

2017 Good Citizen Award Recipients

Leigh Abthorpe



Leigh is a fantastic contributor to the interpretive and heritage programs at Fort William Historical Park (FWHP). She provides continuous support to many FWHP events. One example is the Haunted Fort Night where Leigh prepares and provides refreshments during this event. Leigh also participates in historical re-enactments, such as The Great Rendezvous and Fort Under Siege. Leigh is a member of the Neebing Voyageur Brigade which promotes the preservation of fur-trade history through presentations and demonstrations within Thunder Bay and surrounding areas. Leigh began volunteering in 1989 and since then has not only augmented the day-to-day interpretive program but also fulfils crucial functions in many successful FWHP events such as the Winter Carnival. FWHP is proud to nominate Leigh for the Good Citizen Award.

Gerald (Jerry) Chony

Jerry has been a member of the Zorya Ukrainian Dancers as Secretary/Treasurer for 19 years. He uses his design and computer knowledge to keep the dance school finances in order, create the annual concert program and posters, and to assist teachers with their music. Jerry also does the regular maintenance and upkeep at the dance studio. As a result of his efforts, the dancers are able to: perform at local charity fund raisers, share the Ukrainian Culture within our community, and support local events (e.g. Canada Day Celebrations). By sharing his talents, Jerry's involvement has helped bring the Zora Ukrainian Dancers too many community events within Thunder Bay. His dedication has definitely provided Thunder Bay with a meaningful voluntary contribution and the Zora Dancers are blessed to have him as an integral part of their organization.



Michael Conway



Michael is a valued volunteer with St. Joseph's Care Group. He has volunteered as a Friendly Visitor at St. Joseph's Hospital and is currently a Mealtime Companion at Bethammi Nursing Home. Michael joined the volunteer team at Hogarth Riverview Manor to assist residents moving from the City of Thunder Bay's Homes for the Aged to their new home at Hogarth Riverview Manor. He has served on several Boards of Directors including the position of President of the Thunder Bay Big Brothers Association, Crossroads Centre Inc., Wesway, Catholic Family Development Centre, Junior Achievement of Thunder Bay and Corpus Christi Parish Council. Michael continues to be an active volunteer, committed to both St. Joseph's Care Group and Corpus Christi Church Food Bank. This past fall, Michael assisted residents living at Bethammi

Nursing Home with completing Client Satisfaction Surveys which help to improve the care and services residents receive.

Roz Cox



Roz Cox has been volunteering with Wesway for the last 15 years. Roz is not afraid of a challenge. She provides respite to an adult with significant challenges whose needs are extensive and can exhibit behaviours others might find difficult to cope with. While Roz provides respite, the family/caregivers are about to take a rest from care giving. The family often tells me how much they appreciate Roz and the time the family has to themselves to reconnect and recharge their batteries.

Because of Roz, the family takes this opportunity to spend time with the other children and enjoy their hobbies and activities that come sometimes be difficult to do with their family. Roz is a retired teacher for children with special needs. She gives her time and expertise as a host family volunteer. Roz has been specifically requested as a host family volunteer to a child whom she worked with in the school setting, teaching her socially appropriate behaviour. Roz has made a real difference in the lives of not only the participant she hosts, but also the participant's family and caregivers.

Ken Crooks

Ken has been a dedicated volunteer for the George Jeffery Children's Foundation for 14 years contributing hundreds of hours to support and promote the Foundation. He has assisted in organizing various fundraising events, from Car Shows, to Soapbox Races, Car Raffles, and Family Fun Fairs among others. Ken has strongly been involved in the Patrick Sharp Hockey Raffle dedicating much of his summer delivering and selling tickets. In addition, he is the first volunteer on the course for the Hometown Hero's Children's Charity Golf Classic. As a member of the Lakehead Antique Car Club, Ken recruits fellow members to volunteer their time for the Foundation. It is volunteers like Ken that enable George Jeffery Children's Foundation to successfully raise the necessary funds to assist the George Jeffery Children's Centre in fulfilling its mission to enrich the lives of children and youth in our community with special needs. Ken is most worthy of receiving the Good Citizen Award.

Elaine Curtis



For over 30 years, Elaine Curtis has been volunteering with the arts and crafts program for the Canadian Lakehead Exhibition. She is responsible to contact local craftspeople and to organize the demonstrations in the Dove Building. This is a very large undertaking that Elaine works at throughout the year. She also volunteers with the Current River Food Bank, contributing time, money and food as well as hand-made crafts. The people of this area also know Elaine for her efforts at the Current River United Church where she helps organize teas, bazaars plus other fund-

raising activities. Elaine has dedicated many years of her life in the service of others by driving to meetings, picking people up, getting to events early to set up and leaving late to take things down. No matter what is required, she is there to lend a hand. Thunder Bay benefits from the many contributions people make. Elaine volunteers her time and energy because she loves our city and its citizens. She is an asset to our community and is an excellent example of what a good citizen looks like.

Diane Delin

Diane has been a dedicated and professional volunteer at the Alzheimer Society for 16 years. As a family support volunteer, she speaks directly with clients and care partners. She works closely with people who are going through difficult situations and her professional and respectful demeanor have a remarkable effect on clients, staff and caregivers. Diane spends hours making hundreds of phone calls to clients, assists in fund-raising events such as Walk for Alzheimer's, and the annual Coffee Break Campaign. Diane acts as an ambassador within the community to bring awareness of the disease and to reduce the stigma associated with a diagnosis. Her selfless generosity has made a difference at the Alzheimer Society and, by extension, the City of Thunder Bay.

Theresa Furick



Theresa Furick has been an executive member of the Slovak Legion, Branch 129, for over 20 years and the Ladies Auxiliary from 1986 to the present. She regularly visits Legion members who are hospitalized, in Nursing homes and shut-ins. These visits mean a lot to these people and their families. Theresa also works at the Legion's popular spaghetti take outs held twice a month and organizes other catering committees. She goes out of her way to help people. Theresa is always willing to lend a hand.

Jim Green



Jim has been a member of the Board of Directors at the Thunder Bay 55 Plus Centre for seven years, currently serving as its President. He has spearheaded a number of new initiatives, the most recent being the upgrading of technology throughout the centre. One example is the display of information (e.g. programs, cafe menu), on television screens instead of print on paper. Jim has worked tirelessly to bring a new inventory and cash register system online for the centre gift shop. Jim and his wife came in on weekends and evenings to input the entire inventory into the new system. Jim has also trained all the volunteers on using a new touch screen cash register. Jim has shown his commitment to the centre in his role as President and in various ways. He is just an email away when help is needed. Jim's tenure with the 55 Plus Center is far

from over and everyone is excited to see what his next idea might bring. Jim is very deserving of the Good Citizen Award.

Scott Harris

Scott has been a volunteer with Our Kids Count for close to 15 years. He was on the Board of Directors for 9 years when he stepped down to devote more time to environmental issues. He is never far away as he continues to help in various ways in site assistance doing various repairs, selling tickets to support OKC fundraising efforts and helping to maintain the building. He actively works with other community committees, helping to increase awareness regarding environmental issues. Scott was a driving force behind the Roots of Empathy program in Thunder Bay. Scott remains on the local Thunder Bay Roots of Empathy Coalition which he has chaired for several years. He is working diligently to ensure that his grandchildren have a safe world to grow up in. Scott is also involved as a volunteer with Environment North, Thunder Bay Environmental Film Network, Thunder Bay Chapter Council of Canadians, Citizens United for a Sustainable Planet as well as a member of the Kiwanis Club of Westfort. Scott is dedicated, committed and a source of inspiration to many. He always sees the positive and very much deserves to be recognized with the Spirit of Thunder Bay award.



Johnathan Hatzis



Johnathan is a Graduate member of The War Amps Child Amputee Program (CHAMP) and has gone above and beyond to volunteer his time to assist young amputees and spread important messages in our community. Being born an amputee hasn't stopped Johnathan from living a full and active life. He enjoys wrestling and studied at Lakehead University and Confederation College. As a Junior Counselor

Johnathan gave seminars to young amputees helping them to learn about the latest in artificial limbs. He acted as a role model to them by offering advice, sharing his experiences and exemplifying a positive approach to challenges. Johnathan attends Remembrance Day ceremonies where he lays a wreath on behalf of The War Amps Operation Legacy. He has helped spread the Playsafe message to children about "spotting danger" before they play. Johnathan is an excellent example of the War Amps philosophy "amputees helping amputees," and has made a positive impact in our community and to child amputees across the country.

