwork for our youth. The Kelly McCracken Memorial Golf for Hope has supported Confederation College in their support of Excellence through the Kelly McCracken Scholarship Fund. It also supports the Trauma Fund in memory of his son Kelly. The tournament has supported the former Northern Cancer Research Foundation now the Northern Cancer Fund of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Foundation. The investment in our community totals over \$814,000. This year is the 15th and final McCracken Golf for Hope. Bill has engaged many of his staff at MyTravel Thunder Bay, friends and business partners throughout Thunder Bay. The success of this tournament is due in no small part to the small army Bill mobilizes and the community spirit inspired in everyone it touches.

Bobbi McFadden

Bobbi has been volunteering for over 30 years with St. Joseph's Care Group and St. Joseph's Heritage, Bethammi Nursing Home. She is an active volunteer, sharing her musical talents at St. Joseph's Manor House, PR Cook apartments and Bethammi Nursing Home, as well as playing the organ for chapel services. Bobbi is also a meal companion, assisting residents with their

meals. She volunteers for St. Joseph's Care Group Auxiliary, selling Nevada tickets, helping to fundraise for the St. Joseph's Care Group Foundation. She promotes the values of St. Joseph's Care Group with her care, compassion and commitment to service. Bobbi is a most valued volunteer and is certainly worthy of this award.

Carole Ann Romppai

Carole has been a dedicated hard working volunteer at the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre for over 13 years. Someone has to do the less glamorous but very important tasks, and this is where Carole comes in. She works very hard in the kitchen area, washing all the dishes during her shifts. She is even willing to pick up extra shifts when needed. For many years, Carole has also helped out at the annual fundraising blitz. Over the years, Carole has volunteered with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Arthritis Society and the Canadian Cancer Society. Carole is an outstanding and valued volunteer.

Melissa Stolz

For over 10 years, Melissa's volunteer efforts have touched many lives through her involvement with the Russian and Ukrainian cultures. She tries to involve children in many activities such as dance, daily school events and just keeping them active and healthy. As the artistic director, Melissa has taken her own Russian dance group to many venues such as long term care homes, the Folklore Festival and many schools throughout Thunder Bay. She is the head instructor of two classes in the Chaban Ukrainian dance group. Melissa is also an active volunteer for St. Patrick's church as a reader and a Sunday school teacher and is a worthy recipient of the Good Citizen Award.

Jean Suffak

The Thunder Bay community has been privileged to have Jean volunteer within multiple organizations in the Thunder Bay community. For the past six years, Jean has been involved with the Recreation & Culture Division taking part in every annual festival: Teddy Bears Picnic, Canada Day, Kite Festival and PRO Kids. She has also volunteered as the Co-Chair of the 2011 Special Olympics. With over 700 volunteers, it was Jean's responsibility to coordinate the largest amount the Games had ever seen. With enormous amount of time and commitment, Jean's main role was to train, prepare and ensure that the staff was ready. Jean has spent time with St. Peter's church for over 10 years. Her leadership and her dedication to Thunder Bay is the definition of a Good Citizen.

Anne Teschke

Anne has been a volunteer in the healthcare industry for over 20 years. She began volunteering at the Hogarth Westmount Hospital in. When the hospital closed in 2004, she continued her

commitment with the new team: St. Joseph`s Care Group, Hogarth Riverview Manor. Active in her community she is also involved with St. Domenic`s Church as a Eucharist Minister. Anne is also a provider of end of life care for residents and their families. Her dedication as a caregiver and volunteer exemplifies the meaning of “Good Citizen”.

