

2023 Volunteer Nominations

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Youth Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Azlyn Hart**

Nominee contributes to: **Scouts Canada is a youth group for boys and girls from ages 5 to 26. Scouting is about hands on learning for youth to explore and experience the environment around them. They build skills, confidence, and knowledge to be better prepared for success in the world.**



Years of service: **Member of scouting since 2018**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Azlyn has been a member of scouting for five years, first as a scout and currently as a venturer. She earned her Chief Scout Award which is the highest award for a scout youth. It requires 18 levels of Outdoor Adventure Skills, 30 community service hours, and the completion of a community-oriented service project. She is in grade 11, attends high school full time, and also works part time at Urban Kids, and during the summers works at the Cinderella's Jamaican Caribbean Pot. Azlyn is also a member of her school's concert band and is on the school's rugby team. Besides her time with scouting, she has also volunteered at Kingswood Camp, cleaning, helping prepare food, organizing and running tuck. Currently Azlyn is taking training needed to be a youth scouter, including her recent completion of the Standard First Aid course. She is a good role model and has shown great leadership skills with volunteering with the younger sections of scouting.**

Youth Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Charlotte Thompson**

Nominee contributes to:

- 1. The Free Spirit Therapeutic Riding Association (FSTRA) is a registered charity located in Aylesford, Nova Scotia, that provides therapeutic riding lessons for individuals of all ages and abilities. Our mandate is to provide a safe environment for the enhancement of physical, emotional, educational, and social development through therapeutic riding and horsemanship. We exist to be one of the leaders of positive development and overall wellness through innovative and inclusive programming. FSTRA offers a wide variety of programs and services to our community, and we proudly celebrated our 10-year anniversary in 2022. We currently offer a 10-week program in the spring, a 3-day summer camp in July and a 10-week program in the fall. We are largely volunteer supported and provide services to approximately 100 participants each year.**
- 2. Rohan Wood Stables (RWS) is a family run business located in Aylesford that was founded in 2003. RWS combines the benefits of recreational and competitive riding with therapeutic riding (as FSTRA's host facility) and equine supported wellness programming.**
- 3. Evangeline Pony Club runs out of Rohan Wood Stables and is part of a national organization that teaches youth about horses and horse care.**



Years of service: **3**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **We believe that Charlotte is extremely deserving of this award because of her ongoing dedication and commitment to the three organizations listed above (FSTRA, Rohan Wood Stables and the Evangeline Pony Club). Charlotte has volunteered during a number of Rohan Wood Stables' summer camps and has spent many weekends assisting with Rohan Wood Stables' lesson program as a leader for our youngest riders who are just starting out. Whenever RWS hosts in-house horse shows, Charlotte is always one of the first people to volunteer her time to help out behind the scenes to help keep things running smoothly. For the past couple of years, Charlotte has taken on a leadership role with the Evangeline Pony Club by being a group leader. It is always a pleasure to watch Charlotte in this role as she is extremely kind, patient and has an obvious passion for working with the younger participants. Charlotte has also become an active volunteer for FSTRA, filling in as a "sub" whenever her work schedule allows and helping out with our monthly Toonie Toss fundraisers through the Mud Creek Rotary Club. In addition to this, Charlotte helped out with FSTRA's 3-day summer camp last year as a group leader. She had a very busy group of campers and did an excellent job providing assistance as needed, all while making sure her campers stayed organized and engaged. We are lucky to have a such a reliable and dedicated volunteer like Charlotte, who is passionate about making a difference in her community.**

Youth Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Leah Newcombe**

Nominee contributes to: **Leah is in her first year of university. The year before, she was Prime Minister of Central Kings where she volunteered in many ways as head of the Students' Council. Leah's volunteer work in 4-H has included serving on the executive of the Western Kings 4-H Club, the Kings County 4-H Council and the Nova Scotia Youth Advisory Council. She has organised and/or participated in community service projects as well.**

Years of service: **7 years in 4-H**



Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Leah Newcombe has served as Secretary and President of the Western Kings 4-H Club. She has organised and participated in numerous community service projects including roadside clean-ups, food bank donations, petting zoos, sending cards to seniors' care homes and serving at community suppers and breakfasts.**

She has taken on the role of Junior Dairy Leader, volunteering to teach members about the care of their animals, showmanship and clipping. At the county level, Leah became Secretary of the County Council and volunteered to keep the position for an extra year when no one else could be found.

Currently she is President of the Kings County 4-H Council. (In most counties, this position is held by an adult leader. However, in Kings County outstanding members can take on this role.)

Leah has organised 'spirit events' such as skating parties to encourage members to come together as a county. Leah is not afraid to work hard. She is now in her second year of volunteering as Chair of the Kings County 4-H Achievement Days which involves organising the event where members display their projects and participate in special competitions. She was also a 2022 Kings County 4-H Ambassador serving as a positive voice for other members in the county.

Leah took part in the 4-H Canada National Members' Congress and came home from the event more inspired than ever to go out and make a difference in the community.

Leah is a positive voice within the 4-H organization and her community. She instigates new ideas and is eager to put them into action. Leah is well respected by her peers and demonstrates how a member can make a positive impact with enthusiasm and hard work.

