

To: Community and Operations Services Committee

From: Ron Diskey, Commissioner,
Community and Operations Services Department

Report Number: CO-23-21

Date of Report: April 19, 2023

Date of Meeting: April 24, 2023

Subject: Selection of the 2023 Oshawa Community Legends Award Recipient

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present the nominations of the Community Legends Recognition Program to the Community and Operations Services Committee for their selection of the 2023 Community Legends Award recipient. There were 9 nominations, all of which met the eligibility criteria.

Attachment 1 is the procedures and criteria for recognition of the Community Legends Recognition Program.

Confidential Attachment 2 contains the nominations for consideration for the Community Legends Award in 2023.

Attachment 3 is the Community Legends Award recipients from 2008 – 2022.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Community and Operations Services Committee recommend to City Council:

1. That the Community and Operations Services Committee selects the Community Legends Award recipient from the nominations presented in this Report.
2. That the selected recipient be presented the Community Legends Award at a future Council meeting in 2023.

3.0 Executive Summary

On January 16, 2006, Council approved the procedure and criteria for the recognition of Community Legends at the Delpark Homes Centre (Formerly Legends Centre). The goal of this annual program is to celebrate the accomplishments of Oshawa Community Legends and to recognize individuals and/or groups who have significantly contributed to their discipline or communities. The procedures and criteria for determining the Community Legends Award recipient are attached to this report as Attachment 1.

As per the June 10, 2008 directive, the Selection Committee, comprised of the Commissioner of Community and Operations Services and the Community and Operations Services Committee, shall select one Community Legend. The nominations for consideration are attached to this report as Confidential Attachment 2.

4.0 Input From Other Sources

Not applicable.

5.0 Analysis

A Community Legend is an individual of any age or an organization/group living in Oshawa that has met the following criteria:

- Has made a significant contribution in an activity, sport or community initiative
- Has contributed to improving the quality of life of the Oshawa community and/or has made an impact on the Oshawa community at the grass roots level, in Arts & Culture, Sports or community initiatives.
- Has not previously received recognition through other organizations such as Sports Hall of Fame, Oshawa Central Council of Neighbourhood Associations (O.C.C.N.A) and affiliates, YMCA etc.

Nominations were received in response to promotion of this program on the City of Oshawa website, social media, pamphlets and nomination forms at City of Oshawa recreation facilities, the Oshawa Senior Community Centres and branches of the Oshawa Public Libraries.

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications resulting from the recommendations contained in this report.

7.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report addresses the Oshawa Strategic Plan by responding to the goal of “Social Equity” and the related theme of “Enrich Our Community Through Diversity” by recognizing the volunteer sector and engaging citizens of all ages through the nomination process.

The report addresses Culture Counts: Oshawa Arts Culture and Heritage Plan by responding to the goal “Building Strong, Vital and Connected Arts, Culture and Heritage Sector” and related strategy of “Continue to look for opportunities to leverage partnerships in the arts, culture and heritage sector” by recognizing the volunteers/groups that are engaged and have been nominated through the process.



Jim Naumovski, Director,
Recreation Services



Ron Diskey, Commissioner,
Community and Operations Services Department

COMMUNITY LEGENDS PROGRAM

The goal of the program is to annually celebrate the accomplishments of an “Oshawa Community Legend”.

Who is a Community Legends? A person and or group who...

- Excels in the activity or sport that they participate in
- Contributes to or makes an impact to the Oshawa Community, on a grass roots level, in the following areas...
- Art and Culture
- Sport
- Community Initiatives
- Is of any age
- Is not necessarily a resident of Oshawa, as long as he/she has made an impact in Oshawa
- Has not received recognition through other organizations, i.e.: Sports Hall of Fame, OCCNA and affiliates, YWCA etc.

Frequency of Recognition: 1 selection per year

Award Includes:

- Name displayed in a display case located within Delpark Homes Centre
- Names be added to a permanent plaque on an annual basis
- 1-3 month Level 1 Membership
- Letter from the Mayor and certificate of recognition presented in a portfolio

Nomination Process:

- All nominations must be submitted and endorsed by an individual or an organization
- All nominations must be submitted on a city nomination form.

Nomination Procedure:

- Nominations are reviewed once per year by a selection Committee
- Staff prepare display
- Presentation of award to recipient coordinated by staff

Selection Committee: The selection committee will be comprised of the Commissioner of Community Services and the Community Services Committee as per June 10, 2008 council directive.

Community Legends Recognition Program

Previous Recipients:

2022 The entire community of residents, workers, volunteers, community groups, businesses, and institutions in both the public and private sectors of the great City of Oshawa.

- For their resiliency, support, compassion, kindness, dedication and sacrifices during unprecedented times related to the pandemic. For their efforts and contributions to control, contain and manage the Coronavirus (COVID-19). For all their contributions made to support the health, safety and well-being of our community during the pandemic.

2021 Julian Sheehan- Ford

- A youth who has raised over \$10,000 through his charity “A Rose to Remember” for veterans. He is a Canadian Ambassador for Free Riders Without Borders. Since the age of 8 he has been visiting veterans and handing out roses to thank them for their sacrifice and service.

2020 Jim Fergusson

- Heads up Food for Clothing Exchange. Over 30 years of volunteering in the community.

2019 S.J. Jim Brewster

- Retired from the Air Force, a member of Legion #43 for over 70 years, Jim has donated almost a \$1,000,000 to the Oshawa hospital.

2018 Sharon Clark

- Sharon has worked closely with Durham Children's Aid Foundation through her own charity Sharon's Kids which is celebrating 50 years this year!

2017 Gord Reid

- Gord was a foster parent, Block Parent, and a member of the Neighbourhood Watch. He volunteered with Community Care Durham, Meals on Wheels and the Oshawa Senior Citizens Centers. He was awarded the Provincial honour of Senior of the Year in 2008

2016 Mal Knocker

- Mal has served his community through the Canadian Armed Forces, the Oshawa Fire Department (35 years), as a coach to numerous teams, fundraiser and blood donor (140 units). He is a Life Member of the Royal Canadian Legion Branch #43 and also Drum Major of their Pipe Band.

2015 Chelsea Smith

- A dedicated student who has given her time at the Y.M.C.A., a local seniors centre, Lakeridge Health, as an afterschool helper as well as helping to building schools in Africa.

2014 Jackie Finn

- 42 years of community service with the trade union, Meals on Wheels and the Auto Workers Community Credit Union.

2013 Viola Pilkey

- Significant contribution of time and talent to social causes and political parties.

2012 Bob Hooper

- "Oshawa's #1 Fan"

2011 Ken Shaw

- A tireless volunteer devoted to numerous charities.

2010 Dave Thompson

- Dedication and leadership in the development of rugby in Oshawa.

2009 Jim Potticary

- Advocating for the health, welfare and happiness of senior citizens.

2008 Oshawa Block Parents Association

- Providing a safe haven for the children in our community.