John Trevisanutto

John has become very well known for his vast array of community projects and fundraising. John is in partnership with Our Kids Count in launching the beginning of a community project that will establish a new kitchen for Thunder Bay and will provide a place for individuals that may not have facilities to cook. Children will also have the unique opportunity to learn basic cooking skills through a peer program and High school students will be recruited to provide a positive role model for children. John has been a member of the Thunder Bay Planning Committee for the last five years, loaning his Half-Way Motors boardroom for the Planning Committee meetings. He has also been one of the enthusiastically active ambassadors for the 23rd Provincial Harley Owners Group Rally held in Thunder Bay. John`s organization of volunteers to help promote the rally, the City and the touring route at the Minneapolis Show is greatly appreciated. He has also helped create his own charitable event, Motor and Muscles that takes place at the end of August. The proceeds went to the Thunder Bay Regional Science Foundation for the first few years and now to the Canadian Diabetes Association for the last three years. John led the Halfway Motors/Nissan corporate team to the Rome Marathon (Team Diabetes) in March 2007. John and his team raised over \$55,900 for the Canadian Diabetes Association. He has become active in an advocacy capacity with the Thunder Bay Expo project team sharing his experience as a person with diabetes as well as a business owner. He attended National Leadership Forum in Ottawa in December 2009. Through his volunteering and leadership John has made a significant contribution to our community.

Bert Winterburn

Bert has been active volunteer for over 30 years. He is one of the most dedicated and knowledgeable in the volunteer community. Bert is an expert in period authenticity and military history. Volunteering at numerous events over the years, Bert has made his own indelible stamp, impressing visitors at Fort William Historical Park with his willingness to share his considerable knowledge, demonstrating his talents with black powder and period crafts. Bert has demonstrated remarkable versatility, in portraying both a period soldier and heritage artisan. Bert has provided 30 years of dedicated volunteer service. He has the reputation of being dependable, reliable and cooperative. He has always been readily available when his talents are required, especially lending his hand to a colourful musket salute, often at short notice for VIP visits. Bert is an important member of the volunteer community at Fort William Historical Park.

John Beverly Young

John has been a member of the Lakehead Shrine Club for over 25 years. He is also a member of the LSC Stop Burns Injuries Committee. John's contributions include presenting safety presentations with regard to Fire safety and prevention and Burns safety to multiple groups, schools, organizations and surrounding communities. He has also served as an elected and appointed director of the Lakehead Shrine Club. He is credited with creating a pocket- sized membership directory including information on the Shrine Club, their programmes and by-laws. He has also served as President, Vice-president, Director and is currently the Treasurer of the Lakehead Shrine 101 Patrol Unit. John has been contributing a column for the Khartum Kronicle, a magazine that is sent to all Shriners in Northwestern Ontario and Manitoba.

2012 Spirit of Thunder Bay Award Recipients

Jeanne Adams

Jeanne has been a dedicated, reliable volunteer for over 40 years. She provides valuable services at Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital, Red Cross Disaster Services, Health Promotion with Canadian Cancer Society and the Therapeutic Riding Association. Jeanne is a curling instructor for Adults and School Children. She also volunteers at Redwood Alliance Church and Hospice Northwest, in Hospice unit at St. Joseph's Hospital. Jeanne is well deserving of this award.

Bernie Baxter

Bernie was active in St. Andrews Roman Catholic Church as an alter boy, in young peoples, an usher and a lector. He served on the finance committee for a number of years. Bernie was involved in one of the early campaigns to enhance the Dew Drop Inn facility adjacent to the church, as well as spearheading a successful fundraising programme which resulted in significant improvements to the facility. He is a 60 year member of the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Group #1130 and a member of the Knights of the Round Table at St. Margaret's Church. Bernie has held various offices with the Port Arthur Rotary Club since becoming a member in 1974. He has served as Secretary, Treasurer and President of the Club. He was a long-time Chair of the Port Arthur Rotary's Foundation Committee which saw tens-of-thousands of dollars donated to the Rotary International Foundation. Bernie organizes a Christmas luncheon for members and their families providing a great opportunity for fellowship. He has worked on political campaigns at all levels of government. Bernie's involvement with his church, Knights of Columbus and Rotary have benefitted countless people in Thunder Bay.

Irene Brooks

Irene has been an exceptional, dedicated and reliable volunteer at St. Andrew's Dew Drop Inn since 1987. She has worked countless hours to feed the hungry, men, women and children for over 24 years, and continues to do so, on a regular basis. Irene began with a volunteer group from St. John's Anglican Church, of which she is an active member. When members of her group decided to retire after many years of service to the Dew Drop Inn, Irene simply would not quit. She rounded up friends and family members to take on the regular commitment formerly fulfilled by her Church group. Irene and her family and friends are still active volunteers at the Dew Drop Inn.

