



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: City of Mount Pearl Celebrates Youth Excellence at 36th Annual Focus on Youth Awards

May 13, 2026 (Mount Pearl, N.L.) – The City of Mount Pearl hosted the 36th annual Focus on Youth Awards at the Reid Community Centre on May 12. The annual event recognizes the achievements, leadership, and community involvement of young people in Mount Pearl.

“These awards recognize young people who inspire others and contribute to a strong sense of our community in Mount Pearl,” said Mayor Dave Aker. “Their dedication, leadership, and commitment help shape our future.”

Each year, residents, community groups, and organizations are invited to nominate youth who demonstrate excellence, resilience, and leadership across a range of areas.

The 2026 Focus on Youth Award recipients are:

- **Athlete of the Year recipients** – Brandon Philpott and Claire Gibbons
- **Sports Team of the Year** – MPSA Girls U15 PYL Team
- **Literary Arts Award** – Rachel Spurrell
- **Visual Arts Award** – Beibhinn Edwards
- **Performing Arts Award (Individual)** – Jane Caines
- **Performing Arts Award (Group)** – O’Donel High School – Grease
- **Youth in STEM Award** – Sophia Zhang
- **Youth Opportunity Fund Volunteer of the Year recipients** – Alex Taylor and Allyssa Roberts
- **Group of the Year** – O’Donel High School First Responders
- **Community Safety and Well-Being Award** – Devon Fahey
- **Reconciliation in Action Award** – Julia Dicker
- **John Rossiter Memorial Youth of the Year Award recipients** – Alex Taylor and Emily Hounsell

More information about the award recipients and nominees is available at mountpearl.ca/focusonyouth.

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