Youth Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Tanner Wood**

Nominee contributes to:

Central Kings Rural & District Highschool: It is a secondary school located in Cambridge, Kings County, Nova Scotia, Canada. It serves students from grades 6 to 12. CK's students come from the Somerset, Cambridge, Waterville, Coldbrook and North/South Alton.

Saint Joseph's Church: Serves as a pillar for the local community in service of the catholic faith, family counselling, Foodbank, inn from the cold.

Michelin North America: The largest private employer in the Annapolis Valley.



Years of service: **3**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:

Central Kings Rural & District Highschool: Tanner could quite possibly be the hardest working volunteer at Central Kings.

Tanner,

- volunteers to do the school announcements each morning.
- is the football recruitment representative to educate new students to the program.
- is the Minister of Sports and Recreation at the school.
- helps decide the theme, volunteers to set up and clean up after every school dance.
- has gone to Coldbrook School to orient and mentor Middle school students what they can expect at CK.
- has helped facilitate intramural sports at CK.
- helps make decisions on class trips.
- has helped facilitate and chair the end of year sport awards banquet.
- is running for school Prime Minister for 2023/2024.

Saint Joseph's Church:

Tanner has,

- helped with KofC Volunteer Events throughout the community.
- been a Youth Leader at Vacation Bible School last three years.
- helped with fundraising activities at the church (Helped deliver food).
- helped donate money & hand deliver food hampers to less fortunate families during the holiday season.

Michelin North America: Tanner has helped with the clean up of litter and garbage supporting to preserve the environment.

Adopt A Highway Project.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Alice MacNeil**

Nominee contributes to: **The Berwick Curling Club is a volunteer-run community organization which provides opportunities for residents of Berwick and surrounding areas to engage in a sport which enhances physical activity, mental agility and offers exceptionally important socialization with a variety of individuals during long Canadian winters. Our curling club boasts 160 members, plus a healthy Junior program, leagues where community members can either sign-up or drop-in to play with over 300 people accessing the facility weekly. We also welcome curlers from across the province to play in various bonspiels. Our club bustles with activity between October and April of each year, but operates year-round with fundraisers and other activities.**



Years of service: **10**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Alice McNeil is deserving of this award because of her contributions to the Berwick Junior Curling Program. For the past 10 years Alice has been the director of the Berwick Junior Curling Program and has shared her love for the sport of curling. Alice has always looked for ways to grow the number of children in the program as well as looking at ways to increase the number of coaches. She has been very successful in achieving these goals. She is very humble and will always say it is a team effort, but we all know the countless hours she puts into the administrative side of the program as well as looking for ways to make the program fun and coaching herself. When coaching she is very patient and thoroughly enjoys sharing her knowledge of curling. Alice has always looked for opportunities to raise funds for the program and is always the first one to put the work into a new fundraising effort. These fund-raising efforts have enabled the program to purchase some new equipment and host fun events for the children. In short Alice puts a lot of time and effort into this program and her volunteer efforts have created positive results. She is very much appreciated for her work.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Allister Palmer**

Nominee contributes to: **The Millville Community Hall is a long-standing gathering hub for the small community that shares a name with Millville, Nova Scotia. While the building was originally constructed as a schoolhouse, it was later converted to a Community Hall. The Hall was an active space for many years, a lack of volunteer support and leadership resulted in it sitting dormant for many years. In the late 2000's, there was a resurgence in community interest in reclaiming the Hall as a space that could host gatherings for local organizations, community breakfasts, fundraisers, jam nights, birthday parties, and so on. This led to the formation of a dynamic and ambitious board of volunteers that have since worked hard to reopen the Hall for public use. Numerous fundraising efforts were undertaken in order to secure the funds to complete renovations to make the hall comfortable, safe, and accessible for Millville residents and beyond. Renovations were completed in the late 2010's, and the Millville Community Hall now boasts an updated interior, as well as a wheelchair accessible ramp to welcome all into the space.**



Years of service: **10**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Allister Palmer has been a leader in the efforts to reopen the Millville Community Hall for many years. Serving as the President of the Community Hall Association, Allister undertakes all of the rental bookings, hall maintenance, finances, and cleaning. Allister is the main point of contact for anything related to the hall, and for good reason. During any fundraiser that takes place in the hall, you will find Allister there lending a hand. Whether it be cooking eggs at a community breakfast, serving as the MC at the regular jam nights, or sweeping floors following a child's birthday party. Allister also oversees the financial matters of the hall; working on regular financial statements, paying bills, and writing grants to keep things flowing smoothly. Allister works thanklessly at all of his bestowed tasks, and he never complains! He has always preached the importance of community and the spaces that allow them to flourish, and he lives by those words. The Millville Community Hall would not be able to function if it weren't for everything that Allister does (with help from his lovely wife, Marla). Millville is happy to have this space and would like to recognize Allister as a key player in the Hall's ability to thrive.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Amanda and Marty Cress**