Steve Dychko

Steve has been involved with the Prostate Group for more than 17 years. He has served in many roles on the board as a director, Vice President and President. The Prostate Group provides awareness, support and friendship for people. This group touches the lives and helps save lives of fathers, brothers, sons, uncles and grandsons. The Group has many socials, fund-raisers and meetings to promote health awareness. Not only does Steve give of his time to the Prostate Group, but he also belongs to the Polka Pals who plays music and bring smiles and memories to senior citizens confined residences. The music seems to move the people and lighten hearts. He belonged to the Polka Pals for over 20 years. Steve is dedicated to his causes and they rely heavily on his participation.

Ellen Eickmeier

Ellen has been a committed and dedicated volunteer on many committees and on the Auxiliary to St. Joseph's Care Group, for many years, scheduling volunteers for ticket selling in the Nevada Booth, and organizing the Benny Birch Birthday Days. Other organizations in which Ellen volunteers are: St. Margaret's CWL, Royal Order of Moose, Port Arthur Branch since 1953, Scouts Canada, Bingos for Northwestern Ontario Sports Hall of Fame, Branch 5 Legion Auxiliary. She did fundraising for Legion, Sports committee, to send children to summer camp. Ellen loves to make people happy.

Kay Geravelis

Community Centres were established in locations where the neighbourhood residents could meet for recreational and social purposes. The Vale community was identified as an area with a need for such facility. Kay was not only involved in establishing the Centre, but continued to help create programmes and events for the community. Such events focused on fitness, hobbies and general knowledge. She also helped organize community wide events, most notably the Christmas parties for the children. Kay has been an executive member of Vale Community Centre since it was established in 1974. She was selected President of the Ladies Auxiliary during the inaugural election of the Volunteer Committee. The Ladies Auxiliary fundraised for new

appliances and kitchen cupboards by making perogies and catering at events and activities. Over the years, Kay held many positions on the Vale Board of Directors, including President. Her dedication to the Centre continued when in 1993, the City of Thunder Bay reorganization resulted in the loss of the staff person at the Centre. Not willing to see the doors close or programming suffer, Kay volunteered to become the Hall Manager. She was now responsible for the programming that the Centre would offer. Kay worked with the Recreation Division to keep the doors open and ensure there were activities available for the community. With over 35 years of service to the Centre, it is easy to understand why Kay was nominated as a “Life Time Member” of the Centre, an honour she shares with only one other individual.

Cliff Huber

Cliff has volunteered from 1962 to the present with many organizations in Thunder Bay to build a better community. His leadership and dedication have been evident in a variety of roles: committee /board member-Retired Teachers of Ontario District & Political Action Committee for 10 years and chair for eight; City’s Age-Friendly for Seniors Committee, Centre for Education and Research on Aging and Health at Lakehead University, Lakehead Social Planning Council, ARC Industries and Co-Chair of Citizens’ Committee for Nursing Homes. His involvement in these organizations has led to advocating for the elderly, encouraging local control for local nursing homes as non-profit organizations. This resulted in the project CEISS being given to St. Joseph’s Care Group by the Minister of Health in 2008. Cliff has coached a variety of sport teams (100 teams overall over a 32-year period). He volunteered his time in political campaigns over a 30-year period, and for the last 16 years, he has helped beginners and seniors with computer and internet skills. He has canvassed for the Cancer Society and taught English to immigrants at the Ontario Hospital. Cliff’s achievements and dedication to volunteering have helped to create a better place for seniors and all citizens in Thunder Bay.

Doug Martin

For 42 years, Doug’s community involvement has touched the lives of many and he has introduced many young citizens to the world of volunteerism. In his early years in the Kiwanis Club, he was involved with the Key Club at Westgate High School which provided skill building opportunities for students. Doug was also heavily involved in the PlayKare Centre which was a Youth Head Start Program. Doug has demonstrated great leadership by serving as Club President as well as District Governor of Western Canada. He has supported many athletic programmes in our City including coaching and umpiring little league baseball and minor soccer as well as coaching badminton and volleyball and officiating at swim meets. Over the years, Doug’s many volunteer commitments (too numerous to mention here) have touched the lives of citizens from all walks of life resulting in making Thunder Bay a great place to live.

