

Township of
Langley



Est. 1873



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NEWS RELEASE

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NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR DESERVING VOLUNTEERS

“Overwhelmed, surprised, shocked.”

That is how Candace Johnson and her husband Dave felt when their names were called and they were announced the winners of the 2015 John and Muriel Arnason Award.

For years, the Aldergrove couple has been quietly and steadfastly helping veterans and seniors and serving meals in their community, but they did not expect to be named the Township of Langley’s top volunteering couple in front of hundreds of people.

Not ones to seek the spotlight, the Johnsons volunteer with the Aldergrove Vets and Seniors Society and the Ladies’ Auxiliary of the Royal Canadian Legion’s Aldergrove Branch as a way of reaching out to others through friendship and food.

But last April, they were recognized for everything they do and contribute during the Township’s Volunteer Appreciation Event.

The celebration is held each spring to commemorate the hundreds of people who dedicate their time, efforts, and talents to help others and give back to the community. During the event, the Arnason Award is presented to a duo who work together to make a difference, the Eric Flowerdew Volunteer Award is given to an exceptional individual who enhances residents’ quality of life, and the top student is honoured with the Pete Swensson Outstanding Community Youth Award.

“I was surprised how many people were there that night, and how many volunteers there are all throughout the community,” said Candace.

Since winning the award, she has expanded her volunteer efforts by serving on a new group that will liaise with the Langley RCMP to identify issues and concerns to make the community safer, and signed up to become an ambassador for Telus, where she was employed before she retired, volunteering for events that come up through the program.

Dave and Candace continue to help the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary in preparation and clean-up for its monthly dinners, where everybody is welcome, as well as special events and veteran lunches a couple times a year.

The Johnsons also shop for groceries and supplies for the Aldergrove Vets and Seniors Society, where Dave serves as a volunteer and maintenance man. The Society provides a hot home-cooked meal to veterans and seniors aged 55 plus, four times a week, for a minimal cost. Candace is the Society's secretary.

The Aldergrove Vets and Seniors Society was the beneficiary of \$750 that was presented to the Johnsons as part of their Award. The cash prize is given to the Arnason and Flowerdew winners, to be donated to the recognized charity or society of their choice.

"Our Volunteer Award winners have a huge impact on the community, and the annual cash award helps them make an even bigger difference," said Leeann Virtue, Community Recreation Manager for the Township. "There is a ripple effect, as that money can go a long way and be put to great use by organizations that help others."

A \$750 scholarship is also presented to the Pete Swensson Outstanding Community Youth Award winner, to help further their educational pursuits.

The deadline for nominations for this year's Awards is Friday, February 10 and residents are encouraged to take a moment and nominate the dedicated volunteers they know, to give them the thanks and recognition they deserve.

Awards criteria, information, and nomination forms for the 2016 Eric Flowerdew and 2016 John and Muriel Arnason Awards can be found at tol.ca/awards. To nominate a Grade 11 or 12 student for the 2017 Pete Swensson Outstanding Community Youth Award, contact their school principal.

For more information, contact Sarah Morris, Special Events Coordinator, at 604.533.6148 or smorris@tol.ca.