Nominee contributes to: **Amanda and Marty Cress have been actively involved with the Annapolis Valley Chapter of Autism Nova Scotia since their youngest child was diagnosed with autism in 2016. Early on, Amanda and Marty helped at smaller Chapter fundraisers like BBQs, bake sales, and dinners but soon, while continuing to assist at almost all of the Chapter's fundraisers and events, they began to take on much larger, hands-on volunteer roles. In 2018 Amanda helped to establish a weekly social group in the Kingston area for school-age children on the spectrum, a program which she still leads today, and which has seen upwards of 150 participants pass through over the intervening years. In 2019, Amanda also developed the Super Siblings program which caters to the brothers and sisters of children on the spectrum. Amanda continues to modify and expand this program and personally leads siblings aged 5 to 17 through fun monthly activities like horse-back riding, arts & crafts sessions, and movie outings. Also in 2019, the Cresses organized and presented the first Autos for Autism event, a car show held in Kingston that draws 100+ vehicles and as many as 300 spectators from across the province each year. The car show, now an annual event, has not only served to promote autism awareness and acceptance in the broader community, but has also raised upwards of \$20,000 over the course of the last four years. Together Amanda and Marty have also run a yearly Christmas Craft Fair and Ticket Auction since 2019, the proceeds of which have exceeded \$3,000 annually. One hundred percent of the funds from these two events have gone directly to provide programs and support for individuals with autism living in the Annapolis Valley. In addition to the above volunteer work, Marty has acted as the Valley Chapter's Chair since 2018, helping to navigate the organization through an incredible period of growth and change as the rate of autism in our province continues to escalate.**



Years of service: **2016 to present**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Over the past seven years, Amanda and Marty Cress have dedicated a very large part of their personal lives to the Annapolis Valley Chapter of Autism Nova Scotia and to individuals with autism and their families living in our community. Working as a team, they have spent thousands of volunteer hours organizing and hosting events, planning fundraisers, leading programs, and soliciting and collecting sponsorships, donations, and gifts. They have become valued advocates and champions of autism awareness and acceptance in the Valley and have devoted themselves on a personal level to helping families navigate the sometimes overwhelming world of autism services and resources. Amanda with her gentleness, kindness and generosity, has become a mentor for many parents who have questions and concerns as they begin their journey with their child on the spectrum. It is safe to say that through Amanda's and Marty's many years of dedication to the Valley Chapter, they have made a very significant and positive difference in the lives of countless families living with autism in our Valley community.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Arlene MacArthur**

Nominee contributes to: **The Berwick Curling Club is a volunteer-run community organization which provides opportunities for residents of Berwick and surrounding areas to engage in a sport which enhances physical activity, mental agility and offers exceptionally important socialization with a variety of individuals during long Canadian winters. Our curling club boasts 160 members, plus a healthy Junior program, leagues where community members can either sign-up or drop-in to play with over 300 people accessing the facility weekly. We also welcome curlers from across the province to play in various bonspiels. Our club bustles with activity between October and April of each year, but operates year-round with fundraisers and other activities.**



Years of service: **10-15**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Arlene has been the Club Treasurer for the past 7 years, and is a highly valued member of the Club Executive. Her tenure as Treasurer has coincided with a move to bring more structured financial practices into the organization, which has increased the responsibility on the Treasurer position significantly. In fact, Club revenues have more than tripled in this time. During her time as Treasurer, Arlene has taken it upon herself to modernize the Club's accounting methods, including how cash is handled, and put the Club in a position where they can rely on accurate financial information throughout the year. Her work involves long hours that most people do not see, but her contribution to the success of the Club over the years can not be overstated. She is always willing to answer questions, provide information when needed (often at a moment's notice), and ask the right questions when things don't add up. There is also no offseason for her role, as once the curling season stops, she is heavily involved in the planning for the next season. Arlene's work is meticulous, as she regards the responsibility of handling the Club's money as if she were handling her own. While she goes about her business quietly, the Club is extremely lucky to have someone so conscientious looking after its finances.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Bill Milne**

Nominee contributes to: **The Berwick Curling Club is a volunteer-run community organization which provides opportunities for residents of Berwick and surrounding areas to engage in a sport which enhances physical activity, mental agility and offers exceptionally important socialization with a variety of individuals during long Canadian winters. Our curling club boasts 160 members, plus a healthy Junior program, leagues where community members can either sign-up or drop-in to play with over 300 people accessing the facility weekly. We also welcome curlers from across the province to play in various bonspiels. Our club bustles with activity between October and April of each year but operates year-round with fundraisers and other activities.**



Years of service: **5-10**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Bill is an outstanding volunteer. He steps up when asked. He steps up when not asked looking for small ways and big ways that he can contribute to the betterment of the organization and all the community members it serves. He is giving and seemingly tireless. Bill has recently stepped into the role as President of Day of Curling which oversees the operation of curling activities during the day, making sure that day leagues run smoothly as well as representing Day Curling on the Board. Bill has made meaningful contributions to the Berwick Curling Club on a variety of fronts for many years. Bill has been a regular coach in our Learn to Curl program which has been instrumental in growing the sport of curling in our community. He is kind and encouraging to new curlers offering advice and support. He and his wife, Connie, have led our drop-in Friday Night Mixer for several years; This is a league which allows members and non-members to drop-in and curl, enjoying a fun, pressure-free environment to practice and socialize. It is the first Friday night league which has ever taken off and we know that is because of the care and attention Bill and Connie give it. Many of our new curlers credit Friday nights for the reason they continued with the sport of curling. Bill is a regular volunteer bartender, often stepping into shifts if others cannot. He purchases supplies and restocks the bar as well as taking recyclables in for the Club. Bill helps in so many myriad ways. He is the best of us and we are incredibly happy to put his name forward for nomination.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Bruce Beattie**