Dr. Morris Mymko

Dr. Mymko has provided care to many patients and their families in Thunder Bay and the region. His current work in retirement is to support the Adolescent Mental Health Program at the Health Sciences Centre. It's hard to believe that someone retired is on the unit at 7 am each day. Dr. Mymko is a tireless advocate for the care of these unknown patients and their families. He is also a tireless volunteer of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Foundation, celebrating his 20th anniversary as a volunteer this year. He is an integral part of the organizing committee for the Thunder Bay Regional Golf Classic. This tournament has raised over 320 thousand dollars in support of excellence in health care. Because of this group of volunteers, our Health Science Centre is equipped with state of the art equipment. Dr. Mymko also sits on the board of directors where he offers invaluable perspective to grants, funding and the family care grants programme. These two programmes ensure due diligence for the disbursement of donor funds to programmes of the Health Sciences Centre. He offers physician perspective as the group is largely comprised of lay people. He is an advocate for all areas of health care and gives freely of his time. These committees rely heavily on Dr. Mymko's input and insights.

Robert Neff

Roberts' interest in volunteering began in coaching 43 years ago. It continued at Lakehead University with swimming instruction for adult residents of the Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital. Because of his keen interest in history, he did freelance writing for Lakehead Living. Robert served on the Board of Directors of the Thunder Bay Historical Museum Society for 16 years and as President from 1986-1990. He researched and authored extensive papers on Dr. T.S.T. Smellie and the Reverend Gron Morgan, published in the Museum Society "Paper and Records", and for many years edited "Today in History", a collection of historical happenings gleaned from the Chronicle Journal archives. Robert began a volunteer project, "Faces in Focus" with Portrait Photographer Dennis Hill, which involved photographing and authoring short biographies of interesting individuals in all walks of life. In 2004, Robert was named Honorary Life Member of the Society. In 1996, Robert was recruited to volunteer with the Thunder Bay Special Olympics as a Track and Field Coach for athletes of all ages with intellectual disabilities. He has been and continues to be involved with the Special Olympics locally, provincially and nationally for 22 years. He is highly respected across Canada and in 2008 was named 'Coach of the Year in Ontario'. Robert volunteers with WesWay and is involved with the Sports Trivia Dinner, a fundraiser for the Catholic Development Centre. Robert, through volunteering in his quiet intellectual manner, has endeared himself to thousands of individuals of all ages, in all walks of life in Thunder Bay, Ontario and Canada.

Cathy Paroschy Harris

Cathy has led the Artistic Direction for the Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group for over 25 years. She has brought Thunder Bay years of entertainment at Folklore Annual concerts, performances at

senior homes and local events. She has inspired young leaders to train as teachers, teaching thousands of dancers, youth and adults with beautiful choreography and themes. Her annual concerts are not only entertaining and beautiful but culturally and traditionally remarkable. Her dedication and commitment makes her a truly dedicated recipient of this award.

Normand Roy

Normand has put in thousands of hours as a member of the Board and President of the Thunder Bay Gymnastics Association, leading it towards financial stability and a permanent home. Normand's leadership style and dedication to the Club have helped it through many difficult issues. With his calm, quiet demeanor, Normand is able to lead the Board of directors as well as a salaried staff with very little conflict, and has put the non-profit club on a solid financial base. Normand has volunteered with the Fort William Skating Club, is on the Board of the Police Foundation programme at Confederation College, and has served as President of the Parents' Council for Ecole Secondaire Catholique de La Verendrye. He has volunteered with Crime Stoppers, helping to plan and execute Christmas visits to the Hospice unit at the hospital. Normand has spent a great deal of time giving to the community of Thunder Bay and is well deserving of this award.

Gord Soloway

Gord has been a dedicated volunteer since 1993, with Big Brother-Big Sister Association. He was a big brother to a child in need of a positive male role model. He still keeps in contact with him. Gord helped in development of the agency. He has been an active member and served on Board of Directors, as treasurer, vice president, and member of various committees, such as finance and fundraising. He is the chair of the agency screening committee, from 1995 to present.

