



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST 2025

PAST AWARDS

FREEDOM OF THE MUNICIPALITY

1998 PAT PRESTWICH
2001 BRIAN WELCHMAN
2008 LES STOREY
2017 JOHN TIDBURY

AWARD OF HONOUR

2008 GREG PARNHAM 2010 TSUQUANA SINGERS

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

2008 PORT HARDY SKATEBOARD CLUB
2009 CATHIE POJE
2009 DONNA GAULT
2009 JOHN TIDBURY
2010 PORT HARDY HOSPITAL AUXILIARY
2010 MERILEE TOGNELA
2010 PACIFIC COASTAL AIRLINES

2012 COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

JOINT ADVISORY/PLANNING COMMISSION
KEN KNOPP, ERNIE KNOPP, DAVID LANG, GORDON PATTERSON
JOINT PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
JERRY DAVIDSON, SHARI OGREN, BRAD SEDOLA, ROB TUCKER
COMMITTEE TO APPROVE PUBLIC EVENTS (C.A.P.E.)
HELEN SEITZ, THERESA ROE, WAYNE ELLIS
MEASURING UP COMMITTEE
HAL GARVIE, PENNIE GARVIE, EDDY LAGROSSE, LYNN BARTON,
GLADYS LATTY, DEBRA PALFENIER

2017 MARG WILSON

LETTER OF APPRECIATION

2019 DAVE GRAINGER

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2022 MARG WILSON

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

2023 COLE MORTON-COACH DAVID DEANS-COACH DONNA GAULT-COMMUNITY SPIRIT JANET DORWARD-COMMUNITY SPIRIT ALISON MERCER-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER NICKI RANGER-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SANDY GRENIER-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER SABRINA DENT - COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER JOHN TIDBURY-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER PH FIRE RESCUE-EMERGENCY RESPONSE HEROES JILL LAVIOLETTE-ENVIRONMENTAL HERO AKIRA ISAAC-YOUTH VOLUNTEER MADISON GRENIER-YOUTH VOLUNTEER FILOMI DAYS SOCIETY-OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION PH HOSPITAL AUXILARY-OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION

COLE MORTON-COACH
NIKKI KNIGHTON-COACH
FILOMI DAYS SOCIETY-COMMUNITY SPIRIT
JOHN TIDBURY-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
NIKKI KNIGHTON-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
JAMIE HUNT-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER
LOUISE DUGAS-COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

2024 CONT...

EMILY HENSCHKE-YOUTH VOLUNTEER
DAKOTA KNIGHTON-YOUTH VOLUNTEER
ROSALINE GLYNN-SENIOR VOLUNTEER
PH FIRE RESCUE-EMERGENCY RESPONSE HEROES
PH ESS TEAM-EMERGENCY RESPONSE HEROES
JILL LAVIOLETTE-ENVIRONMENTAL HERO
4 PAWS RESCUE SOCIETY-ENVIRONMENTAL HERO
LOAVES AND FISHES-OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION
PH HOSPITAL AUXILARY-OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION 2025

As your Mayor, it is a true privilege to once again celebrate the remarkable generosity, dedication, and community spirit that make Port Hardy such a special place to call home. Each year, I am reminded that the heart of our town beats strongest through the efforts of our volunteers—those who give their time, energy, and talents to lift others up and bring us all closer together.

From supporting local events and cultural traditions to lending a helping hand in times of need, our volunteers are the ones who quietly roll up their sleeves, work tirelessly behind the scenes, and ask for nothing in return but the joy of giving. Their actions reflect the very best of who we are as a community. This annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast is just a small way for us to express our gratitude. Your hours of service, your unstoppable energy, and your unwavering commitment do not go unnoticed. Port Hardy thrives because of you—because of your compassion, your leadership, and your belief in building a stronger, more connected community.

On behalf of the District of Port Hardy—Council, Staff, and residents alike—I extend my deepest thanks. We are so proud to recognize your contributions today, and we look forward to celebrating you every year as we continue to grow, together, as a community.