Nominee contributes to:
Windermere Community Hall

Years of service: **10+**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:

The names, I am submitting this year, are not "award nominations", but a way to say, "Thanks" to them, for being there, for me, during these "Covid times", that continue to keep most people at a distance, from the hall.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Charlotte (Merrill) Dorey**

Nominee contributes to:

One of Windermere Hall's pair of "HELPING HANDS" is Charlotte Dorey. Covid still haunts us, yet Charlotte is, still, only a phone call away, when I need "help".

Years of service: **15+**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:

The names, I am submitting this year, are not award nominations, but a way to say "Thanks", to them, for being there, for me, during these "Covid times" that continue to keep most people at a distance, from the hall.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Dan Keddy**



Nominee contributes to: **The Berwick Curling Club is a volunteer-run community organization which provides opportunities for residents of Berwick and surrounding areas to engage in a sport which enhances physical activity, mental agility and offers exceptionally important socialization with a variety of individuals during long Canadian winters. Our curling club boasts 160 members, plus a healthy Junior program, leagues where community members can either sign-up or drop-in to play with over 300 people accessing the facility weekly. We also welcome curlers from across the province to play in various bonspiels. Our club bustles with activity between October and April of each year but operates year-round with fundraisers and other activities.**

Years of service: **~8**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Dan is a pivotal member of our volunteer administrative team and volunteers year-round for the Berwick Curling Club. While he boasts no title and goes about his business quietly in the background, his contributions to the technical operation of our curling club have revolutionized our ability to provide service to our members and the community at large. Dan was responsible for researching and launching a curling club management website which is used to market our club and events, for tracking and managing curling and event registration, and to provide information to members and the public. Keeping the website up to date is a constant task which Dan takes great pride in. Our professional website has helped us attract new members and increased local community engagement by ensuring information is readily available. He is always thinking ahead as to how the website can be used to assist the executive team, organizers and how he can help make processes more efficient. He is patient and understanding helping people navigate the website and responds at lightning speed to inquiries and requests for assistance. Beyond this, Dan has helped the Club set up a new computerized key card entry system which allows the Club to track usage and give easy access to the facility for members. He is always looking for ways that we can offer better and more efficient service using technology, as an example, having a tablet ready to enter scores directly following games. Dan is exceptionally accurate, proactive, efficient, intelligent, and humble. We are forever grateful to Dan for all his hard work.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Dave White**

Nominee contributes to: **Dave white is a gentleman who resides in Coldbrook with his wife, Kate and their two boys. Dave is a lifelong resident of Kings County and is a senior employee with Michelin Tire located in Waterville. I have known Dave for over 25 years. He is a man of good values, integrity and is community based. Dave has contributed by volunteering his time with minor baseball, minor hockey and most recently the CK Gators boys hockey team where he livestreams games and provides invaluable commentary. Dave is known as the " Voice of the Gators"**



Years of service: **2-3**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Dave white is a volunteer who is known as the "Voice of the Central Kings, CK Gators Boys Hockey Team" Dave has contributed to the VHSHL by broadcasting live hockey games not only for the CK Gators but for multiple teams across the league and province. Dave is a nonbiased commentator who provides detail and enthusiasm to the games he streams. By Dave volunteering and bringing these games to social media, he has allowed many folks from all over the province, country, and different areas of the world to watch and enjoy the hockey games and to see their loved one play hockey. It allows for the elderly to enjoy without attending a rink and folks to watch when they can't attend live. The commentary and streaming were especially important during Covid restrictions.**



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Devour! Fest Ops Team**

Nominee contributes to: **Devour! The Food Film Fest has grown into a global festival powerhouse and one of the most important tourist attractions in Nova Scotia. Its success has led to the vision for Devour! Studios, a permanent home for the festival and a number of cross-sector organizations that will establish the Studios as one of the most vital cultural, culinary, and community facilities in all of Atlantic Canada. As a unique, multipurpose space, the Studios will house a state-of-the-art teaching kitchen, an event hall, a performance venue, film and recording studios, a social enterprise café, a viewing deck, and much more. As an innovative educational and programming space, it will be an important breeding ground for our next generation of chefs, farmers, artists, musicians, and filmmakers. As a gathering space, it will bring the region, country, and world to our doorstep to celebrate, grow, and invest in Nova Scotia's glorious bounty.**



