



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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ST. JOHN'S – The Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame, an initiative of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will honour nine individuals this Friday, October 3, 2014 at a gala dinner at the Sheraton Newfoundland Hotel in St. John's.

The nine inductees for 2014 are: Frank Berkshire (Doyles); Cecilia Carroll (Torbay); Geoff Eaton (St. John's); Bridget Leyte (Fogo); Thomas Maddox (King's Cove); William Mahoney (St. John's); Douglas Moores (Harbour Grace); Rita Pennell (Trepassey); and, Bruce Templeton (Outer Cove).

"The Newfoundland and Labrador Volunteer Hall of Fame acknowledges exceptional people that stand as an inspiration to our community and particularly to our youth," said Ed Roberts, Chair of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. "The Volunteer Hall of Fame will stand the test of time to provide a venue for our youth to see the gold standard in volunteering and giving."

The Volunteer Hall of Fame Awards 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, hosted this year by Seamus O'Regan, serves as the major fundraiser for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and its youth programs throughout the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

More information about the upcoming Gala and the Volunteer Hall of Fame can be found at www.volunteerhalloffame.ca. Biographies for each of the 2014 inductees are contained in the backgrounder below.

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BACKGROUNDER
2014 Inductee Biographies

Frank Berkshire - Doyles

Mr. Berkshire moved to the Codroy Valley in 1966 to teach and he immediately immersed himself in the community. As an educator, he took part in many extra-curricular activities beyond the classroom including acting as moderator the Reach for the Top team, the drama group, and the school's safe prom. Mr. Berkshire introduced and coached high school hockey, basketball and softball for both boys and girls. And he coached all three of those sports at the senior level as well. He established the first Cub pack to the area and served as a Scout leader for many years. Mr. Berkshire is an active member of his church and serves as a lay reader and extraordinary minister. In what may be the biggest indicator of the impact Mr. Berkshire has had, 10 years after his retirement, his former school and students paid special tribute to him for his contributions to his community.

Cecilia Carroll - Torbay

Ms. Carroll has been a tireless advocate for people with disabilities for more than 25 years. Ms. Carroll began her volunteer work with the Canadian Paraplegic Association and then became involved with the Independent Living Resource Centre. In 1990 she became a board member of the ILRC and became chairperson in 1995. She led the organization through some difficult times and always worked with the goal to empower persons with disabilities to make informed choices about their lives. Ms. Carroll took on a leadership role on the national level with Independent Living Resource Centres, and served in various roles including that of chairperson. In 2000, she was appointed to the Newfoundland and Labrador Buildings Accessibility Advisory Board. As well, Ms. Carroll volunteers with the Holy Trinity Band Parent Association and was instrumental in planning two international and one Canadian trip for 40 plus students. And, probably the hardest thing ever, she recruited more parents to volunteer with her as well!

Geoff Eaton - St John's

Mr. Eaton was diagnosed with cancer at age 22. Recognizing a gap in support and education for young adults dealing with a cancer diagnosis, he set out to provide a common place for them to go to in order to learn as much as they can about their illness, and to provide a support network of peers to help each other work through the struggles associated with such a diagnosis. In 2000, Mr. Eaton founded RealTime Cancer, now Young Adult Cancer Canada. Since then he has served on numerous volunteer committees including the provincial Cancer Control Advisory Committee, the Cancer Advocacy Coalition of Canada, the Regional Liaison Committee of Canadian Blood Services and the National Survivorship Working Group, all with a goal to create an environment of hope and empowerment for our young adult cancer population across the country.

Bridget Leyte - Fogo

Ms. Leyte has spent tireless hours promoting and preserving the heritage and culture of Fogo Island. Ms. Leyte formed the Star of the Sea Dancers and taught the group of young 8 and 10 years the steps of the traditional Newfoundland square dance, while she played the music for the. This group performed at numerous events and festivals and members still talk about their experiences today. Ms. Leyte works with the Brimstone Head Folk Festival, one of the longest running festivals in the province, on everything from funding proposals to campsite reservations. She does whatever job is needed to ensure the ongoing success of the festival. Ms. Leyte's volunteer endeavours also include work with the Fogo Santa Claus Parade, Tidy Towns, the Volunteer Fire Department 40th anniversary celebrations, the Punt Races and the Fogo Folk Alliance to name just a few.

Thomas Maddox - King's Cove

Mr. Maddox has history of volunteering that dates back to 1970 when he was first elected to the town council. In 1975, he was elected mayor and has held that position for the past 39 years. He has devoted countless hours to running the affairs of the community and has served, and still serves, on committees that shape the everyday lives of the residents of King's Cove, including the volunteer fire department, the regional waste disposal committee, the recreation committee, the King's Cove Historical Society and the Bonavista and Area Citizen's Crime Prevention Committee. He has also served with the Discovery Trail Tourism Association. As well, he has volunteered with the Bonavista Trinity Minor Hockey Association and is a member of the Knights of Columbus

William Mahoney - St. John's

Mr. Mahoney learned at a young age the importance of volunteering when he joined the Royal Canadian Air Cadets. The program taught him to be a caring and active citizen and he took that to heart. Over the course of his volunteer history, Mr. Mahoney has contributed his skills to lifesaving search and rescue operations, economic development and philanthropic projects. Mr. Mahoney has donated his time to a variety of charitable organizations including the Air Cadets, the Community Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador, the John Howard Society, and the Rotary Club of St. John's, and the St. John's Board of Trade to name just a few. As well, Mr. Mahoney has volunteered for many years with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary Historical Society and lead the project to develop a monument to celebration the history of the RNC. That sculpture now stands on Gower Street in downtown St. John's.

Douglas Moores – Harbour Grace

Mr. Moores has served on numerous committees, given freely of his time, energy, and expertise to ensure success for the many and varied organizations with whom he has been associated over the past 40 years. He was Chair of the 1992 Provincial Summer Games and the 1994 Provincial Special Olympics both hosted by the Towns of Harbour Grace and Carbonear. The millions of dollars raised for these events have ensured that present and future generations have modern facilities available to them. Mr. Moores was also Chair of the "Matthew" visit for the 500th Anniversary Celebrations in the Province. This 1997 event was the catalyst from which the current tourism industry in the Province got

its start. Mr. Moores has also been Chair of the Carbonear Hospital Board of Director, a Member of the Board of Regents of Memorial University, a Director of the Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation, and a Bencher of the Law Society of Newfoundland and Labrador. He was named Alumnus of the Year by Memorial University in 1998 and received the Weldon Award from Dalhousie Law School for Unselfish Public Service in 2000.

Rita Pennell - Trepassey

Ms. Pennell has been giving of her time to make her hometown a better place for more than 45 years. Rita has served her community as a member of the Home and School Association, the Recreation Commission, the Trepassey Management Board, the Lion's Club and as a leader in her church, where she has served as a lay reader for more years than even she can recall. In 1989 Ms. Pennell became Mayor of Trepassey and led her community through one of its most difficult periods, the closure of the town's fish plant. Ms. Pennell still serves as a volunteer municipal leader in Trepassey in her current role as Deputy Mayor.

Bruce Templeton - Outer Cove

Mr. Templeton is known to many as Newfoundland and Labrador's very own Santa Claus having made more than 1500 appearances as the big guy at hospitals, special events and the St. John's Santa Claus parade. Mr. Templeton has also taken leadership role with several organizations over the years including the Boys Scouts, St. Andrew's Church, and the St. John's Board of Trade and the Rotary Club of St. John's. In his role with Rotary, Mr. Templeton played a key role in bring United Way to Newfoundland and Labrador and continued to work with them for to raise fund for charities across the province for many years.