Lori Krivoshein



Lori has been a member of Friends of the Animal Services Department (a volunteer group working with the City's Animal Services Department) since May, 2006 and has served as Chair for approximately three years. Lori has helped with education sessions in schools and has organized volunteers to walk dogs and socialize cats. She is currently Coordinator of Superior Street Cats, a group responsible to organizing the Trap-Neuter-Return Program in Thunder Bay. Lori oversees everything from fundraising, volunteer recruitment and training and coordinates the actual TNR - trapping, transportation, surgery and release. Almost 200 cats have gone through the program and there has been 48% decrease in the number of cats into the Animal Service Centre, and a 41% decrease in cat euthanasia. This success would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Lori.

Mary Jane Kurm

Mary Jane Kurm is an active, engaged community volunteer who has offered her time in the community helping organizations who rely on the support of volunteers. She is an active member with St. Joseph's Care Group, PR Cook Apartments and Hogarth Riverview Manor, Twice as Nice Thrift Store, St. Vincent DePaul Society, North of Superior Film Association, and Eco Superior. In the past, she has volunteered her time with Options Northwest, Hospice Palliative Care Northwest Network, the Homeless Survey, School Council, and Minor Hockey. Her dedication to the community has made an impact to the people she has helped and the any organizations that rely on volunteers.



Dana Larrett



Dana Larrett has volunteered with Autism Ontario Thunder Bay and District for the past 6 years. She has held the positions of Chapter President, Treasurer, Secretary, Fundraising and Events Coordinator, Chair of Awareness and Media, chair of Community Capacity Resource and Communications, as well as, was responsible for forming partnerships with community stakeholders enabling a successful environment for learning. Dana has aided Autism Ontario Thunder Bay and District by nurturing community relationships to ensure families gain confidence and independence. This enables quality of life experiences for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Dana has served the Autism Ontario Thunder Bay and District chapter and our community well, helping to ensure that each individual with ASD is provided the means to achieve quality of life as a respected member of society.

Kenny Linton

Kenny Linton has been a dedicated volunteer over a period of 19 years. Kenny is unfailingly reliable, cheerful and willing to undertake any task with enthusiasm. His commitment to Habitat for Humanity, Magnus Theatre and The Salvation Army has enriched Thunder Bay's cultural life and assisted individuals or families with low incomes. He takes an interest in his community and makes it a better place. Kenny assists with the construction of houses, works in Habitat for Humanity Restore and he gives excellent customer service.



Susan MacRae

Susan MacRae has been a dedicated and committed volunteer for Oliver Road Community Centre for a period of 15 years. She has held the positions of Treasurer and Bridge Coordinator and has offered her skills and guidance in finances and fundraising. Funds are required for the purchase of new equipment and the maintenance of the building. Susan also remains an active member in support of all activities of the community centre. Susan MacRae is a bridge player and came to the assistance of a small struggling bridge group. Under her leadership the group has grown now thriving, recruiting and welcoming participants new and old.



Kyla Moore

Kyla Moore has been a volunteer with the Children's Aid Society (CAS) since 2012. She believes in the therapeutic benefits of fish tanks. Studies have shown that watching aquariums can significantly lower blood pressure and heart rates as well as beautify spaces that can be at times stressful. Kyla has contributed thousands of hours maintaining fish tanks across the city, including St. Joseph's Hospital, a local school, and the tropical fish tank in CAS's lobby. Kyla did all the fundraising and installation work to get CAS's aquarium up and running, and continues to both oversee and perform maintenance. The CAS is grateful to Kyla for not only beautifying the lobby but helping children and families feel more at ease upon arriving.



Judy Muloin

Judy Muloin has been a dedicated volunteer for 35 years. She has been a volunteer with the St. Margaret's Catholic Woman's League for 35 years assisting at bake sales, helping others wherever she is needed. She holds the position of Secretary for St. Joseph's Auxiliary and has worked at numerous fundraising bingos. She is often seen helping out selling Nevada Tickets for St. Joseph's Care Group. She volunteers at 55 Plus Centre and can be seen helping at Canada Day celebrations. Judy is known as a caring, compassionate and wonderful volunteer who helps others.



Tessa Murray



Tessa has been an active member in the volunteer community of Thunder Bay for over 10 years. She is a member of Leadership Thunder Bay, the Chair of Selection and Recruitment, Board member of Provincial Association of Volunteer Leaders, Thunder Bay Association of Volunteer Administrators, Easter Seals and Friends of Olivia Foundation. Her dedication to volunteer opportunities and has recruited many individuals for the organizations she has dedicated her time for.

