

Warden presents 2018 Awards of Excellence

Five people were honoured at the regular council meeting Wednesday evening as part of the 2018 Awards of Excellence for their outstanding contributions to Lanark County.

The Awards of Excellence recognize and honour citizens or organizations that have made a significant and/or extraordinary contribution to Lanark County. This year council recognized Jayne Munro-Ouimet of Mississippi Mills in the category of Heritage/Tourism/Arts, Ian Edwards of Carleton Place for Volunteerism/Community Service/Recreation, FuLL DECK (Leigh Gibson and Cynthia Ferrier) of Carleton Place for Volunteerism/Community Services, and David Zimmerly of Tay Valley for Volunteerism.

“The Awards of Excellence give us an opportunity to recognize and congratulate local residents for their efforts to make Lanark County the wonderful place that it is,” said Warden John Fenik (Perth Mayor). “These volunteers contribute a tremendous amount of time and expect nothing in return, but their quiet actions make a huge difference.”

The program began as a way to recognize recipients for contributions to the county at large or in at least two municipalities. It was developed to say thank you to citizens of Lanark County, to provide community recognition and visibility, to support citizens for their contributions and to inspire further community service.

Jayne Munro-Ouimet was nominated by Lanark County Genealogical Society (LCGS) volunteer Shirley Somerville for her leadership and efforts in ensuring the LCGS is recognized and maintained to the highest standard.

Mrs. Somerville explained Ms. Munro-Ouimet has recognized and maintained the full history of Lanark County, has made the LCGS website known around the world, has organized bus tours to different parts of the county for tourism, and has ensured the newsletter represents the people of Lanark County. The society is producing a book of famous Lanark County residents, and Ms. Munro-Ouimet has contributed to the publication “History of Madawaska Village” and has authored “Ode to the Hills,” a private family publication. She has also been instrumental in organizing musical theatre.”

Ms. Munro-Ouimet is a sixth-generation descendant of Donald Munro and Margaret Murray, who emigrated to Upper Canada in 1830 from Scotland. She studied nursing at University of Toronto and then graduated with honours from Business Administration and Accounting. She became interested in genealogy when she was young and is currently president of the LCGS. While working at local nursing homes she heard the life stories of many Lanark County families.

Ian Edwards was nominated by Jonathan Allen, a staff representative for the Lanark County Municipal Trails Corporation (LCMTC), for his volunteer efforts in building and maintaining the Lanark County Trail network. He has been a public appointee on the LCMTC for about five years.

A letter of support from Councillor Brian Campbell (Tay Valley), as LCMTC chair, highlighted Mr. Edwards’ active role and noted he leads by example. “He is always willing to volunteer for any job

that is required to make improvements to our municipal trails. He has spent countless hours of hands-on work on the county trail system and has been an asset in organizing work that needs to be done, thus saving the county money that would have been spent to contract this work out.”

As a member of the Ottawa Valley ATV Club and the Ontario Federation of Snowmobile Clubs, Mr. Edwards has served as a liaison to help prepare for the new Ottawa Valley Recreational Trail. “Ian is a great asset to the LCMTC and a real example of the impact and positive change volunteers can make every day in Lanark County,” Mr. Campbell said.

Mr. Allen commended Mr. Edwards for his professionalism and courtesy. “He is the first to raise his hand to help out with any task. When Ian takes on a job you are guaranteed that it will be completed properly.” He said Mr. Edwards patrols the trails, completes inspections, communicates with property owners and does work to maintain the trails. “Without Ian Edwards, a lot of what the county has been trying to accomplish with growing our trail system would not have happened.”

Leigh Gibson and Cynthia Ferrier of Carleton Place have been hosting fundraising luncheons since 2008 as a way to give back to local organizations that offset operation costs. **FULL DECK** (Fundraising Lunch Ladies with Delightful Entertainment, Cooking and Knowledge) was nominated by Melissa Munch. They have raised more than \$33,000 in 10 years.

