



Congratulations to the 2023 Volunteer Award Nominees and Winners!

Nominated volunteers and special guests came together for an evening of celebration and recognition hosted at the Municipal Complex in Coldbrook on Nov. 2. Deputy Mayor Emily Lutz recognized nominated volunteers and presented three awards: Volunteer of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year, and the Ted Meldrum Award.

2023 Youth Volunteer of the Year – Tanner Wood

Congratulations to Tanner Wood, winner of the Municipality's 2023 Youth Volunteer of the Year Award.

Tanner balances schoolwork with volunteering as a busy student-athlete dedicated to giving back to the Central Kings Rural High School community and beyond. At school, Tanner volunteers in many ways, including:

- Voicing the morning announcements
- Raising awareness of, and recruiting for, the football program
- Serving as the Minister of Sports and Recreation
- Assisting with the planning, setup, and clean-up for school dances
- Visiting Coldbrook School to talk to middle school students about what they can expect at Central Kings
- Helping with the intramural sports program, planning of class trips, chairing the annual sports banquet – and more!



A member of Saint Joseph's Church, Tanner has been a Youth Leader at Vacation Bible School for three years and found many ways to be of service to community through the Catholic faith. He's helped with

several fundraising events, including food and donation drives for families in need of a helping hand during the holiday season.

Tanner also makes time to volunteer with Michelin North America's Adopt a Highway Project, a program encouraging locals to host regular litter clean-ups along a designated section of highway.

"I am truly humbled by the recognition I have received for something I do out of pure enjoyment. I make it my goal to help others because it makes them feel good and I feel great in return," Tanner shared.

"That's truly what life is all about."

2023 Volunteer of the Year – Kevin West

2023 Volunteer of the Year Award winner Kevin West has been selflessly supporting community causes for 25 years and counting, and four separate organizations nominated Kevin for this award.

The list of organizations benefiting from Kevin's time, knowledge and energy is varied, including Charles MacDonal Concrete House Museum, Devour Food Film Fest, Deep Roots Music Festival, Memory Cafe, and the West Brooklyn Hall.

Kevin's nomination letter from the Charles Macdonald House of Centreville Society describes him as a practical problem solver with a genuine desire to help and a standout team player with an affinity for culture.



"Kevin is not only the chairperson for the Charles Macdonald House, but our best fundraiser, team leader, yard man, painter, plumber, and just about anything else that needs to be done. He is the same for Deep Roots, Devour, and the Memory Cafe. If you want something done in Kings County, ask Kevin. He has boundless energy and an infectious positive demeanour. For the Charles Macdonald House, he is the glue that holds us together," the letter reads.

Members of the Acadia Cinema Cooperative praised Kevin for being helpful, friendly, eager, and hard-working.

"He never minds the thankless difficult jobs and always goes above and beyond," the Cooperative's nomination letter reads.

Kevin enjoys trying many new roles and social circles on for size as a volunteer.

"We need more people to be volunteers. I volunteer with different organizations in different capacities, board member of a working board or labourer. I like both. Sometimes when people retire, they leave a job that had a social aspect to it, coworkers or clients that disappear when one retires. Sometimes this is OK. Sometimes I think people miss that social connection and retirement loses its appeal," Kevin shared in accepting his nominations with gratitude.

“Find something that interests you or do something completely different. One of the things I also do is beach cleanup. When you are working on a beach you stop and look around you are on a beach. How great is that?”

2023 Ted Meldrum Award – Rob Graves

Congratulations to 2023 Ted Meldrum award winner Rob Graves, a local entrepreneur, philanthropist, and volunteer.

The Ted Meldrum Award honours the memory of a former employee of the Municipality who enthusiastically served the community through volunteerism, particularly in the field of recreation.

Rob Graves wears many hats – and even a black belt – in the many tasks he undertakes as an active volunteer in the Annapolis Valley. Volunteering takes Rob from boardrooms to ballfields and dojos. The list of roles filled by this busy volunteer includes:



- Board Chair, spokesperson and annual sponsor, Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation of Nova Scotia
- Director, Appletree Foundation (in support of Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre)
- Director, Grand View Manor Seniors Foundation (in support of Grandview Manor, Berwick)
- Coach, Co-Founder and Secretary, Kingston & Greenwood Minor Baseball Association
- Assistant Instructor & First-Degree Black Belt, East Coast Aikido
- Annual Sponsor: Coldest Night of the Year fundraiser on behalf of Open Arms Resource Centre in Kentville

“Rob has an excellent demeanor and exceptional leadership skills that complement his involvement, not only in his Aikido, but in every role he plays in the organizations for which he volunteers. Rob is a true gentleman and leader,” a nomination letter from East Coast Aikido reads.

“...Rob Graves is a worthy candidate with a level of compassion, dedication and sense of community that sets an example for others to follow.”