2017 COMMUNITY RECOGNITION AWARDS
Celebrating Our OCDSB Volunteers

Wednesday, May 31, 2017
Program

6:30 p.m.
Reception Open

Welcome Concert of the Bells
Metcalfe Public School

Beauty and the Beast
Manor Park Public School

Chair’s Award
Presented by Chair of the Board Shirley Seward

Community Partnership Award
Presented by Chair of the Board Shirley Seward

Poetry Reading
York Street Public School

Aladdin
Steve MacLean Public School

Community Award
Presented by Trustee Erica Braunovan

Excellence in Equity Award
Presented by Trustee Anita Olsen Harper

Distinguished School Council Service Award
Presented by Trustee Theresa Kavanagh

Volunteer of the Year Award
Presented by Trustee Sandra Schwartz

Closing Video
Roberta Bondar Public School
**Chair’s Award**

This award recognizes the substantial contribution of staff and/or community member to the achievement of the aims and objectives of the Board over an extended period.

**Susan Pfister**
**W. E. Gowling Public School**
Susan Pfister has made a substantial contribution over several years as a volunteer at W. E. Gowling Public School and as a member of the Carlington Community Association (CCA). At the community association level, she worked to increase the relevance of membership and involvement for marginalized people in the community, served as a member of the Board of Directors of the association, and has been part of efforts advocating for the installation of a mountain biking pump track and skills area on Carlington Hill. She has facilitated the organization of the CCA’s annual yard and plant sale for several years.

At the school level, Ms. Pfister worked with a group of neighbourhood parents for the introduction of Early French Immersion at W.E. Gowling Public School, and has been active in the annual craft show and other School Council activities. Over the course of her involvement, attendance at School Council meetings has grown from approximately four to five people to about 30 people, which speaks to the enthusiasm of the renewed community of Gowling parents. Susan is collaborative in everything she does. She seeks no personal recognition and always puts the school and her community first.

**Community Partnership Award Nominees**

This award recognizes outstanding partnership/support from a community agency or business over an extended period of years or through a significant initiative that has directly benefited OCDSB students.

**MD Financial Management**
**OttawaReads Program Coordinator**
**Diane Woollard**
**Charles H. Hulse Public School**
MD Financial Management and Charles H. Hulse Public School believe in the potential of every child.

MD Financial Management employees, led by Diane Woollard, read weekly to children in Kindergarten to Grade 3 classrooms across the region as part of the OttawaReads Program.

Diane Woollard leads the MD Financial Management OttawaReads Team. She recruits new volunteers, organizes training and work scheduling. MD Financial Management’s commitment to community involvement allows their employees to take time away from their desks and volunteer to support children’s literacy skills, social skills and self-esteem.

**About OttawaReads:**

The OttawaReads program is a unique school/community partnership that draws volunteers from the corporate and public sectors to read one-to-one with children.

Since 2004, 17 employer-supported volunteers have spent over 3,000 hours reading approximately 40,000 books to 10,000 deserving children.
Excellence in Literacy Foundation’s Sage Youth Program
Sir Guy Carleton Secondary School
The Excellence in Literacy Foundation’s Sage Youth Program is a valued OCDSB community partner. Since 2002 the Foundation has provided programming designed to develop and enhance literacy skills for academically diverse and learning challenged marginalized youth. On average, they work with 60 to 80 students per year. The program provides students with workbooks aimed at filling critical gaps in literacy skills, and developing employment skills.

Volunteers deal with a unique student population of varied abilities and exceptionalities in a respectful and encouraging manner. Students are paired with skilled, positive and encouraging adults. This contributes significantly to student self-esteem. The impact upon student learning and literacy development during this 15-year partnership has been significant and has benefited over 1,000 students.

Social Planning Council of Ottawa Winning Attitudes Program
Dianne Urquhart
Alternate Program sites
The Social Planning Council (SPC) of Ottawa has worked in conjunction with the Winning Attitudes Program for eight years. The SPC and its many partners in the community donated over $20,000 dollars to support the ongoing work of the Winning Attitudes Program. The SPC also provides youth honorariums and full-time Cooperative Education opportunities.

