



## RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED FOR 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL COUNTY OF WELLINGTON VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 29, 2010: The Volunteer Centre of Guelph/Wellington, in partnership with the County of Wellington, is pleased to announce the recipients of the fifth annual County of Wellington Volunteer Appreciation Awards.

This volunteer awards program recognizes and honours the significant contributions of individuals who devote their volunteer time and effort to the continuous development of local nonprofit and charitable organizations.

“The contributions of the volunteers we honour today have made an exceptional difference in our community”, notes Cathy Taylor, Executive Director of the Volunteer Centre. “It is those volunteers whose generosity of time and spirit build our communities and inspire others to contribute to making Wellington County a wonderful place to live”.

The following individuals and group were honoured today at a recognition luncheon at the County of Wellington Council Chambers.

- **Cinda Richardson is the recipient for the Township of Centre Wellington.** For the past 30 years, Cinda has been an active member of the Township of Centre Wellington. Her many contributions include her dedication and efforts to help establish the Elora Festival. Cinda is also a founding member of the Fergus Chapter of Stephen Lewis’s Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, whereby Canadian Grandmothers assist African Grannies in their role as sole support to children whose parents have died from HIV/AIDS. Cinda has also organized a book drive for victims of Hurricane Katrina, delivered hampers for the Centre Wellington Food Bank, canvassed for the Canadian Cancer Society and Heart and Stroke Foundation and provided literacy support to local high schools. In the words of her nominator, “Cinda is an extremely valuable volunteer who does what she does with her whole heart and soul”.
- **Chris McIntosh is the recipient for the Township of Wellington North.** Chris is a long time resident of Arthur and has always been a very active volunteer, coaching baseball and serving on the Parent Council at the public school. He also taught Sunday School and was the superintendent for three years. More recently, Chris has trained for and completed the “60 km Walk to end Breast Cancer” where he raised \$10,000 for a family in need. Last year, Chris served on the Habitat for Humanity site selection committee in Arthur. Chris is currently the treasurer of the Agricultural Society, a supervisor at The Door drop in centre and an active member of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church. As if that wasn’t enough, Chris has completed 2 mission trips to Nicaragua and is in the midst of planning another for 2011.

- **Evelyn MacKay is the recipient for the Township of Guelph/Eramosa.** Evelyn is a registered nurse and a dynamic leader in the Guelph/Wellington and Ontario Hospice movement. As a Registered Therapeutic Touch practitioner, teacher and board member of Hospice Wellington, Evelyn has become an invaluable resource of expertise, providing programs, guidance, support and compassion to people of all ages in Guelph and Wellington County. Evelyn offers her gift of therapeutic touch to people in need and provides training to volunteers who then in turn serve others. According to Rosslyn Bentley, Executive Director of Hospice Wellington, ‘Evelyn lives her strong commitment to her community, through her care for those in need within our community and especially through her energetic efforts to design facilities and programs appropriate to those in our society whose lives are changed as a result of illness.’
  
- **Bob Paul is the recipient for the Township of Puslinch.** Bob Paul has been an integral part of the Puslinch Pioneer, serving as reporter and President. Bob has reported on over 500 Township Council meetings during the past 13 years with the monthly community newspaper. It is estimated that he contributes more than 300 hours a year. “Bob’s contributions to the community of Puslinch have been invaluable...he has unselfishly given his time to provide the residents...with an unbiased straightforward report on the ongoing issues discussed at the bi-monthly council meetings.” A retired school teacher and Principal, Bob is also a member of the Retired Teachers of Ontario where he served as President for 2 years, a volunteer with the Evergreen Seniors Centre where he visits seniors in their homes, and a member of the Guelph Men’s Club.
  
- **Ray and Ruth Grose are the recipients for the Township of Mapleton.** The multitude of ways that Ray and Ruth Grose contributed to their community is truly overwhelming. **Ray** is a founding member of the Alma Optimists with which he has been involved for over 35 years and currently serves as the chairperson of the fund raising committee. Ray also volunteered as a Scout leader and a board member with both the Drayton Festival Theatre and Alma United Church. Ray, with his interest and skill at welding, is also responsible for building the world’s largest frying pan which is periodically loaned out for charitable purposes. In addition to being a handyman, Ray is also a great cook. He BBQs for local volunteer groups and it is estimated that last year alone, he cooked 5,000 lbs of meat which was served with 90 gallons of his wife’s famous gravy.

**Ruth** is no stranger to volunteerism either. Ruth volunteered with UNICEF for almost 40 years where she helps collect \$1,000 annually. Ruth especially likes working with youth and has served as a Sunday School teacher with the Alma United Church for 25 years, a 4H Club leader for 18 years, and a Canadian Girls in Training volunteer for 4 years. Ruth is a leader in her community. She has been a very active member of the Women’s Institute for 35 years having served on the executive at the local, regional and provincial levels. Similarly to her husband, Ruth has put her professional talents in to service at various local charities as both a treasurer and auditor. “Ray and Ruth are unsung volunteers...The service they have provided through volunteerism is invaluable and plays an important role in the building of community spirit.”

- **Dave Wilson is the recipient for the Town of Minto.** Dave is a dedicated member of the Palmerston Lions Club and has been instrumental in the building of the new Palmerston Lions Heritage Park. Whether it was laying the cobblestone path, installing the fountain, planting, digging or building retaining walls, Dave used his expertise as a building inspector to lead the way. Whether it be construction advice or committee and cabinet work, Dave has contributed to a number of community improvements including: the Splash Pad, Lawrence Park playground, Norgan Theatre renovation and, more recently, the Canadian National Railway Association renovation. Dave has also assisted in a

number of fundraising efforts including: the Valentines Lottery & Dance, the Canadian Handcar Championships and the Annual Palmerston Lions Golf Tournament. According to his nominators, “Whenever a decision is to be made, everyone young and old look to Lion Dave as our everyday hero.”

- **The East Wellington Family Health Team Board is the recipient for the Town of Erin.** The EWFHT board consists of Erik Stern, Rebecca Sutherns, Rachel Ingram, John Wilson, Diarmid Campbell, Kevin Flanagan, John Platz and Dr. Duncan Bull. Michelle Karker is also being recognized in her role as Executive Director. In a process that began 10 years ago, the EWFHT board has been successful in bringing two new medical facilities into the community, and, with those facilities, will address a severe medical shortage in East Wellington. With the clinic in Rockwood now complete and the project in Erin under construction, this group of people should be proud of their persistence in the face of various challenges. They have all spent countless hours in meetings with provincial and municipal governments, developers, doctors and other health professionals. As a result of their hard work and dedication, the communities of Erin and Rockwood will be able to attract more physicians and allow residents greater choice in receiving their medical care locally.

**For more information:** Cathy Taylor, Executive Director, (519) 822-0912 or Toll Free 1-866-693-3318.



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