<u>G</u>ilakas'la, Pat Corbett-Labatt



COACHES

Tyson Whitney: Tyson has been an active coach, guiding athletes in wrestling positions while also mentoring leadership skills throughout practices.

Emie Nicholson: Emie dedicates immense time, energy, and kindness to our community, helping our children thrive. As a volunteer for minor hockey and two soccer teams throughout the fall, winter, and spring seasons, her commitment to giving back to our youth makes me incredibly proud.

Harold Nelson: Harold is a dedicated Cultural teacher, goes above and beyond his role—volunteering countless hours for Track and Field, the Eagle View Breakfast Program, and coaching with the Port Hardy Soccer Association.

Evan Sordahl: Evan single-handedly coaches the U15 Port Hardy Minor Hockey team; he demonstrates incredible dedication to the hockey program.

Terry Alway: Terry coaches multiple youth soccer and hockey teams each year, focusing on fairness, skill development, and fun. He is a respected role model for coaches, parents, and kids, known for his positive communication, integrity, and commitment.

Miriam Jakal: Miriam introduces new community programs in music, art, theatre, cheerleading, and more.

Paul Cagna: Paul, a Port Hardy Secondary School teacher, is tirelessly dedicated to coaching and organizing after-school sports like wrestling and track. He also referees local high school basketball games, always prioritizing the kids.

Crystal Walkus: Crystal consistently goes the extra mile for the youth in her life and on her teams, demonstrating unwavering dedication. She profoundly values and nurtures their mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being.

Ryan Handley: Ryan has dedicated a decade to coaching with the Tri-Port Eagles, impacting numerous kids, including myself, as a great mentor. His deep knowledge of the game matches his ongoing contributions, including his involvement in the slow-pitch league.

Adam Ireton: Adam excels in coaching multiple team sports and supporting the youth in our community.

COACHES

Cole Morton: Cole is deeply committed to youth sports and mentoring, dedicating his time and effort to the pure joy of the game and the happiness it brings to the children, even though he has no kids of his own. Cole coached the NI Eagles U18 team, earning the players' admiration and respect.

Nikki Knighton: Nikki dedicates her time to soccer, hockey, and any sport her son plays. She has been crucial to the Port Hardy Soccer Association for four years, serving as president for the last three. Nikki organizes teams, coaches, and tournaments and goes above and beyond each season by managing volunteers and field preparations.

Erika Petrie: Erika is a model of community leadership. Since moving to Port Hardy, she has managed a minor hockey team and recently coached a U12 soccer team. Despite working full-time and raising three kids, she goes above and beyond, managing and coaching when needed, attending every game, and handling equipment.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Christy and Dwight Dreger: Christy and Dwight have dedicated countless hours repairing the Marble Lake dock, replacing rotting wood with new cedar lumber, staining, and restoring safety. They also cleared pathways to protect the environment. Their efforts ensure families can enjoy the lake safely, reflecting their strong community spirit and generosity.

Leslie Driemel: Leslie has dedicated over 25 years to the Twinning Society, expertly organizing exchanges and events that foster strong ties with Japan. Her love for Japan shines through in her efforts to ensure a memorable experience for our visitors. Additionally, Leslie supports local seniors on the HBSCS board and the Port Hardy Legion as their treasurer.

John Louis: The tenderness of John's heart is evidenced by his warm personality and a smile that could melt the coldest of hearts. Out of the love of his marshmallowy heart he organized the Heart & Soul Ball. Though the event didn't come to fruition, the love poured into it was felt and left a lasting impression. The care infused in the language alone lingered in the hearts and minds of many.

John Tidbury: John puts his heart into every function, spreading contagious enthusiasm. With unmatched dedication, he has been volunteering longer than anyone, inspiring others through his commitment and passion for service.

2025 NOMINATIONS COMMUNITY SPIRIT

Anika Tarata: Anika has gone above and beyond in supporting the Harbours of Port Hardy and the Van Isle 360. Her volunteer leadership, creativity, and dedication—especially through youth initiatives like the community colouring contest—have elevated Port Hardy's profile, fostered pride, and strengthened community spirit across generations.