Sue Paskoski

Sue Paskowski has been a member of Chaban's Ukrainian Dance Group since 2001. She is a dedicated and committed volunteer. She holds the positions of Chaban Executive member at large, spending long hours giving of her time on Bingo Calling Committee, The Grants Proposal Committee and the Costume Committee. She has taken the lead in many a project including sourcing and organizing and coordinating group fundraising efforts, and her effort has moved the group forward in keeping up with technology needs and travel endeavours. She truly has a passion for Chaban's members and for the future of the group.



Joe Quaresima



Joe Quaresima has been involved in a variety of volunteer opportunities throughout the City of Thunder Bay for the past 17 years. He has devoted his time, experience and enthusiasm on numerous Boards that are all part of enriching the lives of people around him. He is presently a Board member of the Canadian Business Professional Association, Lakehead University Institute of Italian Studies, Confederation College Advisory Board, The Chamber of Commerce, Thunder Bay Executives, and Ambassadors Northwest. He is past member of Italian Society of Port Arthur, Lakehead Alumni Association, and Advisory Board for the Staal Foundation Open. Joe is a community leader and raises the profile of everything he is involved in.

Anne Scott

Anne Scott has volunteered for Thunder Bay Art Gallery for 15 years. She is a dedicated volunteer member of the gallery helping to organize the Annual Garden Tour and the Annual Christmas House Tour. She is our front desk attendant on Fridays and some of her varied responsibilities include administrative tasks such as letter writing, art class registration and gallery sitting, catering exhibition receptions, and writing publicity material for fundraisers. Anne Scott's dedication, commitment and service to the Gallery have been unmatched and have ensured public events and fundraising.



Dave Thomas

Dave opened the Salt and Pepper Catering over 10 years ago and has been giving back to the community ever since: volunteering for numerous events; making donations to organizations and events such as, TBayTel Cystic Fibrosis BBQ, MADD Thunder Bay, St. Joseph's Care Group, Save a Heart Ball, Thunder Bay Shelter and many others. Dave provides sponsorship for, George Jeffrey Children's Centre-Patrick Sharpe Golf Tournament, Children's Aid Society Quiz Night, Thunder Bay Heart and Stroke Foundation, Thunder Bay Art Gallery Bird House Auction, among others.

Dave is highly regarded as a "Leader" and "Giver" in this community.



Jiali Wen

Jiali has actively volunteered in the local community for 14 years. She established the Lakehead Chinese Dance Group in 2003 and the Children's Chinese Dance Group in 2006. Jiali has organized and participated in over 80 performances at various events in the City. She has served the Thunder Bay Chinese Canadian Association as a Board member since 2011. Jiali has assisted a number of international students in adapting to a new country. Jiali and her Chinese Dance Groups volunteer their time to promote multiculturalism in Thunder Bay.



Eleanor Drury – Children's Theatre



Founded in 1982, the Eleanor Drury Children's Theatre (EDCT) is a local non-profit theatre group formed to provide opportunities for young people to be engaged in the arts by learning about theatre. EDCT has touched the lives of many people having worked with over 700 actors between the ages of six to 18 to deliver a live theatre experience. Many have grown and developed their skills in the theatre and taken these forward into adult life. EDCT has worked with all Thunder Bay Schools to bring students the experience of a live theatre

performance. EDCT is committed to offering an affordable theatre experience for children to both participate and learn about theatre. EDCT remains the only group to offer low-cost matinees to local schools and is a P.R.O. Kids partner enabling a greater diversity of children to experience theatre. EDCT is run by volunteers, under the leadership of a volunteer Board of Directors. The Board is open to other volunteers who bring a broader range of expertise from other groups. EDCT collaborates with Cambrian Players, Lakehead Schools, Lakehead University and the Community Auditorium to offer the best possible theatre experience for the youth of Thunder Bay.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #5

Branch #5 opened its doors in 1926 and celebrated its 90th year in December this past year. The Legion promotes friendship, cooperation and good citizenship through a variety of programs that involve entertainment, socialization, recreation, support and counseling. Meaningful visiting to Veterans in hospital, nursing homes or their own homes are regularly scheduled, reported with the Legion's meeting minutes where follow up or referrals are made. Branch #5 has always been willing to advocate for Veterans' issues. A few years ago the Federal government decided to close Veterans Affairs Offices. Branch #5 Veterans, members and with support from the community, took action and voiced their concerns by presenting their case in person to officials in Ottawa. Their action made National and International news. As a result, this had a strong political effect. Therefore a Veteran Affairs Office for Thunder Bay and District was re-established in January of this year. This Legion continues to run successful Poppy campaigns to raise funds to assist in the care of Veterans. In July 2021, it will be the 100th Anniversary of the "Poppy" symbol which originated in Port Arthur at a meeting held in the Prince Arthur Hotel. Thunder Bay is known nationally and internationally as the "City of the Poppy". Since Branch #5 Legion opened its doors in 1926 much has changed in our city. Numerous generations of Thunder Bay citizens has passed through its doors. Then as now, Branch #5 continues to provide Veterans and Thunder Bay citizens with support and positive experiences that ultimately benefit our community.