Gordon Allen Towill

Gord began his volunteer activities at a young age at Wesley Church. He has been a member of the church choir for many years. He was appointed to the church's governing body (session) and held positions of chair of Finance as well as Chair of the Property Committee at various times while on the Board. He has been involved in fund-raising activities in strategic planning on the green team to implement various improvements to the church infra-structure, and as Congregational liaison with the City of Thunder Bay Planning Division and Parking Authority re neighbourhood development. Gord was also involved as a leader with the 16th Fort William Scout Troop. He participated in the provision of weekly programmes for youth which centered upon education, badge work and physical activities. Gord has also been volunteering with the Sports Hall of Fame since 1993. He was responsible, in large part, to a number of activities relating to the Hall of Fame's relocation and renovation project. Annually, he assists with the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies by designing, constructing and installing the wall used to unveil the Hall of Fame plaques. In recognition of his contributions to the Sports Hall of Fame, he has received 5,

10 and 15 year service awards from the Government of Ontario. Gord's volunteer activities have contributed to the betterment of our community.

William (Bill) Donald Towill

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Joanne Tulloch

Joanne was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis 30 years ago. She felt there was a great need for a support group for people newly diagnosed with MS and those that were living with the disease and needed ongoing support. She organized and acted as a support group facilitator for the last 20 years. She connects newly diagnosed patients with mentors and organizes speakers for the monthly meetings and generally helps you feel welcomed. She has approached various speakers from doctors to pharmacists to nurses with an interest in MS to speak to her group. Joanne is the go-to person to find answers about drugs and life style changes as well as living with the disease. She has also organized teleconferences of guest speakers to help MS groups in Dryden and Kenora. She keeps her group updated on the latest information on drugs and procedures. Joanne is still giving 100% to the MS Society to help beat this disease.

Jules Tupker

Jules is an active volunteer with the United Way of Thunder Bay for over 20 years, serving as a Board Member, Campaign Team Member, twice a Campaign Chairman, and member of various United Way committees. In these capacities, Jules not only helps to govern the United Way and lead it into the future, his efforts has helped offer programmes that build a healthy community. Under his leadership as Campaign Chair in 2007 and Campaign Co-Chair in 2011, the United Way surpassed the set goals collectively totally \$4.7 million dollars! These funds assist

27 agencies and 66 programmes! Year after year, Jules goes “above and beyond”, tirelessly working with campaign staff and fellow volunteers searching out new employee campaigns and corporate leaders, at the same time educating our community about what the United Way is and does. In addition to all his volunteering at the United Way, Jules is also involved in many other charitable organizations and committees in our Community such as: Coalition, Thunder Bay Clean, Green and Beautiful, Thunder Bay Injured Workers’ Group and Advisory Committee for “Lake Superior Discovery Place”. He volunteers for the Regional Food Distribution Bank and is a Board Member of the Thunder Bay Food Bank. Jules’ tireless efforts and dedication over the years have touched the lives of thousands in Thunder Bay.

Karl Wahl

Karl has touched the lives of many in Thunder Bay, due to his kindness and caring nature to help those in need. His voluntary services with the Rotary Club of Thunder Bay Fort William for the past 25 years and was President in 2002 & 2003. He also served as Rotary District Assistant Governor for two years. Karl was a member of MEMO (Medical Equipment Modernization Opportunity) helping to dismantle old McKellar and Port Arthur General Hospitals, preparing surplus medical equipment to hospitals in Cuba and the Philippines. The Programme sent over 40 containers of medical equipment to the two countries. He served on the Cystic Fibrosis Chapter for 30 years and Cambrian Players for 40 years. He prepared taxes for seniors for nine years and was a member of the Interlink Choir (an intergenerational choir that bridges the gap between seniors and school children who sing together). Karl is also the treasurer for the choir. Karl is well deserving of the Spirit Award.

Barb Williams

Barb has participated for 33 years in fund raising for the Heart and Stoke Foundation which ultimately assists in the services and education provided to Thunder Bay from the Foundations. Barb is also involved with The Mission to Seafarers an organization that reaches out to sailors from around the world, making them feel at home in Thunder Bay. As a volunteer, Barb visits the ships and takes the seafarers shopping and site seeing in Thunder Bay which not only brings revenue to the city but provides a positive and warm image. She is currently the sole woman visitor to the seafarers. Barb’s dedication is also involved in Camp Gitchigomee where she interacts with the young people ages 7-20. She is a role model in living her Christian beliefs and has assisted older campers in dealing with challenges. As chair of the ACW, Barb has worked diligently to ensure that the elderly members of the group have transportation to the meetings, which allows them to stay in touch. Barb is always willing to take on new roles and challenges.