Naomi Heith: Naomi organizes events in her staff role at the District and actively volunteers at many of them, significantly enhancing our town's community fabric. By consistently involving her family in these activities, she sets a strong example of interaction, fostering increased community engagement.

Ivan De Toro: As of September 2024, Ivan has taught martial arts discipline to locals in Port Hardy for 40 years.

Stephanie Bernard: Stephanie exemplifies compassion and leadership through her roles in Building Blocks and as an Aboriginal event leader, serving as a role model for mothers and families. Her inclusive approach ensures everyone participates in activities, showcasing her kindness and strong community spirit.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Patti Smedley: Patti is a tireless volunteer, always ready to serve Port Hardy and the North Island. From Loaves and Fishes to the Salvation Army, and any District need, she steps up with a smile and strong organizational spirit, embracing every challenge with dedication and heart.

Brian Khan: Brian's dedication is unmatched—if volunteer hours were steps, he'd have climbed Everest by now. Always present where needed, his quiet strength and steady presence anchor the community. A peaceful refuge at every event, Brian's commitment brings comfort and reliability, making him an invaluable part of our gatherings.

Malcolm and Brenda Fleeton: The Fleetons, through their leadership and dedication, have kept cherished North Island traditions alive. Despite challenges in finding new volunteers, they continue to sustain the Fall Fair and Concert Society. Their perseverance ensures these beloved community events thrive, preserving joy and connection for generations to come.

Lisa Harrison: Lisa's fundraising efforts for Give Back Boxes and the End2End Cancer Ride have been outstanding, helping countless people. Despite facing her own health challenges, she gives wholeheartedly, raising awareness and supporting projects with no personal benefit. Her selfless dedication and compassion shine through everything she does.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Katie Fyvie: Katie has been a dedicated PAC member at Eagle View School, stepping up as President when no one else could for the past 1.5 years. Beyond school, she volunteers with hockey, soccer, and Track and Field, giving her time generously to support youth and community activities.

Sandra Boyd: Sandra played a key role in the End2End Cancer Ride from Victoria to Port Hardy, helping raise over \$100,000 to support children and families on Vancouver Island. Her dedication and involvement made a lasting impact, showcasing her commitment to community and compassionate giving.

Cora Nelson: Cora's work during Christmas with the waterfront lights and the Festival of Light show at Carrot Park was exceptional.

Richard George: Richard has always been dedicated to setting up for Lions Bingo and volunteering for various Lions Club events.

Sabrina Dent: Sabrina has dedicated countless years to volunteering for numerous organizations, including Port Hardy Minor Hockey, North Island Eagles, Run for Life, Port Hardy Lions, Port Hardy Secondary School, Filomi Days, and the Crisis Centre. She selflessly contributes without seeking recognition, quietly leading as a community volunteer.

Louise Dugas: Louise has been actively involved in numerous community organizations for many years. Her caring and genuine heart shines through as she consistently goes out of her way to help others; whenever there's a need, she's there. Countless events and fundraisers in Port Hardy benefit greatly from her dedication. During her time at Eagle Ridge Manor, she passionately advocated for residents, bringing joy and love to the home.

Nikki Knighton: Nikki, the President of the Port Hardy Youth Soccer Association, has dedicated countless hours over the past two years to ensuring its success. Balancing a full-time job and raising a teenage son, she tirelessly organizes games, coordinates volunteers, attends meetings, lines fields, and manages tournaments. Even in challenging situations, her elegant and organized approach has provided countless opportunities for children to grow, develop skills, and have fun.

Janey Henschke: Janey has served as treasurer of Port Hardy Minor Hockey and the Port Hardy Youth Soccer Association executives, even without having a child in these programs. Her ongoing commitment ensures these sports organizations operate smoothly, showcasing her dedication and support for the community.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Robert Driemel: Rob has tackled various projects for the Port Hardy Legion, District of Port Hardy, Quatse Hatchery, and Twinning, to name a few, and is always willing to lend a hand without hesitation or pause.