Volunteer Association to the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre



The Volunteer Association to the TBRHSC was formed in July 1997, by joining two auxiliaries: The General Hospital of Port Arthur Auxiliary and the McKellar General Hospital Auxiliary. Throughout its history, the Association has contributed significantly to fund raising for the development and expansion of new and innovative health care initiatives at the hospital, including cardiac care, cancer care, as well as the purchase of many pieces of vital medical equipment. They encourage the advancement of health care education by offering bursaries to Confederation College, Lakehead University, Northern School of Medicine and staff nurses at TBRHSC. The members of the Volunteer Association continue a proud tradition as a very active, strong organization dedicated to health care in Thunder Bay.

2017 Spirit of Thunder Bay Award Recipients

Dianna Atkinson



As a board member of the Caribbean and African Multicultural Association, of Thunder Bay and the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association, Dianna is continually finding ways to emphasize dialogue, transparency and nurture ideas to foster inclusion. She assists in the forging of partnerships between multicultural groups, resulting in the exchange of ideas and cultural practices, helping to bolster inclusion among community members. Dianna helps to spearhead volunteer opportunities for local youth of Afro-Caribbean descent. She has assisted in the coordination of local events such as the Black History Month Dinner and Awards Gala and the Thunder Bay Multicultural Association Folklore Festival. Dianna is recognized for her efforts in respecting and strengthening the bonds of diversity in Thunder Bay.

Arnold (Arnie) Bortolussi

As one of the founding members of the local chapter of Cystic Fibrosis, Arnie has served as the CF chapter treasurer for an incredible 48 years! He has kept the Chapter books and completed all reports meticulously and accurately for both the city and national CF office. Arnie volunteered for numerous activities such as the Kinsmen CF telethon, endless bingos, CF walks, and many other fundraisers. He has also dedicated time and energy with Port Arthur Minor Hockey for 10 years, Corpus Christie Church for 20 years, and the KC Leo Council 1130 for over 30 years! Arnie has enriched the community and the many organizations that he assisted through his exceptional volunteer contributions.

Eric Boutin



Eric is currently the Vice President of the Thunder Bay Judo Dojo which is a non-profit volunteer organization that promotes health, fitness and community spirit through the study of Judo. Eric has been a member of the club since 1994 and a member of the executive for over 20 years. He has been involved in numerous club activities such as: the Adopt a Road program; he has raised money for the Special Olympics participating in the Polar Plunge, and has volunteered with Murillo Fair to raise money for the club. Eric also offers his time and energy teaching at the club and referees at regional tournaments. Eric is a certified NCCP level one coach in Judo and has been selected to be a member on the Provincial Grading Board.

Michelle Bouvier

Michelle Bouvier has been a volunteer with Wesway for 36 years. Her positive attitude and adventurous spirit makes her an asset to Thunder Bay. Michelle invites a gentleman with a disability who has significant care needs into her home and steps into the shoes of caregiver. This gentleman's parents are able to receive the break they deserve which enriches their quality of life and allows them to recharge their care giving. Michelle is our longest standing volunteer at Wesway. Michelle is an extremely dedicated volunteer, having welcomed more than 20 different participants in her home. Michelle has dedicated her life to reaching out to children and adults with special needs and making them feel welcome both in the community and her home. His family is able to enjoy their respite with the reassurance that their loved one is not only safe, but having fun, knowing that he has become a part of Michelle's family. Thank you Michelle for all that you do for Wesway, the people you support and helping to make our community an inclusive and more enjoyable place.



Pauline Cernigoj

Pauline Cernigoj has been involved with the Kidney Foundation of Canada, Northern Superior Chapter for more than 26 years. She has been active in Kidney Foundation events such as door to door canvassing, education booths, and raising funds to carry on programs and services.

