
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BEST IN MOUNT PEARL AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Mount Pearl, NL – Tonight, the City of Mount Pearl held the second annual Best in Mount Pearl Awards ceremony, recognizing all the amazing contributions from volunteers in the community.

“Mount Pearl is home to some of the best walking trails, facilities, recreation programs and city services in the province. But above all, Mount Pearl is known for our community spirit, and one thing is for sure – that spirit is because of the residents who take such pride in their community,” said Mayor Dave Aker. “For all the time they all have spent over the last week, month, year and decade, these awards are about them, and it’s our way to say thank you.”

The winners of the 2020 Best in Mount Pearl Awards are:

Impact in Music, Arts, and Culture – Christine Hennebury

Environment Award – Auto Parts Network AND Rotary Club of Waterford Valley

Community Group of the Year – Parish of the Good Shephard

Citizen of the Year – Wanda Tiller

Lifetime Achievement – Jim Bulgar

“While we would have preferred to host a big event to celebrate the nominees and recipients, that wasn’t in the cards at this time,” continued Mayor Aker. “But the great work, dedication, and selflessness among our groups, businesses and residents should not go unnoticed. This year, more than ever, it is important highlight those who have made such a lasting impact on our City.”

ABOUT THE BEST IN MOUNT PEARL AWARDS

The Best in Mount Pearl Awards are an opportunity to showcase residents, groups or businesses who “lead the pack”, take risks to innovate, establish new partnerships, question established ways of doing things and pioneer new approaches. The awards recognize ideas and people that rise above challenges with vision, creativity, and teamwork. Learn more: <https://www.mountpearl.ca/residents/awards/best-in-mountpearl/> .

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ABOUT THE AWARDS RECIPIENTS:

Impact in Music, Arts, and Culture - Christine Hennebury is an avid, dedicated volunteer who has lent her hand in supporting many organizations over the years. Christine has shown her commitment to the local arts community by founding the Association for the Arts in Mount Pearl (AAMP) and serving as chair since 2005. She served as president and board member of the St. John's Storytelling Festival for close to ten years and volunteers regularly with the Fluvarium, and other school and community groups. Christine is committed to exploring and expanding her self-expression in storytelling, writing, and performing, as well as in visual art. And, in addition to her personal dedication to creativity, she works hard to help other people have the time, space, and opportunity to explore and enjoy the arts.

Environment Award - Auto Parts Network is a provincially and nationally compliant automotive recycler. The organization provides an environmentally sensitive approach to processing ELV's (End-of-Life-Vehicle). In addition to proper and thorough de-pollution of the vehicle, it also provides a source of recycled parts that are available to the general public and other industries for a fraction of the cost of new. This recycling approach further improves the carbon footprint for automotive part production and helps to optimize the useful life of automotive parts. The Auto Parts Network must undergo a Canadian Auto Recyclers' Environmental Code (CAREC) audit every three years. In their last audit, they scored a 97%, which is one of the highest scores in the country.

Environment Award - The Rotary Club of Waterford Valley has adopted as its mandate the protection and enhancement of the Waterford River for the benefit of current and future generations. In support of this mandate, the Club has worked to establish and maintain the Waterford River as one of the cleanest and healthiest urban rivers in North America. By organizing river cleanups, monitoring for pollution, and raising public awareness of the importance of its protection, the Club has driven a steady decline in the amount of garbage and pollutants found in our beautiful Waterford River.

Community Group of the Year - The Anglican Parish of the Good Shepherd embraces both traditional and contemporary styles of worship and includes people from many different background and faith traditions. Operating every Wednesday between March and November, the Parish's "Shepherd's Café" has provided a community lunch free of charge. With over 60 volunteers, the Parish goes above and beyond to help where needed. Also, the Parish maintains the "Good Shepherd Labyrinth", which has quickly become a place of calm reflection and tranquil meditation for residents of Mount Pearl and beyond.

Citizen of the Year - Wanda Tiller has been volunteering in Mount Pearl for many decades. As a director with the Mount Pearl Frosty Festival, Wanda helps drive participation in the festival by various church, school, youth, senior, and sports groups. Wanda also helps with the Girl Guides of Canada, the food bank, and other causes. As a selfless, hard-working, and kind volunteer, Wanda takes great responsibility and pride in her community and helping others. She boosts community pride and spirit in the residents of Mount Pearl and continues to drive community engagement through her volunteerism.

Lifetime Achievement - Since his relocation to Mount Pearl in 1974, **Jim Bulger** has been an integral part of the development of sports in the City. Jim's experience and commitment spans to a broad range of roles and responsibilities for various sports clubs, including coach, referee, executive member, fundraising volunteer, committee member, and more. Jim's volunteer portfolio goes beyond sports, including volunteering with the Frosty Festival, Habitat for Humanity, and the Mount Pearl Chase the Ace fundraiser. With a friendly, people-first attitude, Jim has had an immense impact on his community and the people who he has helped along the way.

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