Donations from the first luncheon went to the Lanark Animal Welfare Society (LAWS), and since then the duo has hosted eight to 10 luncheons per year in support of various organizations. Their 101st luncheon recently raised more than \$400 for LAWS, bringing the total for LAWS alone to more than \$3,400. Other recipients have included Mills Community Support, Almonte Lions’ Club, Lanark County Interval House, United Way of Lanark County, Canadian Tire Jumpstart, Lanark County Therapeutic Riding, The Table Community Food Centre and the Autism Parent Support Group. They have contributed to sending children to camp, helping grandparents in raising special needs grandchildren, and gathering non-perishable food items, gift cards and clothes for those in need.

Ms. Munch explains the venture started with luncheons at Lanark Community Programs in Carleton Place. For the first few years, Ms. Ferrier cooked the food and Ms. Gibson organized advertising and collected donations for door prizes. Co-workers paid \$5 for the meal. “As the years went on, more people became involved in bringing in food and desserts and helping with set up and dishes,” Ms. Munch said. “Community members are now attending. Everyone volunteers their time and talents for a worthy organization each month.”

Letters from the Almonte Lions’ Club, Mills Community Support and Lanark County Interval House highlighted how valued the contribution from FULL DECK was to their organizations.

David Zimmerly of Tay Valley Township was nominated by Kay Rogers for his generous contribution of time as a professional photographer to several not-for-profit organizations in Lanark County. “David’s photographs capture the essence of our community and provide photographic documentation of Lanark County today,” Ms. Rogers said, noting his photographs are featured, pro bono, in numerous local history books.

An anthropologist, professional photographer and world traveller, Mr. Zimmerly travelled three times

to rural Guatemala with the Guatemala Stove Project to photograph the work in action and to document the stoves, a critical element for the accountability of the not-for-profit organization. He also compiled a photo presentation the organization could use for information purposes.

He photographed several significant events associated with the 200th anniversary of the Perth Military Settlement, including the six-day, 100-kilometre re-enactment of the trek from Brockville to Perth by the first settlers. He also served as official photographer for the South Wind Voyageur Canoe Brigade in 2017, which saw about 130 people from across Canada paddling in voyageur canoes along the Rideau Waterway from Kingston to Ottawa.

Ramsey Hart, Executive Director of The Table Community Food Centre, wrote Mr. Zimmerly has contributed hundreds of volunteer hours, providing thousands of “top-quality images that effectively communicate the feeling and atmosphere of our programs.” These form a key part of reports to funders, the annual report and social media feeds, and help with promotion.

As chair of the Stewart Park Festival and the Perth Regional Heritage Fair, John McKenty commended Mr. Zimmerly’s ability to “capture the essence” of what the Stewart Park Festival is about and to provide a “lasting remembrance” for the students at the heritage fair. “Over the years David’s contribution to both these events has been instrumental in turning them into highly respected and popular events within the county.”

David Taylor, President of the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association, notes Mr. Zimmerly’s documentation of places, ceremonies and events has helped community groups to achieve the quality in photography that is usually cost-prohibitive. “These services have made a major contribution to the success and sustainability of our association’s activities.”

“His photographs have captured many significant events and, with this record, Lanark County residents have a richer sense of community and sense of the place they live in,” added Noelle Reeve, Tay Valley Township planner.

Warden Fenik thanked the recipients for their contributions to enhance life in Lanark County. “Their exceptional generosity makes them role models for all of us and leaves a legacy for our community.”

Awards of Excellence recipients receive an individually designed award commissioned by Mississippi Mills-area artist Stephen Braithwaite, who also created the stained-glass windows in the council chambers. They will be recognized on a plaque in the county administration building, as well as on the county website at www.lanarkcounty.ca and in notices in local newspapers.

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For more information, please contact:

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Lanark County

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Presentation photos available at

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3lg0dcsv2cbfdb6/AACZZowS8ahPxH_aOQ-St-SDa?dl=0

Group photo, from left: Jayne Munro-Ouimet, David Zimmerly, Warden John Fenik, Ian Edwards, Cynthia Ferrier and Leigh Gibson