In 2001, Pauline had a vision to organize a local renal patient support group where renal patients and families could get together to talk with others who have "been there." After a number of years the Kidney Connect Peer Support Group Program and One-to-One Peer Program were developed in the community and region. With Pauline's dedication and determination these initiatives have grown, giving kidney patients much needed support from their peers. Pauline's volunteer work has been invaluable to renal patients, their families and the Kidney Foundation.



Robert Cutbush

Since 2003, Robert Cutbush has been a member of the Royal Canadian Legion, Port Arthur Branch #5 and was elected president and CEO from 2012-2015. Under Robert's leadership, innovation, commitment and countless hours of volunteering, the Legion overcame many challenges and today, it has become a viable organization with a growing membership.

Robert is a dedicated volunteer who accepts key responsibilities within a number of organizations. He has been involved with the Royal Canadian Legion, Reipas Sports Club, Tapiola Sports Complex, Thunder Bay Yacht Club and is a member of the Thunder Bay Naval Association. Robert Cutbush has volunteered for over 20 years in various capacities and has made an exceptional difference to Veterans, citizens and many lives in our community.



Daniella Hacio



Daniella has been an active, dedicated and reliable volunteer of St. Joseph's Hospital for over 15 years. She is currently the president of the Auxiliary and her role encompasses the overall function and planning, both financial and marketing of the auxiliary and its volunteers. She works together with the St. Joseph's Care Group staff, St. Joseph's Foundation as well as the Care Group's Volunteer Services, to help strengthen the efforts and outcomes of the auxiliary. Daniella has chaired numerous fundraisers and gives generous amounts of her time while raising a family and working full time. Her volunteer involvement in the community also includes the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the United Way, Arthritis Society and the Alzheimer's Society. Daniella is truly a leader in our community serving Thunder Bay citizens relentlessly.

Greg Hookham

Greg has been the Chair of the Parking Authority Board for over 15 years. He deals with sensitive issues such as budget deficits, parking programs such as free parking at Christmas and during special events as well as attending council meetings from time to time in support of Board recommendations to City Council. As the Chair, Greg deals with sensitive budget matters and gains Board consensus on the future financial direction of operation. He has helped the Parking Authority move forward with planning and budgeting for the replacement of old, outdated operating equipment with more customer friendly equipment recognizing changes in the industry. Greg is committed to be the Chair after retiring from his jobs, using his senior management level skills to help direct the Parking Authority into the future.



Reg Jones

Reg is the embodiment of a good citizen. Over the many decades, he has selflessly given his time, talents and skills as a dedicated and compassionate leader promoting the arts, music, education, healthcare and social awareness. He has been a board member on numerous committees including the Arrowhead Foundation, Community Auditorium, Thunder Bay Fringe Festival, Northwestern Ontario Technology Centre, to name a few. Reg's involvement in the City of Thunder Bay Walk a Mile Project inspired him to organize the conference "Walking Together - The Journey of Reconciliation." In September 2015, Reg responded quickly to a world crisis and took immediate action to lead a team to sponsor a Syrian family to Thunder Bay. Reg's leadership abilities, his deep compassion and empathy, make him an ideal "Spirit Award" recipient.



James Kingston

James (Jim) Kingston has been a member of Shuniah Masonic Lodge #287 for over 40 years. He has served as Master of the Lodge, the District Deputy Grand Master for the District of Algoma and an executive member of the Provincial Board for Ontario.



As a member of the Khartum Shrine and the Lakehead Shrine Club, Jim has worked tirelessly with the annual Shrine Circus and many other fundraising projects. Many of the fundraising efforts Jim has assisted the club with are toward paying for the transportation and accommodations of local children with their parents to many of the 22 Shriners Hospitals where they are provided advanced care for children with orthopedic conditions, burns, spinal cord injuries and cleft lip and palate at no charge to the patients. With the dedicated lifetime service of members like Jim Kingston, the Shriners Hospitals for Children is changing lives every day through innovative pediatric specialty care, world-class research and outstanding medical education which over 70 Thunder Bay and area children per year participate and benefit from.

Audrey McDonagh



Audrey presently volunteers for the Royal Canadian Legion Port Arthur Branch #5, as a strong advocate for Veterans and their families. Audrey has served as a Civilian Cadet Instructor, Commanding Officer as well as President for the Navy League of Canada. She has been a Foster Parent for the Children's Aid Society and in 1993 joined the Royal Canadian Legion, Port Arthur Branch #5 Ladies Auxiliary. She is an extremely hard worker, dedicated to ensuring excellence and positive outcomes in all aspects of her involvement. Her leadership, experience, caring attitude and managing skills have positively influenced the success of organizations and helped many of our citizens move on toward a better life. Our community is extremely fortunate to reap the benefits of Audrey's countless volunteer hours. She is a true example of Thunder Bay's Giant Heart.