Years of service: **2 years**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **In March 2021, a group of a dozen festival volunteers came together in the fest off-season to volunteer for Devour! Studios, supporting the dreams of Exec Dir Michael Howell and Managing Director Lia Rinaldo, as they fundraised and brought the overall project to fruition. This group of men, who hardly knew each other at the start, started to work on the demolition of the interior, but as their friendship grew, so did their volunteer spirit, and they have now volunteered hundreds of hours and saved the overall project cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. They now prep and stage events and take great pride in the space, which was brought back to the festival in spades, uniting the larger fest team. Their spirit is unbreakable, amicable, and contagious... we simply would not be where we are with this project without them on many, many levels. This group is lead by Bob Caissie (who can confirm acceptance and contact all team members) and Kevin West and includes John Stuart, Peter Jackson, Jon Oulton, Ian Palmeter, Jim Murphy, Don Burry, Peter Clark, Al Stewart, Stephen Anderson and Aaron Campbell.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Duke Karsten**

Nominee contributes to:

**Burlington Community Club and the
Burlington Community Park Society**

Years of service:

**6th year as a member of our Board of
Directors.**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:

Duke Karsten is a community volunteer with initiative: if he notices something in the community that needs doing, he does it. No need to ask. That includes redesigning and installing our new sign at the Burlington Community Hall; organizing our Drive for Donations to the Berwick Food Bank this year; repairs around the property including building steps for our Entry Gate; and of course, helping with the Burlington Canada Day Celebrations. We hear stories from community members who have benefited from his kindness as he quietly helps folks in need by dropping off some firewood or clearing snow from someone's driveway. Duke solicits contents for hampers at Christmas and Easter which he delivers to families in our community. In addition to supporting Burlington initiatives such as the development of our new Park, he also supports projects that benefit Veterans in the Province. We are very fortunate that Duke chose to live in Burlington after his retirement!



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Jane Downie**

Nominee contributes to: **Situated on the grounds of the Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville, Fidelis House has been offering a welcoming 'home away from home' for patients and their guests since 1992 at our 12 room facility. We are a small, low-profile organization with a big reach. Staffed around the clock by dedicated volunteers, and funded exclusively through donations, guests are only asked to contribute \$25 a night towards their stay. Our guest population consists primarily of senior citizens and those living in rural areas – and our services help them comfortably access medical care while keeping community connections strong. Last year alone, our guest nights totalled 3,443. We are now playing a vital role in keeping medical services accessible in Western Nova Scotia, providing that same 'home-away-from-home' for visiting physicians and medical staff. On average 1,000 bed nights per year**



Years of service: **17 Years**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Jane Downie has been a dedicated and dependable volunteer with Fidelis House in Kentville for 17 years. She continues to maintain the role of house manager. Jane is responsible for scheduling our more than 60 volunteers for 35 shifts per week, 24/7. She's known for her patience and tolerance, especially when it comes to last-minute changes, and her hard work has earned her the respect of all our volunteers. Jane is always cheerful and maintains a positive attitude even when the schedule gets busy. In addition to her scheduling duties, Jane also helps recruit new volunteers and is always on the lookout for people who share her passion for helping others. She's known for her warm and welcoming personality, which makes her an appreciated ambassador for Fidelis House. Always willing to go the extra mile, when there's no one else available to fill a shift, Jane steps in herself, ensuring that Fidelis House can continue to provide its important service to the wider community. Jane also makes sure that the cupboards at Fidelis House are always stocked with food and other essential items for the guests. This might seem like a small task, but it is indicative of Jane's attention to detail and her commitment to making sure that everyone who comes through the doors of Fidel's House is well cared for. Through her leadership and strong communication our volunteer body provide an excellent an uninterrupted service 24/ 7 seven days a week.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Jon Wilson**

Nominee contributes to:
Greenwood Minor Basketball

Years of service: **2021-present**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:

Jon is the president of Greenwood Minor Basketball Association and a member of the CAF as a Logistics Officer, as well as a dad of three very active little boys. It's one thing to do all of this in a normal year but to do during a pandemic is quite something. Jon has devoted thousands of hours volunteering not only on the basketball court but previously coaching soccer as well. Jon Wilson has been the President of GMBA since 2021. Jon's tireless devotion to keeping our kids active (even during the pandemic) has been no easy task yet he does it everyday with love in his heart. Being a small association in a community with only school gyms and 2 community gyms, Jon Wilson devoted many late nights organizing schedules to ensure each age group had quality coaches and court time twice a week.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **JOSEPH BENJAMIN**

Nominee contributes to: **Joe spends countless hours at the Center. He is there everyday after work either setting up for events or cleaning. He looks after all lawn care and snow removal besides having a full-time job. Ever since Joe has been President of the center the improvement to the interior and exterior of the building has transformed incredible.**

Years of service: **20+ years**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Joe is always on call and never does anything for himself. He lives at the community center. He wants the best for the people in the community.**



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Kevin West**

Nominee contributes to: **Kevin is a tireless volunteer board Chairperson to the Charles Macdonald Museum, a board member of Deep Roots, active volunteer for Devour! The Food Film Fest, the West Brooklyn Hall SpeakEasy, and part of the team that started the first Memory Café in NS.**



Years of service: **At least 25 with various organizations**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Has served as president/chair of CMAC and active volunteer and board member for Deep Roots, Devour and more recently for the Memory Cafe and the West Brooklyn Com. Assoc. Kevin has amazing problem-solving skills, is practical and positive and always willing to help. A great server too!**

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. He faces every obstacle with positive enthusiasm. Since retiring from working at the Flower Cart, volunteering in the community has been his full-time job. Without Kevin the Concrete House and the Blue Cottage would be a pile of rubble. He not only keeps the team moving to save these important buildings, but he is on site maintaining and fixing both buildings.

