



Subject: *2027 Volunteer Awards Location & Date*
To: Parks, Recreation & Culture Committee
Date Prepared: October 1, 2026
Related Motions: N/A
Prepared by: Aurora Douthwright, Tourism & Events Supervisor
Approved by: Scott Preston, Director of Recreation and Community Development

Summary

For the 2027 East Hants Volunteer Awards and Volunteer Firefighter Long Service Awards ceremony, staff recommend the date of Friday, April 23, 2027 during National Volunteer Week and the recommended venue is the Milford Recreation Association Hall.

Financial Impact Statement

Staff are proposing an event budget of \$7,500 in the 2027/2028 operating budget for Council consideration.

Recommendation

That Council approve to host the East Hants Volunteer Awards and Firefighter Long Service Awards on April 23, 2027 at the Milford Recreation Association Hall.

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 April 23, 2027 at the Milford Recreation Association Hall.

Background

The East Hants Volunteer Awards are held annually to recognize the importance of volunteers in our community. Each year a different location for the award ceremony is chosen throughout the municipality.

In 2026, the event was held at the Rawdon Fire Hall and other recent locations include the Noel & District Volunteer Fire Department (2025), Enfield Fire Hall (2024), Uniacke Legion (2023).

Early each calendar year, the Municipality takes nominations from the public for the Volunteer Awards. Nominees are reviewed by an internal staff committee, and those eligible are invited to the ceremony in April receive their award, along with long-service firefighters within East Hants as submitted by the Fire Chiefs.

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. The event is typically attended by approximately 100 volunteers, long service firefighter recipients, guests, staff and Council.

Each year a different location for the award ceremony is chosen throughout the municipality. The Milford Recreation Association Hall has been tentatively booked for April 23, 2027 pending Council approval. Local catering options will be explored.

Award recipients also receive a small gift of thanks, and staff follow up with those who cannot attend the in-person ceremony to ensure they are given their package/award after the fact.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

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

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Staff are proposing an event budget of \$7,500 in the next operating budget for Council consideration. This is the same amount as previous budget.

Alternatives

An alternate date and/or location per direction from Council.