Natasha Griffiths: Natasha volunteers for several community-oriented organizations in the North Island, including the Gazette Christmas Hamper Fund, Rotary, and the Port Hardy Chamber of Commerce. She is actively involved in giving back to our local communities.

Bert Stromstedt: Bert volunteers at Loaves and Fishes and the Port Hardy Auxiliary Thrift Store, where he champions a 'war on waste' in our community. He finds joy in seeing items reused, repurposed, and distributed to those in need.

Heather Jones: Heather has dedicated over twenty years to being a Girl Guide leader and volunteers to assist at the senior housing facilities.

Kathleen Davidson: Kathleen served as the secretary and treasurer for the Port Hardy Heritage Society, dedicating countless hours equivalent to a full-time job. After losing our previous one, Kathleen played a crucial role in securing an excellent new curator. Her meticulous attention to detail ensured everything was prepared for a smooth transition at the museum.

Jean Eddy Lagrosse: Eddy has assisted numerous individuals in Port Hardy, providing shelter and support to local youth in need.

Adam Ireton: Adam is active in both the Rotary Club of Port Hardy and the Fort Rupert Curling Club and is a dedicated volunteer for both organizations.

Jamie Hunt: Jamie creates a welcoming and inclusive environment for her school and community youth. Her beautiful energy and dedication go above and beyond, making her a vital support and role model for the young people she works with.

James Pohl: James has been a dedicated volunteer with the Junior Canadian Rangers for so long that it's hard to remember a time without him. Since 2017, he has been the JCR Patrol Second-in-Command, meeting with youth weekly. As our marksmanship coach, he has guided two JCR members to victory in the national marksmanship competition.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER

Kayley McGhee and Kenzie Winterwed: Kayley and Kenzie are dedicated volunteers at Port Hardy Secondary's daily breakfast and hot lunch program, which serves a quarter of the student body. Often arriving before teachers and students, they ensure meals are ready, helping provide nutritious food and a welcoming start to the day for all.

Aviya Jakal: At just 11 years old, Aviya has shown remarkable dedication to her community. From helping the Rotary Club with bingo events to beautifying gardens at Eagle Ridge Manor, she continues to give back. Her musical performances for residents bring joy, connection, and inspiration, highlighting her generosity and bright spirit.

Sara Jakal: Sara has demonstrated outstanding commitment to community service. At EVES, she has supported staff and students through daily and weekly volunteering. Beyond school, she has assisted the Rotary Club with bingo events, helped beautify Eagle Ridge Manor's gardens, and organized concerts, bringing joy and connection to residents.

Allison Maundrell: Allison has been a youth leader for the Port Hardy Junior Canadian Ranger Patrol for the past two years, serving as the Junior Ranger Patrol Sergeant. In this role, she volunteers to mentor younger members, guiding them to become positive community members. During a JCR exercise, Allison's quick thinking and lifeguard skills were crucial in helping a fellow JCR who had a seizure until medical care arrived.

Dakota Knighton: Dakota is a dedicated youth who consistently gives back to youth sports year-round. Attending referee clinics for hockey and soccer, Dakota officiates weekly games, ensuring other youth can participate in weekend matches. Additionally, Dakota assists the Soccer Start-Up Crew by measuring and painting soccer field lines. His commitment and hard work are invaluable, making many games possible and continuously supporting younger athletes in our community.

Emily Henschke: Emily has a heart of gold and is a natural team leader who embodies solid values for her peers. She is a dedicated and compassionate individual at school and within our community.

Linkin Roach: For the past two years, Linkin has been a youth leader with the Port Hardy Junior Canadian Ranger Patrol, serving as the Master Corporal and second in command. He volunteers his time to mentor younger members, helping them become positive contributors to the community. Linkin's dedication and leadership set a high standard.

YOUTH VOLUNTEER

Linden Harrison: Linden is a dedicated youth who gives back to youth sports year-round. He attends referee clinics for hockey and soccer and officiates weekly games, ensuring other youth can participate in weekend matches. Additionally, he assists the Soccer Start-Up Crew by measuring and painting soccer field lines. His commitment and hard work are invaluable, making many games possible and continuously supporting younger athletes in our community.