Wilma Wood

Wilma, through her various positions at the Oliver Road Community Centre, has been a driving force behind the programming and opportunities that have brought people through the doors. She

has managed the programming and has planned special events such as the Community Tea and Winter Carnival. Wilma's effort has created a location for a community to flourish. Oliver Road Community Centre has been Wilma's second home for over 35 years. In the Centre's early years, Wilma was a dedicated volunteer on their Board of Directors. In 1979, the Centre was relocated into an entirely new facility. After a few years, Wilma became President of the Centre and has been ever since. The Centre has thrived off her strong conviction, determination and work ethic. Wilma has also spent countless years as the Hall Manager, a position she still holds. Through her work, the Centre provides a wide variety of programs for the public to participate in, as well as continues to be a popular hall for wedding receptions, parties, socials and other community gatherings. One community gathering worth noting is the Annual Winter Carnival, which is celebrating its 66th year, an accomplishment in which Wilma has played a pivotal role. As much as Wilma has done for Oliver Road Community Centre, she has also helped guide all of the Community Centres. Being a long time member and Treasurer of the Community Centre Council, Wilma has been a mentor for all of the Volunteer Boards at each Centre. She has provided ongoing support, and has been an invaluable resource to all Community Centre volunteers.

2012 Youth Award Recipients

Branden Bevilacqua

Branden has contributed over 220 hours of community involvement since 2008. He has served as a youth coordinator at Fort William Historical Park and has made many contributions in multiple areas and activities at the Fort. Brandon is an ambassador to everything that is Fort William Historical Park, and his passion to explore the past to enhance the knowledge of its visitors is something not many are able to do. His knowledge and passion for his community and its heritage is not lost on anyone that visits the Park. His research doesn't end there. This past summer Brandon expanded on his research on local medicines. His strong understanding of history and culture showcases his dedication. If that isn't enough he volunteers at many of the Fort's special events including his participation as a soldier in Fort Under Siege.

Emma Cousineau

Emma exemplifies the spirit of volunteerism. Naturally talented and possessing a willingness and passion for service; Emma's contributions have been largely directed to the youth of our community. She is considering post-secondary studies dedicated to help and touch the lives of youth and those in need. She has completed over 900 volunteer hours at many different organizations: assistant cabin leader and lifeguard at Round lake and Dorion Bible Camps; nursery worker and Sunday School Teachers at the Fort William Baptist Church; server, Dew Drop Inn; assistant baseball coach, Current River Community Centre; fund-raiser for a variety of organizations. Through music, sports and church events, Emma has shared her time and demonstrated to youth the importance of giving back to one's community.

Gerrit Wesselink

Gerrit has accumulated nearly 1,100 hours of community involvement which ranges from instruction at Soengkono marital Arts, ECO Superior and in other areas such as politics, culture and the environment. He is President of the Youth Services Advisory Committee and Chair of the Youth Week Planner. Gerritt is a dedicated Thunder Bay volunteer.

Mac Demchuk

A current first-year student of Lakehead University, Mac began volunteering for the United Way and Evergreen: A United Neighbourhood, where he was one of several youth to organize free-skate nights and drop-ins for youth in the Simpson-Ogden area, as well as volunteering with SortsnMore activities, Career Fall Festival, Winter Carnival and movie nights. Through this work Mac joined the Thunder Bay Youth Strategy where he is one of the Youth Co-chairs for the Steering Committee, as well as a member of the Strategy's Education Pillar, working toward improving student engagement in schools, Mac is a real leader and role model for his peers.

Sanna Agombar

Sanna Agombar – 258 hours of community service is quite an accomplishment for a Grade 11 student at Superior Collegiate & Vocational Institute. Her volunteer contributions range from Stage Crew at the Magnus Theatre, assistant basketball coach with Kakabeka Falls baseball, food preparation with Our Kids Count assisting with the Finlandia Club and LU radio.