The Social Planning Council community partnership with the OCDSB has resulted in youth staying in school, exploring careers in the trades and graduating. In addition, the Social Planning Council is actively involved in an initiative that directly supports the financial well-being of re-engaged youth providing a foundation for life-long money management.

The Social Planning Council is a place where collaborative partnerships with schools, volunteerism and social justice live.
Community Award Nominees

Michelle Sutherland
Roch Carrier Elementary School
Michelle is our version of Mother Nature at the school. She led several environmental and school greening initiatives. Michelle supported active student transportation which resulted in active ways students get to school by 10% within the first year.

Michelle championed the design and implementation of the school’s potato patch. She worked directly with Roch students and staff to prepare, plant and harvest potatoes. The success of the potato patch led to Roch’s recent partnership with Growing Up Organic/Grandir bio — a program that partners with schools to lead garden-based workshops.

Michelle and a team of teachers and students in grades 4, 5 and 6 will build three garden beds to complement the current garden beds. Students will plant seeds and seedlings, care for the gardens and harvest the results.

Elaine Hayles
York Street Public School
Elaine Hayles champions equity in schools across the District. She actively supports the Advisory Committee on Equity. She advocates for the well-being of students, particularly students who come from communities that have traditionally been at-risk and/or marginalized. Three years ago, York Street Public School did not have a School Council. Elaine was instrumental in establishing the School Council, even though her own child is in his twenties and long past elementary school. Elaine strongly believes that communities such as Lowertown should have their voices heard and the desires for their children realized.

Elaine does so much for so many but does so in a manner that never sees her in the limelight. Her work is helping to ensure the District continues to meet the needs of the most vulnerable students and families.

Vania Karam
Colonel By Secondary School
Vania Karam has an unwavering commitment to address bullying in schools. She holds the principles of equity and inclusiveness in the highest regard.

Vania shares a message about the importance of ensuring all students feel welcomed so that they have a better school experience. She believes that through awareness and education everyone can be better equipped to handle difficult situations with empathy, acceptance and support. Vania continues to spread the message that bullying is not acceptable in our communities. She is a respected voice in the anti-bullying campaign. Her efforts are making a significant difference.

Excellence in Equity Award Nominees

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**Excellence in Equity Award Nominees**

Aboriginal Experiences — Executive Director Trina Mather-Simard

Thousands of OCDSB students attend a children’s pow wow thanks to the community agency, Aboriginal Experiences. The pow wow is part of the Summer Solstice and National Aboriginal Awareness Day.

Aboriginal Experiences, under the direction of the Executive Director Trina Mather-Simard, is focused on building unity and awareness regarding all Ottawa area Indigenous communities.

The event incorporates hands-on learning about: traditional First Nations dance, regalia, music, and drumming, through the experience of an authentic pow wow. The day also includes the opportunity to learn about Inuit culture and traditional practices, such as soap stone carving.

One of the aims of the event is to educate, share teachings and instil pride in children and youth. The Summer Solstice Pow Wow Day intentionally gives students and teachers the opportunity to ask questions and build community connections, while introducing students to Indigenous community agencies in Ottawa. It is a day filled with and hope and promise for the future.

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**Distinguished School Council Service Award Nominees**

This award is granted in recognition of the outstanding efforts of a school council or school council member for making a significant contribution to enhancing the learning experience of students at a school and/or system level.

Becky Staniforth

Featherston Drive Public School

Becky Staniforth gives freely of her time, her talents, and her enthusiasm. She launched community engagement activities which brought together hundreds of parents, students, and community members. She fundraises tirelessly in support of student and community enrichment opportunities. She actively supports and advocates for the Autism program at the school.

Becky believes community engagement is integral to the health of the school environment. She launched Family Movie Nights, Family Dance Nights, and Family Games Nights. Many of these events are now Featherston traditions. Whether she is launching a new initiative or revisiting an old tradition, she ensures that the Autism students and parents feel welcomed. It is also worth noting that Becky achieved all these goals while working 60 hours a week as an Emergency Room nurse.
Jennifer Wilson
Mutchmor Public School/
First Avenue Public School

Jenn Wilson is a tireless volunteer who organizes so many things it is difficult to think of a project she has not assisted with. Her contributions to the school community will last long after she ceases to be a member of School Council. She will be remembered for always putting students first.