SENIOR VOLUNTEER

Karen Zoffmann: Karen dedicates all her time to nurturing and attending to the social needs of the members at the Hardy Bay Seniors.

Lisa Domalain: She devotes an immense amount of time and effort to the seniors, always available and ready to help whenever needed.

Lynn Davey: Lynn has been a dedicated Lions Club member for over 25 years, tirelessly organizing bingo nights, handling hall rentals, and taking on roles such as president, vice president, and hall organizer. Her efforts help fund community projects and ensure events like the Easter egg hunt run smoothly. Lynn also volunteers with the seniors' center, coordinating luncheons and providing transportation for seniors to events.

Lisa Lee: Lisa is an unstoppable force of love and service, supporting Indigenous and Korean youth across the North Island and beyond. From ministry and hosting to driving, cooking, and prayer, she gives selflessly without pause. Her tireless commitment makes her the true embodiment of what it means to volunteer.

Sharon Barton: Sharon is a dedicated volunteer with the Port Hardy Lions, giving her time to Senior Bingos, the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween tent, and countless kids' activities. Each Christmas, she helps wrap gifts for the Christmas Fund, spreading joy and ensuring traditions continue with warmth and generosity.

Rosaline Glynn: Rosaline remains dedicated, actively writing grants to sustain vital programs at the Centre. Her commitment to supporting seniors is commendable, fostering connection and well-being. Her efforts ensure the Centre thrives as a hub for socialization, meals, entertainment, and support, enriching the lives of our aging population.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Canadian Rangers Port Hardy Patrol: The Port Hardy Rangers are dedicated volunteers, supporting youth through leadership, outdoor education, and skill-building. They also assist emergency services during community needs, ensuring safety and resilience. Their commitment strengthens Port Hardy, fostering teamwork, growth, and service, making them an invaluable force in supporting youth and the wider community.

Tom Cook: Tom Cook has served as a Canadian Ranger for 21 years, playing a crucial role in search and rescue and assisting the RCMP, Coast Guard, and other organizations. In various leadership positions, including Section Commander and Patrol Sergeant, Tom has strengthened the Port Hardy Patrol and mentored other Ranger units.

Julien Smith: Julien is always ready to lend a helping hand, no matter the time or place. His unwavering support and dedication to the North Island community shine through in everything he does. He volunteers at the Coal Harbour Fire Department and serves as an EMR in Port Hardy.

Port Hardy Emergency Support Services (ESS) Team: In times of crisis, the Port Hardy Emergency Support Services (ESS) team is always ready to support our community. Whether it's a fire at night or a mass evacuation, the ESS team provides essential assistance, ensuring displaced residents have access to lodging, food, and other necessities.

Port Hardy Fire Rescue: Port Hardy Fire Rescue is a dedicated and professional team committed to protecting the lives and property of Port Hardy residents. Comprised of highly trained volunteer firefighters, the department responds to various emergencies, including fires, medical assistance, and rescues. Their unwavering commitment to safety, community education, and rapid response ensures that Port Hardy remains a secure and resilient community.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

Anne Salter: Anne's light shines like a beacon—she tirelessly runs the hostel, welcoming all with love and faith. Passionate about stewardship, she advocates for environmental protection and preservation, often picking up litter on her travels. Her leadership, kindness, and dedication extend to both people and wildlife, inspiring the community.

Sarah Salter: Sarah has led the Bear Smart Committee since 2016, dedicated to wildlife education and safety. Even as WildSafe Coordinator, she continues to volunteer, offering outreach, presentations, and community events. Her hands-on leadership and passion for conservation inspire awareness and foster coexistence throughout Port Hardy.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE

Quatse Salmon Stewardship Centre: The Quatse Salmon Stewardship Centre is dedicated to enhancing and celebrating salmon in our region. Their commitment shines through in their efforts to support salmon populations and habitats. The Centre provides invaluable educational programs, fostering a deeper understanding of salmon conservation and the critical role these fish play in our ecosystem. Combining hands-on activities with community outreach, the Quatse Salmon Stewardship Centre plays a crucial role in preserving and celebrating salmon, ensuring their future for future generations.