Enid McKenzie



As an active member of the Soroptimist International for over 30 years, Enid has held many different roles from member to executive to President. The mission of Soroptimist International is to transform the lives and status of women and girls through education, empowerment and enabling opportunities. The Thunder Bay chapter supports a wide variety of women's programs, scholarships, charitable organizations and community programs. Enid is also active with the Senior Music Makers as a piano player and leader for over 14 years. She coordinates the music and schedules the performances in many community organizations and senior's homes. Her leadership and commitment is a testimony of her dedication to others and to the City of Thunder Bay.

Jack Oliphant

Jack Oliphant is a true community builder in the City of Thunder Bay. His expertise in the areas of accounting and information technology has benefitted many organizations and volunteer groups. He has worked with countless organizations but three of the most notable are the Thunder Bay Symphony, St Dominic's Church, and one of his longest and most cherished endeavours was his 25 years with the Seniors Income Tax Program at the Thunder Bay 55 Plus and Herb Carroll Centres. Jack was the driving force in the creation and development of computerizing the Seniors Income Tax program and was the first volunteer to coordinate an e-filing program with Canada Revenue. He has inspired many who have had the opportunity to work/volunteer with him. He is a true innovator and a leader who has had a tremendous impact on bettering the community.



Sean Shorrock

Sean has been a volunteer with the Thunder Bay Police Youth corps since 1998. He has dedicated the past 19 years helping to make this a great program. He joined the Youth corps while attending Confederation College in the Police Foundations program and in 2006, Sean became a member of the Thunder Bay Police Service. As a member of the Thunder Bay Police Service, he has shown great leadership by bringing knowledge about policing to the cadets. He has taught numerous programs and has organized many presentations. Sean has been a supervisor at the Nova Scotia training camp that is attended by the youth corps and he is responsible for the firearms training program. Sean is a well-respected member of the community and his countless volunteer contributions make him a valued member of the Thunder Bay Police Youth Corp.



Bruno Valente



Bruno spent 32 years as a teacher at Hammarskjold. During the 32 years, he volunteered as a coach to many of the school athletic teams leading many to championships. He retired in 2007 but continued to run the boys soccer program for another 9 years. That's 41 years volunteering in the school athletic programs! Bruno took the challenge to develop an outdoor soccer program and in 1980, SSSAA accepted soccer as an official sport. Bruno was also the soccer convenor for 14 years. His responsibilities included recruiting referees, developing playing schedules, arranging transportation to games and supervising city playoffs. His love of all sport and his enthusiasm in coaching young people has shown extraordinary leadership in our community.

Robert Young

Robert Young has provided outstanding leadership and guidance to the Victorian Order of Nurses, Thunder Bay's development over the last 34 years. He has been part of the Board that ensures VON addresses the needs of the community as well as raising awareness of the importance of home and community health care in the District of Thunder Bay. Robert has seen VON Thunder Bay grow from a home health care organization with very few employees to an organization with over 125 employees, providing care in homes, schools and programmes that keep people independent for as long as possible. Robert's commitment to VON Thunder Bay is exceptional.



2017 Youth Award Recipients

Emily Cross



Emily's achievement and passion for science and youth involvement in research, politics, as well as sustainability is a good example of how youth in Thunder Bay can have an impact regionally, as well as bring attention to Thunder Bay nationally and internationally.

With her experience from medal-winning projects at local, national and international science fairs, Emily inspires and assists other young people with their research and competitions. She has spoken at events and schools and directly with students in the fields of palaeontology, geology, soils and climate change. She is a national science mentor for the Youth Research Network and is the Regional Director of Sustainable Youth Canada. What an excellent ambassador for our city!

Rylie Davidow

Rylie Davidow has been involved with assisting and teaching the Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group's youngest children for the past 5 years. She has a positive and cheery disposition in leading her dancers through their exercises and dance routines on a regular basis every week at rehearsals. She is punctual and dependable, and comes prepared to teach her class. Her students learn new skills that benefit them in dance but also in their everyday lives.



Rylie is also a member of the Executive at Chaban, where she has participated in the review process of Chaban's Constitution and Bylaws. Being a Member-at-Large has enabled her to broaden her outreach and involvement with the group.