Beyond her administrative duties as Chair, she routinely spearheads fundraisers such as the holiday breakfast, the coffee fundraiser, the year-end BBQ, the annual craft sale, the Great Glebe Garage Sale, and so much more. She raised funds for school technology, library books, school equipment, field trips, and families touched by illness.

Jenn Wilson is selfless, dedicated, and irreplaceable. She will be tackling new opportunities in school year 2017–2018. Great leaders model great behaviour; she leaves an excellent blueprint to follow.

Cathy Babyak
Manordale Public School

Cathy Babyak is an effective, active leader on the Manordale Family School Council. Manordale Public School is a positive place for students to learn and grow, in great part due to Cathy’s ongoing guidance and encouragement. Cathy’s dedicated involvement with the Ottawa Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC) helped to provide a District-wide perspective on the work the council does.

Cathy consistently demonstrated the ability to organize extra-curricular activities and to coordinate fundraising events that benefited all students. Her leadership style is one where everyone feels heard and respected. Single-handedly, Cathy applied for and successfully received a Parents Reaching Out Grant (PRO Grant) four years in a row. She designs and organizes events within the school that foster unity and collaboration.

When faced with adversity, they come together and create solutions. They recently, logged hundreds of hours to develop more robust financial management procedures. They worked collaboratively with the District to ensure financial checks and balances were established to ensure financial transparency and integrity. Leslie Park School Council exemplifies the school motto: “Small, but mighty.”

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Leslie Park Public School Council works diligently to support students, parents, and teachers at the school. Their collaborative approach encourages students and parents to express their ideas and advocate for community involvement. Leslie Park School Council meets monthly to discuss school-based issues. In addition, members assist with field trips, promote art and science events, obtain donations of outdoor toys for the schoolyard, and assist teachers with a myriad of activities. Their focus is always student-centred and they are dedicated to ensuring that students feel welcomed and encouraged.

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Christine Moulaison
South March Public School
Christine is a valuable, dedicated and enthusiastic member of Parent Council. She very rarely misses a meeting; even after the birth of her fourth child, she brought him to the meetings. Her child is now considered an honorary member of Parent Council!

Christine brings a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to everything she does. In addition to her role in Parent Council, Christine is a member of OCASC and is the OCASC liaison officer/COW representative. This position allows her to better understand District decision making.

Christine is a committed, loving, involved mom. In an age when people seem busier than ever, she constantly amazes her community with her willingness to give so much of her time and energy to ensure everyone is working to better the student experience.

Shirley Duquette
Robert E. Wilson Public School
Shirley made significant and lasting improvements to the Robert E. Wilson Parent Resource Room. This room is stocked with clothing, footwear, outerwear and dry food items that are accessible to students and families. Shirley spends countless hours organizing, sorting and cleaning the donations. She shows amazing compassion and care while assisting new families to the school and to the country to help them set up their home, provide clothing and make sure everyone has what they need.

In addition, to the time-consuming task associated with the Parent Resource Room, Shirley ensures all students have skates and helmets so they can participate in the yearly class skating trips. She encouraged another community member to sharpen the skates and found a generous donor to purchase new helmets. Shirley does all this and more with an engaging, positive attitude.

Darlene and Paul Engelbrecht
Henry Larsen Elementary School
Paul and Darlene give tirelessly of their time and involvement at Henry Larsen Elementary School. The dynamic duo supervises field trips, sporting events and school events.

Their greatest impact is supporting the Henry Larsen Physical Education Department by donating their time to BBQ between 150-200 hotdogs and hamburgers one day a week for 6 weeks in the Fall and 6 weeks in the Spring. Their efforts have helped raise thousands of dollars. Paul and Darlene have barbecued in the sun, snow, rain, sleet, hail and in a full range of Canadian temperatures as a gift to the school and the community.

Paul recently had a full knee replacement. He was at the BBQ less than two weeks post-surgery dressed in his winter gear and it happened to be -25°C. Paul and Darlene are an amazing addition to the Henry Larsen team.
Valerie Pryce
Hilson Avenue Public School

Valerie Pryce is a caring and respected Hilson Avenue Public School volunteer. Mrs. Pryce, as the kids like to call her, is a retired civil servant who is now continuing to give back to her community.