Jill Laviolette: Jill is passionate about the environment and works tirelessly to clean our remote and local beaches. She leads dedicated volunteers and goes above and beyond to remove debris and protect our coastlines.

Tri-Port Wildlife Response Team: The Tri-Port Wildlife Response Team plays a crucial role in supporting the North Island by providing transportation and assistance to needy animals. Their dedicated efforts ensure that injured and distressed wildlife receive the care and support necessary for recovery, demonstrating our region's strong commitment to animal welfare.

4 Paws Rescue Society: 4 Paws Rescue is dedicated to rescuing and rehoming needy animals. They focus on providing safe shelter, medical care, and loving homes for pets, including dogs, cats, and other animals. Their work involves rescuing animals from various situations, such as abandonment, neglect, or abuse, and finding suitable forever homes.

OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION

Loaves and Fishes Port Hardy: Multiple agencies and organizations benefit from their efforts. They consistently connect with these groups to meet their needs. Local schools, mental health outreach services, First Nations communities, Sacred Wolf, the Salvation Army, the Senior's Centre weekly luncheon, and many others have all received support. They also extend their services to other communities in collaboration with Nanaimo Loaves and Fishes. If you have children in school, attend local programs, or use the Food Bank or Fresh Eats, chances are you have benefited from this fantastic organization.

Mabel's Crew: Mabel's Crew tirelessly raises funds for youth, senior recreation, and local programs, ensuring access for all. Recently, she helped raise over \$100,000 for pediatric cancer and families on Vancouver Island through End2End, where she serves as a dedicated steering committee member.

FILOMI Days Society: The FILOMI Days Society has achieved remarkable accomplishments, including organizing the annual large-scale community event, fostering cultural celebrations, and promoting local heritage for locals and tourists.

2025 NOMINATIONS OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION

Hardy Bay Senior Citizens Society: The Hardy Bay Seniors Community Society (HBSCS) works tirelessly to prevent social isolation among seniors in Port Hardy. They provide a warm and welcoming space where seniors can share meals and engage in various activities. With coffee always on, seniors are invited to enjoy lunch, play games, work in the gardens, learn new crafts, and always feel included and cared for.

Port Hardy Youth Soccer Association: Without the dedication and hard work of these wonderful individuals, our children would have had no soccer season. Their commitment and passion have enabled the Port Hardy Soccer Association to thrive and provide a fantastic experience for our young athletes.

Port Hardy Hospital Auxiliary: The Port Hardy Auxiliary is a shining example of community dedication through its exceptional volunteers. These committed individuals selflessly give their time and energy to support various initiatives and services, enhancing the well-being of our community. Whether it's through organizing events, providing crucial assistance, or offering a helping hand in times of need, their unwavering dedication makes a profound difference.

Port Hardy Rotary Club: The Port Hardy Rotary Club actively gives back to the community by funding and organizing events such as the Pumpkin Patch, Terry Fox Run, and Christmas Carolling. They also contribute by providing and maintaining local playgrounds and amenities, enhancing the quality of life for everyone in Port Hardy.

Salvation Army: Many of the Salvation Army's operations rely on dedicated volunteers who support vulnerable populations through food distribution, counselling, outreach, and various services. Their efforts are instrumental in providing a fuller and more supportive life for those in need.

Port Hardy Farmers and Artisans: This fantastic organization supports local artisans and farmers by hosting a bi-monthly market in the park. This initiative fosters community spirit and provides valuable support to local entrepreneurs.

Port Hardy Legion: The Port Hardy Legion supports North Island veterans through various volunteer efforts. They host and support multiple fundraisers to keep the Legion operational and continue offering vital assistance to veterans. Their commitment extends to organizing the annual Wounded Warrior Run, which raises awareness and funds for wounded soldiers. Through these efforts, the Port Hardy Legion ensures that veterans receive the support and recognition they deserve.

NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER NOW OPEN YEAR ROUND TO NOMINATE THOSE OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS



WE WANT TO HEAR FORM YOU
TELL US HOW YOU
WANT TO CELEBRATE