Kevin is at every Deep Roots & Devour! event busy making things happen and go smoothly.

Without Kevin, life in Kings County would be less colourful from the lack of culture. He is not only the best volunteer I have ever worked with but the best team player, ask anyone.

I can't think of anyone who volunteers more!

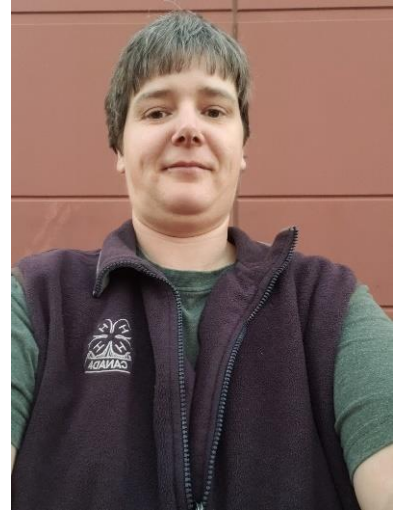
Kevin is always helpful, eager, friendly, good-natured, and works harder than anyone around. He never minds the thankless difficult jobs and always goes above and beyond.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Lisa Bissett**

Nominee contributes to: **Lisa has volunteered at the Somerset Craft Fair for many years, helping crafters to set up and take down their booths. Recently she has volunteered to assist with the shuttle service for the event. Generally, Lisa has made herself available to lend a hand wherever there is a need. Lisa is also supportive of the Central Kings Band organisation. Lisa is a screened volunteer for the Western Kings 4-H Club. As such she is a valued member of our 4-H family.**



Years of service: **8 years for our 4-H club**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Lisa Bissett is a valued volunteer for Western Kings 4-H Project Club. She is always encouraging members to get involved in as many 4-H activities as they can and makes herself available so that they are able to participate. She has been a fixture at the Lumbersports practices and has supervised 4-H participation in the Apple Blossom Festival Children's Parade and the Berwick Holiday Parade. In the fall she has been involved in our 4-H participation at the Agriculture Day held at the Northville Heritage Centre and will be volunteering in that capacity again in 2023. Lisa has also been a willing volunteer during dairy club meetings, public speaking rallies and numerous club community service projects. Members in our club enjoy seeing Lisa at events and appreciate her support. Lisa has a 'can do attitude' and is always thinking of ways to make things work. She is very supportive of young people and is helping to make our community a better place to live by setting a good example for our youth to follow. (If you would like a photo, Lisa may be able to provide one.)**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Lisa Rose**

Nominee contributes to:
Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms

Years of service: **10**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:

Not only is Lisa is the director of Annapolis Valley Frugal Moms and organizes food rescues, food pop ups in the community. She organizes food hampers for those in need. She teaches people how to make every dollar count for meals. She teaches how to preserve food items. Food insecurities are real, Lisa helps to ensure that grocery stores food doesn't go to waste. Her team and her organize food rescue and pop ups for people to get food free.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Lise Rand**

Nominee contributes to: **The Annapolis Valley Honour Choir is a non-profit organization that delivers a complete choral education nurturing healthy, developing voices and musical excellence leading to a community of thoughtful young musicians and engaged citizens sharing a lifetime love of singing. It exists to enrich the artistic lives of its members, their families, and their communities. There are currently 160 choristers from Grades 3-12 in three choirs from across the Annapolis Valley.**



Years of service: **6**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Lise Rand is an integral member of the AVHC Community. She is one of the managers for the Junior Choir, which consists of approximately 60 young choristers ranging in age from 8 to 10 years old. As a manager with exceptional leadership skills, Lise is an invaluable resource for parents and an essential support to Heather Fraser, the Conductor of the choir. As the Fundraising Committee Chair and valued AVHC Board Member, Lise has provided leadership to AVHC organization in its fundraising endeavours through the creation of a Fundraising Team and leading all of the fundraising initiatives for two separate Choir trips. Each of these were monumental tasks as the first trip was to New York City for the Senior Choir, ages 13 to 18, as they sang at Carnegie Hall. The second trip is for the Intermediate Choir, ages 11 to 13, to conduct an exchange with a choir in Toronto, Ontario. Lise consistently leads with exceptional passion and drive, tirelessly campaigning on behalf of everyone within the AVHC Community. We are exceptionally fortunate and grateful to have such an amazing individual within our organization. Lise is an invaluable asset.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Michael Keith**

Nominee contributes to:

**Waterville and District Fire Department and
Cornwallis Square Village Commission**

Years of service: **40+**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:

Fire Fighter: As a fire fighter, Mike is and has been very active. He is one of the safety officers at emergency scenes and around the station. He manages the firefighter 50/50 results and gives reports after each draw. He looks after our electronic sign, providing info to all, he is chairperson of the bar and part of the crew that work in the kitchen (sometimes working the kitchen while firefighters are being served for all they do as volunteers). He also provides info to all requests and does a lot of data entry. He issues key fobs to new fire fighters and others that may need entry to the building. Mike is part of the team that is designing a memorial garden at our base station and is also part of our finance committee that oversees where moneys should be used or allocated. He is very much involved in planning of projects. He has been a fire fighter for forty plus years.

