



PRESS RELEASE

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EIGHT OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS INDUCTED INTO NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME AT 4TH ANNUAL AWARDS GALA

ST. JOHN'S, NL - The Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame, an initiative of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, held its 4th Annual Awards Gala at Glendenning Golf in St. John's on Saturday, November 14. Eight of the province's most outstanding volunteers were honored at the ceremony as they took their place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.

The eight inductees for 2015 are:

- Lewis Stoyles, St. John's;
- Marie Ryan, St. John's;
- Patricia Bouzanne, Deer Lake;
- Rosemary Finn, Stephenville;
- Doreen Burton, Port Aux Basque;
- Deborah Powers, St. John's;
- VOWR, St. John's; and
- Susan Patten, St. John's.

“The Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame aims to enshrine the achievements of both individuals and organizations that have set the standards for selfless giving without reward or gain, for all to see,” said Edward Roberts, Chair of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. **“The Volunteer Hall of Fame also aligns perfectly with the mission of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award - providing youth with an opportunity to see the gold standard in volunteering and giving. It is our privilege to honour such remarkable individuals from throughout our province.”**

The Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame was launched in 2012 by The Duke of Edinburgh's Award with the primary goal of honouring, documenting and recognizing the significant efforts of those in our community who have made long-standing volunteer efforts. The event is not only a tribute for the inductees; it also raises much needed funds to support The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program in Newfoundland and Labrador.

More information about the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame can be found at www.volunteerhalloffame.ca. Biographies for each of the 2015 inductees are contained in the backgrounder below.

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BACKGROUNDER

2015 NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR VOLUNTEER HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE BIOGRAPHIES

Lewis Stoyles, St. John's

More than 50 years ago Lewis Stoyles got his first taste of volunteering, and he hasn't looked back since. Mr. Stoyles has volunteered with more than 20 groups and organizations in our province and has helped with many projects that have had long-lasting effects on Newfoundland and Labrador. Of particular note, he has been serving on the Royal St. John's Regatta Committee since 1966, and has served an amazing 16 years on the executive. Mr. Stoyles is also a founding member of the Quidi Vidi Rennies River Development Foundation and took on the role in the \$3 million fundraising campaign to build the Fluvarium. For his lifelong dedication to volunteering, Mr. Stoyles has now earned a place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Marie Ryan, St. John's

Marie Ryan has been a tireless volunteer and advocate for social justice in our community, province and country for more than three decades. Ms. Ryan has focused her volunteer efforts on making a contribution to community development through the areas of sports, recreation, education, municipal service, advocacy for inclusive citizenship and development of the housing and homelessness support services sector. She also successfully ran for St. John's City Council where she served for 8 years and held the seat of Deputy Mayor. While on City Council, Ms. Ryan spearheaded the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Housing and facilitated the adoption of an employment equity policy within the City, just to name a few. In 2013, in recognition of her significant volunteer contributions, Ms. Ryan was awarded The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal and has now earned a place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Patricia Bouzanne, Deer Lake

Ms. Bouzanne has been volunteering in Deer Lake for more than forty two years. Ms. Bouzanne's foremost community involvement is with her Church, where she has been the Choir Director for 30 years. As a retired teacher, Ms. Bouzanne continues to volunteer daily with the local school where she coordinates the breakfast program which serves more than 100 daily meals. She has volunteered with St. John Ambulance, served on the Board of Directors with the Community Food Bank, has been a leader with the Girl Guide movement for more than thirty years and has been a member of the Vera Perlin Society for the past 12 years. Ms. Bouzanne has also served on the Deer Lake Library Board since 1978. She has received numerous awards for her volunteer contributions, including "The Difference Maker" Award from the Rick Hansen Foundation and has now earned a place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Rosemary Finn, Stephenville

Rosemary Finn got her first taste of volunteering at the age of 17 when she became the General Leader of the 4-H Club in her hometown of St. George's. In 1970, she returned to her hometown after her career took her away for a few short years and in 1978 she founded the St. George's Youth Group. She has been a long-serving volunteer in her community and has dedicated a significant amount of her time to The Duke of Edinburgh's Award program. Ms. Finn worked to expand the program both on the West Coast, and throughout the province and has hosted leaders from across the province for workshops and development meetings in an effort to grow the organization. In 2012 she received the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for her contributions to her community, Rosemary Finn has now earned a place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Doreen Burton, Port Aux Basque

Doreen Burton is a dedicated volunteer who leads by example and inspires others to give back to their community. She began volunteering with the Charles L. LeGrow Hospital Auxiliary in 1988 and since that time has held many executive roles with that organization. Mrs. Burton is also very actively involved in the Lions Club locally, provincially and nationally. In 2010 Mrs. Burton was elected to the Board of Directors with the Lions Foundation of Canada as the representative for Newfoundland and Labrador and after three years on the board, was elected as Board Chair. Mrs. Burton is committed to enhancing the lives of people with disabilities through the foundation's Dog Guide program and even supported a local community member in receiving a guide dog. She has also committed her volunteer time to the Youth Advisory Committee and the Community Advisory Council. For her dedication to her community and her contagious giving spirit, Doreen Burton has earned a place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Deborah Powers, St. John's

Deborah Powers has given more than 40 years of service as a volunteer in the City of St. John's, and her name is synonymous with animal welfare and protection. She has been a driving force for change and excellence in animal welfare in Newfoundland and Labrador. Whether it was working with the provincial government to improve animal

welfare legislation, working hands on with the animals, kneeling for hours to weed and care for the SPCA grounds or baking treats for the shelter animals every Saturday, Ms. Powers endured and dedicated her life to the humane treatment of all creatures. Ms. Powers was also the driving force behind the inaugural St. Francis of Assisi service, known to many as “The Blessing of the Animals” which is now attended by more than 400 animals and their families annually. She has earned numerous awards, including the Canadian Federation of Humane Services “Frederic McGrand Award for Exemplary Service Above and Beyond the Call of Duty” and has now earned her a place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.

VOWR, St. John’s

Founded by the Reverend Dr. J.G. Joyce, VOWR first broadcast from a studio located in Wesley United Church on July 24, 1924. Since its very beginning, VOWR has been run by volunteers. The stations motto, “We Serve”, speaks to the objective of providing secular and religious programming in an unbiased and ecumenical manner including a variety of music, spoken word programs and public service announcements at no charge. Currently, VOWR is operated by 65 volunteers and does not have any salaried employees. The station has a long history of broadcasting during local disasters in order to reach those in remote or isolated areas. VOWR was also the only means of communication to the area affected by the Burin Peninsula tidal wave in November 1929. The volunteers are responsible for creating, writing, producing and delivering a wide variety of programming. VOWR has been a role model in the community by bringing together citizens of all faiths and creeds to work together to profit programming for the benefit of all, and has now earned a place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.

Susan Patten, St. John’s

Susan Patten is a highly respected community leader who has spent much of her life volunteering. Empowering our province’s youth has always been a passion of hers which has been evidenced through her long-time support of the Girl Guide movement. Mrs. Patten has held the position of Treasurer with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and is the first person outside of England to do so. She has also given of her time to the Canadian Mental Health Association, the Lieutenant Governor’s Advisory Council on the Family, the Canadian Cancer Society, and was the Chairperson for The Salvation Army’s Red Shield Appeal, among many others. She has also served in many capacities at St. Thomas’ Church including chairing the 175th Anniversary Committee. For her commitment to volunteer work and community service, Mrs. Patten has been the recipient of a long list of accolades, including induction to the Order of Newfoundland in 2004, the Order of Canada in 2006 and has now earned a place in the Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame.