



Subject: *Municipal Volunteer Recognition Nominations & Model Volunteer 2026*
To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee
Date Prepared: March 4, 2026
Related Motions: N/A
Prepared by: Aurora Douthwright, Tourism & Events Supervisor
Approved by: Alana Tapper, Director of Parks, Recreation & Culture and Adam Clarkson, Director of Corporate Services

Summary

This report outlines nominees for the 2026 East Hants Volunteer Awards and provides a recommendation for the recipient for this year's Model Volunteer Award.

All eligible nominees are recommended to receive a Volunteer Award with one volunteer recommended to be awarded Model Volunteer. The Model Volunteer will represent East Hants at the Nova Scotia Provincial Volunteer Awards.

The Model Volunteer is kept confidential until the presentation of the award. The recommendation was provided to Council in a confidential memo identifying the nominee.

Financial Impact Statement

Costs related to the Volunteer Awards are included in the Parks, Recreation and Culture operating budget.

Recommendation

That the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommends to Council to approve the Volunteer Award nominees and the Model Volunteer be accepted as presented in the confidential memo.

Recommended Motion

Move that the Parks, Recreation and Culture Committee recommends to Council to approve the Volunteer Award nominees and the Model Volunteer be accepted as presented in the confidential memo sent to Council by email; and for the Model Volunteer be designated to represent the Municipality of East Hants at the Provincial Volunteer Awards.

Background

Council approved hosting the Volunteer Awards ceremony on April 24, 2026 in conjunction with the annual Firefighter Long Service Awards. Originally planned to be held in Mount Uniacke, staff are proceeding with the back-up location of Rawdon District Fire Hall due to challenges in hiring a caterer for the Mount Uniacke location. Catering has been confirmed with Rawdon Fire and staff have booked that location.

Promotion for volunteer award nominations began in January with social media posts, advertisements, direct communications with community groups via email and inquiries through the office. Applications were available in the municipal office and on the municipality's website.

Discussion

This year there are a total of 15 eligible nominations (16 volunteers - one dual nomination).

Volunteer Nominee	Organization
Amanda Wood	Girl Guides of Canada, Tri County
Anita Benedict	Noel United Church
Caroline Travis	Girl Guides of Canada, Tri County
Diane Hennigar	Kids Action Program
Jeremy and Danelle Hoffman	Mount Uniacke Mustangs Fastball Association
Joanne Skelhorn	Noel and District Firefighters Auxiliary
John Grant	East Hants Historical Society
John Kingston	Uniacke & District Volunteer Fire Department
Karen Duncan	East Hants Tigers Basketball
Ken Moxsom	East Hants Fire Service Association
Leanne Hanley	Girl Guides of Canada, Uniacke
Pamela Taylor	East Hants Curling Association
Pat Ward	Noel & District Fire Department Auxiliary
Rae Williams	East Hants Family Resource Centre
Sheena MacAskill	East Hants Family Resource Centre

Canadian Volunteer Fire Service Association (CVFSA) Municipal Long Service Awards

Staff also requested for all East Hants Fire Departments to identify any fire service members who are eligible to receive a long service award this year. Volunteer Fire Departments may nominate a member for a CVFSA Municipal Long Service Award medal for 30 years of service and additional long-service bars for 35, 40, 45, and 50 years of service. The table below shows the members who were submitted by their respective departments. They will also be invited to the Volunteer Awards to be presented their medals/bars.

Name	Department	Years
Dale Copp	Enfield Volunteer Fire Department	30 Years
Charles Dingle	Milford & District Volunteer Fire Department	30 Years
Edward Moxsom	Milford & District Volunteer Fire Department	30 Years
Deborah Leahy	Elmsdale Fire & Emergency Services	30 Years
Mike Sanford	Nine Mile River & District Volunteer Fire Department	50 Years
Stephen White	Kennetcook District Fire Department	30 Years
Vance White	Kennetcook District Fire Department	35 Years

John McLellan	Noel & District Volunteer Fire Department	35 Years
Dale Crowell	Elmsdale Fire & Emergency Services	40 Years
Herbert Romkey	Milford & District Volunteer Fire Department	40 Years
Wayne Barchard	Enfield Volunteer Fire Department	40 Years
Cecil Dixon	Enfield Volunteer Fire Department	45 Years
Al Gould	Elmsdale Fire & Emergency Services	50 Years
John Kingston	Unjacke & District Volunteer Fire Department	50 Years
Francis Ledwidge	Enfield Volunteer Fire Department	55 Years

Model Volunteer

The recipient for Model Volunteer was identified by a committee made up of staff from the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department. Each staff member reviewed the nominations agreed upon a Model Volunteer whose commitment and dedication to the community clearly stood out. A confidential memo was sent to Council with the Model Volunteer recommendation as part of this report.

Award Ceremony

The award ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Rawdon District Fire Hall on April 24, 2026. Doors open at 6:00pm with awards beginning at 6:30pm following greetings and speeches from officials in attendance. The meal will be served at 7:00pm followed by a presentation of the Fire Fighter Long Service Awards, the Volunteer Awards and Model Volunteer announcement.

Nominees are invited to bring up to three (3) additional guests to the ceremony. Each member of Council is invited to bring one (1) additional guest. Local MLAs, Members of Parliament, the local representative from the CVFSA, and last year's Model Volunteer are each invited and are able to bring one (1) additional guest each.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

The Volunteer Awards support the Strong Community key strategy by showing appreciation for our community volunteers and fostering a pride of place for within the communities of East Hants.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

This Volunteer Award ceremony is part of the Parks, Recreation and Culture operating budget with a total budget of \$7,500.

Alternatives

N/A

Attachments

Confidential memo regarding the recommendation for the Model Volunteer was sent to Council via email.