Village Commissioner: Mike is very active as a commissioner. He is the representative for the Village to the Kings County Joint Accessibility Committee. Mike often does the digging for prices or sources of information for the group. Accessibility Committee members receive a stipend unless they represent a Village Commission. That is because Village Commissioners generally receive an honorarium; Cornwallis Square Village Commissioners do not receive an honorarium.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Michael Schroeder**

Nominee contributes to: **Mike has volunteered with the Annapolis East Archery Club - focusing on Youth Archery. Mike is also a Volunteer with many other organizations such as Valley Search and Rescue as well as coaching at Central Kings with both the Boys and Girls Rugby teams for close to 14 years. Mike also volunteers with Youth Sports including the Timbits Soccer.**

Years of service: **2-15**



Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Mike has been a great help and leader for our rebranding of our Archery Club located just outside Middleton where his focus is on Youth Archery and bringing in new interest to BIPOC members and communities Mike is also a Volunteer with many other organizations such as Valley Search and Rescue where he's on many different aspects of the team for over 5 years now. Mike was also the Head Coach for several years at Central Kings with both the Boys and Girls Rugby teams for close to 14 years, Mike also volunteers with Youth Sports including the Timbits Soccer team. It's Simple if something is needed, Mike will help and get it done.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Michelle Coleman**



Nominee contributes to: **Futurpreneur Canada (2023 - current) - Entrepreneur Mentor Kings Hants Federal Liberal Electoral District Association (2022 - current) - Chair International Projects Committee (Rotary Club International) (2022 - current) - Member Rotary Club of New Minas Sunrise (2022 - current) - Member Valley Women's Business Network (2022 - current) - Member Immigrant Support Group (2019- current) - Member Awards Committee (Lois Valley-Fischer Award for Democratic Student Citizenship Committee and Patrick O'Neill Award for Labour Activism) (2022) - Member New Minas Secondary Planning Committee (2019 - 2022) - Member Kings-Hants Electoral District Association (2020 - current) - Member at large Valley Restorative Justice (2003 - current) - Conflict Mediator Kings-Hants Electoral District Association (2018 - 2020) - Women's Representative Valley District Referee's Association (2018 - 2021) - Secretary Brain Wars Competition (Horton District High School) (2016, 2017) - Judge Valley Community Learning Association (2016 - 2019) - Tutor Kings & Hants Counties Historical Connection (2013 - 2019) - Member Kings Country Photography Club (2018) - Secretary Friends for Syria (2015 - 2016) - Campaign Co-Organizer World University Service of Canada (Acadia University Chapter) (2012 - 2016) - Advisor Open Arms (Drop-in Centre) (2013 - 2014) - Volunteer Kings Kikima Grannies & Grandothers (2012 - 2014) - Fundraiser Valley District Referee's Association (2012 - 2013) - Board Member Valley Restorative Justice (2009 - 2012) - Board Member Chrysalis House (2004 - 2007) - Board Member East Kings Soccer (2006, 2008) - Coach Forum on Accommodation of Students with Learning Disabilities (2005) - Panellist Labour Management Committee (2003) - Part-Time Faculty Representative & Co-chair The Red Cross (2001) - Relief Worker /airplane passengers diverted from attack on U.S. Big Brothers and Sisters (2000 - 2001) - Activities Committee Member Canadian Cancer Society (Spring 2000) - Residential Campaign Coordinator Co-op kids Committee (1999-2000) - Coordinator The Red Cross (1999) - Operation Parasol Relief Worker Victory Over Violence Teen Shelter (1994 - 1995) - Board Member Wolfville Children's Centre (1994 -1995) - Vice-President Search Committee for A University Librarian (1994 -1995) - Student Representative Violence Study Committee (1993 -1994) - Study on Prevalence of Violence Acadia Graduate Students Association (1993 - 1995) - Executive Member Acadia University Women's Caucus (1994) - Member Senate Library Committee (1993 - 1994) - Graduate Student Representative Acadia Anti-Violence Society (1993 - 1994) - President Wolfville Children's Centre (1994) - Board of Directors Wolfville Children's Centre (1994) - Publicity Committee Assistant for Campaign Managers (1993) - Candidate in Provincial Election St. Leonard's Society of Nova Scotia (1992 - 1993) - Program Committee St. Leonard's Society of Nova Scotia (1992 - 1993) - Coordinating Committee Correctional Service of Canada (1989 - 1990) - Kentville Parole Office Volunteer**

Years of service: **33**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Michelle's volunteer contributions over the years are unparalleled. Her involvement in each of the 46 organizations listed above have positively benefited the community, including children, youth, students, women, the elderly, refugees, and many others in need. She was a dedicated Community representative on our New Minas SPS project, is one of our Rotarians and has worked tirelessly with our local refugee efforts. Michelle is more than deserving of recognition including the Volunteer of the Year Award.**

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Nora Stacey**

Nominee contributes to:
Windermere Community Hall

Years of service: **10+**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:
The names, I am submitting this year, are not "award nominations", but a way to say "Thanks", for being there, for me, during these "Covid times" that continue to keep most people at a distance, from the hall.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Roz MacKinnon**

Nominee contributes to: **The Royal Canadian Legion Kings Branch 006 (Kentville Legion)** is a not-for-profit organization that relies solely on its membership and revenue from events to run a profitable business. There are weekly events that are open to the public for fellowship and fun. The main purpose of the Legion is to raise funds to assist Veterans with needs as they arise.

Roz is also a long time former volunteer with Acadia Minor Hockey, KCA AND NKEC schools, and volunteered with Hardware/Tides Art Gallery and the Valley Senior Wildcats, and is currently volunteering at Centre Stage.

Years of service: **5**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving:

Roz has done many things over the past few years to raise much needed funds for our Branch. She has put on many activities, such as dances, talent shows, she was Public Relations and put our events and our name out in the media, which brought new people and funds into our Branch. She continues to raise our profile in the community through her work with us. Roz was instrumental in getting a grant and raising the balance of the funds for the new outside lift, so now people with mobility issues can easily access our building. Roz volunteers her time with other organizations as well, she seems to work tirelessly for those she supports.



Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Rob Graves**

Nominee contributes to:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters Foundation of Nova Scotia - Board Chair**
- **Appletree Foundation in support of Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre - Director**
- **Kingston & Greenwood Minor Baseball Association – Director, Secretary & Coach**
- **Kingston & Greenwood Minor Baseball Association – Coach**
- **East Coast Aikido - Assistant Instructor & First-Degree Black Belt**
- **Coldest Night of the Year on behalf of Open Arms, Kentville: 10-year Annual Sponsor**
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Annapolis Valley: 10-year Annual Sponsor**



Years of service: **10+ years**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Rob is a very passionate person and when it comes to his community, he rarely ever says no at an opportunity to help! Rob Graves is a respected businessman, entrepreneur, and philanthropic community member. Rob's success in so many fields and his dedication to his neighbors and fellow organizations in the Annapolis Valley are worthy of accolades and admiration. Rob's many benevolent acts, both financial and personal time, are honorable and respected by the greater community. Rob tirelessly devotes his personal time to the many organizations noted above. But, beyond simply donating his time, Rob does this from the heart. His devotion to community and its members is beyond reproach. My personal knowledge of Rob Graves is through many interactions, particularly with his involvement in my Martial Arts School, East Coast Aikido, where Rob has volunteered as an Assistant Black Belt Instructor in both the adult and child classes each week. Rob has an excellent demeanor and exceptional leadership skills that compliment 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 and one whom I am proud to call my friend. His level of energy and commitment are unparalleled, and he is so deserving of this award. Please consider this application knowing that Rob Graves is a worthy candidate with a level of compassion, dedication and sense of community that sets an example for others to follow.**

Rob has a vast amount of business experience, and he uses this experience to give people job opportunities at Swiss Chalet and Harvey's in New Minas. Rob also works as a realtor and part of that work is that he volunteers his time to help tenants find rentals, particularly low income, and he helps represents local non-profits in securing lease contracts. Rob has been a part of Big Brother Big Sisters both locally as a President, and now provincially as a Foundation President, his passion for this organization and the mentorship of youth supersedes any expectations would have from a board member. Rob founded the Kings Greenwood Baseball Association in 2017 and has been actively overseeing that board since it started, he also coaches full-time in the summer and has over 125 children that he works with during baseball season. Rob has been working with the Aikido Martial Arts school since 2017, dedicating himself to over 500 volunteer hours to help youth and adults learn the art. Rob also is on the AppleTree Foundation for the KRRC, as well as on their Golf Committees. In his spare time, he works on government relations with the MLA Office of Kings West about local issues and lends strategies to overcome those issues, for not only his community but for the province. Rob is truly deserving of this nomination.

Volunteer of the Year Nomination 2023

Nominee Name: **Tara LeBlanc**

Nominee contributes to: **Scouts Canada is a youth group for boys and girls from ages 5 to 26. Scouting is about hands on learning for youth to explore and experience the environment around them. They build skills, confidence, and knowledge to be better prepared for success in the world. Tara is involved with both the cub section and the beaver section of scouting.**

Years of service: **2 years with scouts**

Nominator(s) describe why nominee is deserving: **Tara works full time for the town of Berwick as the after-school program coordinator, she also works part time for AVRCE as a sub, EA and ECE at 4 different school in our area. She has two children, both in scouting, and became a Scouter herself 2 years ago. Over the last couple years, she has also volunteered with BAMBA as a team manager for youth soft ball and assistant coach for U9 soccer with Somerset Soccer. Tara brings such a positive enthusiasm to all the meetings and events. She is always willing to help other scouters, is first to volunteer for fundraising projects, and is amazing with the kids. You can truly see that she loves working with the youth in our group, and the community to teach them skills, confidence, and experience activities outside of their regular school lives.**