Throughout the year she is willing to do anything that is needed to ensure the Kindergarten and Grade 1 students are equipped and ready to learn. She also gives up precious time in her gardens to help the teachers clean and set up the classrooms for fall.

Valerie is cool, calm and collected. She is kind and patient and that is what the world of “Kinderland” needs. Her passion and zest for life is inspiring, and one hug from Valerie during a hectic stressful day, really makes a difference. The Hilson “Kinder Team” does not think of Valerie as simply a volunteer; she is so caring and kind.

Caryn Suuronen
Convent Glen Elementary School

Caryn Suurone dedicates countless volunteer hours. She is a generous, caring, and kind individual who assists with numerous fundraisers, including special events such as the school fun fair. Caryn encourages parental involvement and is a champion for student voice. She believes every school community can benefit from working together to enhance the student experience.

Caryn is instrumental in planning and organizing school events. No job is ever too big or too small – she is willing to do what is required to get the job done, on time and on budget. She was influential in the fundraising efforts for the new playstructure. This was a huge endeavour for a small school. Caryn remained focused on the project. Convent Glen Elementary School would not be the same without her many outstanding contributions.

Pat Mackie
Regina Street Public School

Pat is a longtime Regina Street Public School volunteer. She is always up for a challenge and is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. Her dedication to student learning can be seen in her joy at knowing that the work she does is helping teachers explain math and shape concepts in young students.

Pat spends two days a week in the elementary school. She never knows what the task will be but is happy to laminate, cut, glue or even construct paper pizzas. She knows her work is valued and appreciated by teachers, support staff and the students. Pat believes being a volunteer is a gift she gives to her community and herself.

Tom Patterson
Katimavik Elementary School

Tom Patterson helps students succeed. He is always interested in working with struggling students who have convinced themselves that they are bad at math. His patient and understanding nature makes students feel comfortable and helps build their confidence. Tom is unconditionally helpful.

Tom goes above and beyond. He is an excellent communicator and always follows up on questions, concerns or projects for the class through email. He makes himself available at any time of day or night.

Tom built a model solar panel car to the students’ delight. He looks for the potential in students and then provides resources to maximize that potential. He is a happy, positive person who makes a significant, positive impact on Katimavik Elementary School.

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2017 Volunteer of the Year Nominees

Wendy Alain — Fallingbrook C.E.S.
Janet Barclay — Elizabeth Park P.S.
Doug Commons — Glen Cairn P.S.
Jane Desautels — Leslie Park P.S.
Carol Dew — Manor Park P.S.
Carol Ermanovics — Albert Street E.C.
Helen Evans — Castor Valley E.S.
Richard Fisher — Albert Street E.C.
Derek Fortune — Cambridge Street C.E.S.
Sandra Fraser — Bayview P.S.
Stephanie Gates — Sir Guy Carleton S.S.
Andrew Green — Sir Guy Carleton S.S.
Stewart Hewett — Cambridge Street C.E.S.
Jordan Knarr — Avalon P.S.
Sutha Manik — W. Erskine Johnston P.S.
Greg Reynolds — Glen Cairn P.S.
Sacha Singh — Elgin Street P.S.
Landon Stewart — Cambridge Street C.E.S.
Kylie Taggart — Mutchmor P.S.
Christina Thiele — Longfields-Davidson Heights S.S.
Jay Waxman — Elizabeth Park P.S.
Elaine West — Woodroffe H.S.

SPONSOR

Parent Involvement Committee
The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) seeks to support, encourage and enhance parent engagement at the District level in order to improve student achievement and well-being. PIC serves an integral role by providing parents with the opportunity to voice their concerns, ideas and challenges while promoting further parent involvement.

EXHIBITORS

Community Use of Schools
Continuing Education/MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre
Education Foundation of Ottawa
Ottawa Network for Education
Parent Involvement Committee
Parenting and Family Literacy Centres

STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Special thanks to the students and staff for providing such wonderful entertainment:

Manor Park Public School
Metcalfe Public School
Roberta Bondar Public School
Steve MacLean Public School
York Street Public School