

Backgrounder: 2023 Applause Awards

Climate Change Leadership Awards

East Port Properties, Corporate Climate Change Leadership Award: East Port Properties Limited is committed to protecting the environment through its environmental and energy policies and management plans. Their buildings at 351 and 235 Water Street consistently outperform comparable buildings in their energy and water efficiency and have achieved certifications such as LEED Gold and BOMA Best Platinum. The facilities operate with low-carbon sea water cooling/heating and geothermal systems respectively, as well as responsive lighting, space conditioning systems, and a composting and e-waste diversion program. They offer 14 EV parking stalls, while also encouraging public transportation to their tenants.

Ordinary Spokes Community Bike Action, Community Climate Change Leadership Award: Ordinary Spokes is a not-for-profit organization operated by volunteers. They work tirelessly to promote cycling culture in St. John's by maintaining an inclusive community-focused cycling hub, offering education on bicycle mechanics and safety, organizing community events, and providing financially accessible bicycles and repairs. In the last two years, Ordinary Spokes has hosted over 70 bicycle repair sessions and refurbished over 150 bicycles.

Heritage Awards

For preserving or restoring the original character of a Heritage Building: **Mark Murphy and Eldon Murray for 20 Gower Street.** 20 Gower Street is a great example of a Second Empire row house architectural style that was made popular in St. John's after the devastating Great Fire of 1892. This designated Heritage Building has original two storey bay windows and peaked dormers projecting from the mansard roof. The renovation included restoring the design details, in particular the beautiful stained-glass windows.

For preserving or restoring the original character of a building in Heritage Area 1: **Bill Brennan and Anne Marie Christie for 12 Cathedral Street.** The renovations at 12 Cathedral Street were based on a historic photo and the owner's intent was to restore it to the building's original 1893 glory. The vinyl siding installed in the 60s or 70s was removed and the building was restored to include wooden clapboard, decorative trim details and a new door similar to the original with a transom and side lights. The contractor for this work was Brian Marler from Marler Works.

For preserving or restoring the original character of a building in Heritage Area 1: **Adam and Brenda Henderson for 21 Gower Street.** 21 Gower Street is located on one of downtown St. John's oldest streets. The property owners worked with Historic Homes to renovate the building to restore the windows, clapboard and trims.

For preserving or restoring the original character of a building in Heritage Area 2: **Jennifer Young and David Molyneux for 15 Victoria Street.** Detailed craftsmanship by Historic Homes was used to replicate the home's original architecture. This building contains elements typical of Second Empire architecture such as the mansard roof with dormers, decorative eave brackets and mouldings and intricate door and window trim. The restoration will preserve the building's character for years to come.

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For preserving or restoring the original character of a building in Heritage Area 2: **Stephen Jones for 122 Pleasant Street.** Working with contractor Historic Homes, almost all the exterior woodwork was restored and where needed, replaced during the renovations of this three-storey home. They replaced rotten sills, wooden window boxes, the decorative trim, windows and painted the building to revitalize it while maintaining the heritage characteristics.

Volunteer of the Year Awards

Rhadika Verma, Youth Volunteer of the Year: Radhika is a full-time pharmacy student at Memorial University, who passionately dedicates her time to a variety of community organizations and volunteer projects, such as the opioid crisis and smoking cessation.

Stephen Jewczyk, Adult Volunteer of the Year: Stephen Jewczyk has over 40 years of dedicated volunteerism in a wide variety of areas including supportive housing, food networks, environmental activism and recreational sport. Stephen has worked with Stella's Circle, Cochrane Street United Church and numerous other organizations.

Wheels for Wishes, Group Volunteer of the Year: A group of eight dedicated volunteers who work tirelessly to educate the community about sight loss and inclusion. They have raised over \$150,000 to support the Buddy Dog program and other efforts.

Tourism Awards

Mummers Festival, Tourism Excellence Award: The Mummers Festival is solidly woven into the cultural tapestry of our city as a beloved signature annual event. It has grown to become a completely new and out-of-the-box tourism experience for an ever-increasing number of participants. This cultural gem offers two-weeks of completely free and accessible activities that encourages participants to engage in workshops, public lectures, forums, and concerts, all leading up to the signature Mummers Parade.

For Come Home Year, the Mummer's Festival was an important part of promoting the City as an unique winter destination and were in several "best winter festivals in Canada" articles across the country. In addition, the festival will be featured in upcoming national and international documentaries. The marketing campaign has led the Mummer Festival to be a "bucket list" item for tourists.

