



Subject: *2025 Volunteer Awards Location & Date*
To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee
Date Prepared: October 1, 2024
Related Motions: N/A
Prepared by: Aurora Douthwright, Tourism & Events Supervisor
Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture

Summary

For the 2025 East Hants Volunteer Awards and Volunteer Firefighter Long Service Awards ceremony, staff recommend the date of Friday, May 2, 2025 during National Volunteer Week (April 27 - May 4, 2025) and the recommended venue for 2025 is the Noel & District Volunteer Fire Department.

Financial Impact Statement

With an increase in nominations and cost of catering, staff are proposing an event budget of \$6,500 in the 2025/2026 operating budget for Council consideration.

Recommendation

That Council approve to host the East Hants Volunteer Awards and Firefighter Long Service Awards on May 4, 2025 at the Noel & District Volunteer Fire Department.

Recommended Motion

Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommends that Council approve to host the East Hants Volunteer Awards and Firefighter Long Service Awards ceremony on May 2, 2025 at the Noel & District Volunteer Department.

Background

The East Hants Volunteer Awards are held annually as a way to recognize the important role that volunteers play in our community. Each year a different location for the award ceremony is chosen throughout the municipality. In 2024, the event was held at the Enfield Fire Hall and other recent locations include the Uniacke Legion (2023) and the Rawdon Fire Hall (2022).

Last year, 30 volunteers were recognized: 8 long service firefighters and 22 volunteer award recipients. One *Model Volunteer of the Year* award is given to a standout nominee for their extraordinary caring and commitment through volunteering. This recipient then represents East Hants at the annual Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Discussion

The East Hants Volunteer Awards include a ceremony and dinner for approximately 100 people, including Council.

Each year a different location for the award ceremony is chosen throughout the municipality and the proposed location for 2025 is Noel & District Volunteer Fire Department.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

Honoring volunteers' ties into our strong community by recognizing those that enhance the services, programs and facilities offered to residents.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

With an increase in nominations and cost of catering, staff are proposing an event budget of \$6,500 in the 2025/2026 operating budget for Council consideration. This would be an increase of \$1,500 (past budget for the event was \$5,000).

Alternatives

An alternate date and location as per direction from Council.