Rylie continues her professional development as a Ukrainian dancer and teacher through various dance workshops both locally and nationally. She has enjoyed travelling to the Ukraine where she participated in workshops and performance while learning more about the culture and people.

Kyler Lecompte



With Special Olympics Ontario, Kyler has participated locally and provincially in floor hockey, basketball, soccer, softball, bowling and curling. He has been a medal recipient and assisted with many fundraising events.

For the Thunder Bay Police Association Parade of Lights, Kyler helped with the decoration and dismantling of the floats. He also walked the entire route, collecting donations for charity.

At St. Patrick High School, he has assisted with the Advent Prayer and Remembrance Day services. Through the Recreation Leadership Course where senior students are paired with students from the Transitions and Lifeskills classes, Kyler moved from being mentored by a senior student to a peer mentoring role amongst his peers. This was a significant achievement and fostered much leadership growth for Kyler. His school and the city are better places because of the work done and example set by citizens like Kyler LeCompte.

Victor Liao

Victor Liao is a student at Sir Winston Churchill High School and he has demonstrated volunteerism and leadership with several organizations.

As a child he attended Chinese School at the Lakehead Public School Board and he has volunteered weekly to teach at the school for the past two and a half years - thereby "giving back" to a program from which he benefitted. The students and language teacher appreciate his innovative and creative approach in the classroom. Victor has also volunteered at two Superior Science camps at Lakehead University and with the public library's "Readers are Leaders" program in 2016. Thus, Victor has assisted children with their science activities and with literacy skills. Victor's commitment to the young children of our community makes him a worthy recipient of the Youth Award.



Alex McCubin

Alex McCubbin has volunteered in diverse ways. For 4 years, Alex has been involved with Conference Planning for Youth Presbytery through which she has helped with dinners at Shelter House and volunteered at the Community Clothing Assistance Centre. Significantly, through the conferences, Alex has motivated youth to learn about such topics as social justice, environmental stewardship, urban poverty, mental health and wellness. She helps young people to find their passions and to be heard. Alex has been a leader for Scouts Canada, a volunteer patient for the Confederation College Paramedic Program, a member of the Canadian Ski Patrol, an assistant with the Port Arthur Figure Skating Club, and a Youth Executive Member at the Thunder Bay Rowing Club. She was a volunteer at the Cyclotron for Open Doors Thunder Bay and she has been an historic interpreter at Fort William Historic Park.

Through her volunteer service, Alex has enriched the quality of life in Thunder Bay.

Nathaniel Oriecuia

During the past 4 years, Nathaniel Oriecuia has volunteered for many organizations at his school, with his church and in the community. Through St. Anthony's Church Youth Group he has been involved with the Big Bike for Heart and Stroke, selling memorial poinsettias, Children Helping Children and the Church Bazaar. He has also helped with Adventurer's Camp at the Canada Games Complex and e-waste recycling at the St. Ignatius High School. At the Da Vinci Centre he has volunteered at the spaghetti dinner fundraising for charity. Nathaniel has assisted with meal preparation at the Dew Drop Inn and he has participated with the Kettle Campaign for the Salvation Army. Nathaniel has been a committed volunteer with more than 481 hours of service, thereby enriching the quality of life in our city.



Kari Peltonen



Through his achievements and involvements, Kari Peltonen has served as a role model for younger school aged children as well as his peers. He is an honour roll student at Superior Collegiate and Vocational Institute where he has an executive position on the Student Activity Council, and actively plans school events and initiatives. Kari is known to be a motivator and speaker for his fellow students and can be counted on to speak well on their behalf. He has also generously devoted time and energy to The Canadian Cancer Society, North End Soccer, Gammondale Farm and a Federal Election Campaign.

Kari's enthusiasm and zest for life and helping others is contagious. It is amazing to see how those around him are inspired to "jump on board" with the positive initiatives he leads within and outside the school.

Robyn Sulkko

Robyn Sulkko is an exceptional young woman who is passionate about youth issues and advocating for marginalized populations. She has been actively involved with the following organizations in various capacities: Camp Gichigomee camp counsellor for 4 summers, Canserra Development Organization board secretary and organizer for 2 school builds in Sierra Leone, Youth Thunder Bay Advisory Council board member and media representative, Sir Winston Churchill Gay Straight Alliance member, Lakehead Public Schools student trustee and Sir Winston Churchill Student Government member.



Robyn is a remarkable young leader with a deep sense of integrity and a thirst for social justice.