Tuckamore Festival, The Legend Award: For almost 25 years, the Tuckamore Festival has been a vibrant force in the St. John's arts and culture community. This two-week chamber music festival presents world-renowned musicians in a nightly concert series, while offering educational experiences for talented young musicians and composers. The festival programming includes free lunchtime concerts and open rehearsals to ensure that residents and visitors can enjoy the music, regardless of their music knowledge or financial status.

With its passion for and commitment to excellence over more than twenty years, The Tuckamore Festival has promoted and highlighted the unique cultural, historical and heritage of St. John's while contributing to the growth and development of the City by etching its place on the global music map.

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Newfoundland Aquaculture Industry Association, (NAIA) for the 2022 World Aquaculture Conference, Destination St. John's Award of Distinction: This conference featured hundreds of worldclass speakers and delegates from around the globe engaged in the science, technology, business, and social aspects of aquaculture. St. John's, being home to internationally recognized centres of excellence in aquaculture and fisheries science, made St. John's the perfect choice for the World Aquaculture Conference 2022. It also served to raise the profile of St. John's in the national and international oceans sector. The conference was hosted at the St. John's Convention Centre and the Delta St. John's Hotel and Conference Centre with delegates using multiple St. John's hotel properties.

Athlete of the Year

Jane Pope, Marg Davis Award for Female Athlete of the Year: Soccer player Jane Pope was a member of the Holy Cross Kirby Group women's soccer team, capturing the 2022 Jubilee Cup as Provincial champions. For her play, Jane was named MVP for both the regular season and playoffs. At the 2022 Toyota National Championship Jubilee Trophy, her team won the province's first ever women's National Championship. Jane tied for Top Scorer and was named the Championship MVP. She was named the province's Senior Female Player of the Year.

Sean Cleary, Tom "Dynamite" Dunn Award for Male Athlete of the Year: Softball player Sean Cleary was a member of the Kelly's Pub Molson Bulldogs in the St. John's League and Galway Hitmen. As a pitcher with the Galway Hitmen, his team captured its eight Men's Canadian Fastpitch Championship in St. John's and Sean was named to the All-Star Team. As a member of Team Canada at the international level, Sean and Team Canada won silver at the WBSC Men's Pan American Championship and a silver the WBSC Men's World Cup. Sean was named Softball Canada's Men's Fastpitch Athlete of the Year.

Team Gushue Curling, Team of the Year: Team Gushue Curling. The Gushue rink captured a bronze medal at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, China defeating Team USA 8-5 and then went on to win the Tim Hortons Brier in Lethbridge, Alberta. Playing with only three players in the final game, the team defeated Team Alberta and claimed their fourth Brier. The team then captured a silver medal at the LGT World Men's Curling Championship in Las Vegas and two Grand Slam of Curling bonspiels.

Youth of the Year

Seth Hyde, Junior Youth of the Year: A student at MacDonald Drive Junior High, Seth is actively involved in a number of school activities, including Student Council and the NHL Youth Advisory Committee. He is involved in video production and broadcasting for the school, including the multi-cultural welcome video, retirement videos and morning announcements; he hosts activities and events and emcees concerts and assemblies. Seth actively volunteers as a visitor at Kenny's Pond Retirement Home, reads in church, and participates in grounds clean ups. Always willing to jump in where needed and whatever the request, Seth is recognized for his determination, compassion and empathy.

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Cameron Gardiner, Senior Youth of the Year: A student at Gonzaga High School and founder of the Airport Heights Food Drive. Cameron is also actively working on establishing an Outdoor Library. He is a strong participant in the Mercedes Garden initiative at St. Patrick's Nursing Home, the YMCA Media Mentors Program, Rotary Interact Club, the Gonzaga Student Mental Health Coalition, Tutors for Tuition and much more. In his nomination for this award, Cameron's science teacher describes him as "the epitome of what it means to be humble and a rare gem. Cameron Gardiner will make changes in this world!"

Senior of the Year

Doug England, Senior of the Year: At 91 years of age, Doug has been volunteering since his early teens. As a Korean war veteran he continues to educate generations today about what it means to be a veteran and to serve your country. He volunteers every year as part of the Poppy campaign and has made mannequins, posters, plaques and displays that are shown at the local branches, of uniforms, and artifacts – all of which he created himself. Aside from volunteering, Doug was a dance instructor (ballroom and line dance) and is still as smooth on the dance floor today. He is the jack of all trades and is a proud husband, father and grandfather.