

THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK
POLICE SERVICES BOARD

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

22 APRIL 2009

Volunteer of the Year Award

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Board receive this report pursuant to Auxiliaries and Volunteers Board Policy No. 03/02 and present Auxiliary Staff Sergeant Michael Yarlett with the Volunteer of the Year Award.

SYNOPSIS

York Regional Police is recognizing Mr. Michael Yarlett with the Volunteer of the Year Award for his many years of commitment and ongoing dedication to the York Regional Police Auxiliary Unit and the Male Chorus.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND

As the Board is aware, the week of April 19, 2009, has been declared National Volunteer Week by the Government of Canada. National Volunteer Week was first proclaimed in 1943. This is a special time set aside in April of each year to honour and recognize Canadians who donate time and energy to their fellow citizens. National Volunteer Week also raises awareness of the vital contributions volunteers make to our communities and our country.

York Regional Police are fortunate to have a large group of dedicated volunteers that participate in the York Regional Police Pipes and Drums, Male Chorus, Auxiliary, Venturers, Rovers, Project Lifesaver and special events. Comprised of over 250 sworn officers and civilians, these individuals dedicate themselves to helping keep York Region safe and to helping those in need.

In 2008, the dedicated volunteers of these groups have contributed over 100,000 hours in community service. As a token of appreciation, York Regional Police recognize the contributions that volunteers make to this organization with an appreciation dinner every year. The dinner includes an Award ceremony which acknowledges individuals within each individual Volunteer Group who have gone above and beyond their role as a volunteer.

In recognition of the contributions that volunteers make to our service and our community, a Volunteer of the Year award was introduced in 2005. This prestigious award was presented at the public session of this Police Service Board meeting during National Volunteer Appreciation Week. Although York Regional Police recognizes the many people in our region who donate their time and effort, one person in particular is honoured as Volunteer of the Year. This very special award is presented to a Volunteer who has contributed many hours to the police service and to the community. The beneficiary of this award is someone who has lead by example and brings to life our motto of "Deeds Speak" – Michael Yarlett.

Mike joined the York Regional Police Auxiliary Unit on May 21, 1981. As a result of his hard work and dedication, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in June 1999 and Staff Sergeant in September of 2002. Mike is currently stationed at #2 District in Richmond Hill and is an active member of the York Regional Police Auxiliary Bicycle and Search and Rescue Units.

Mike has assisted at events including two Papal visits, National and Provincial Police Memorials, Rolling Stones concerts, International Bicycling Races and several Chiefs of Police conferences. Mike is an inspiration to everyone he meets. Mike has dedicated over 7,000 hours to the Auxiliary Unit.

Mike started his singing career with the York Regional Police Male Chorus on March 26, 1991. He is an assistant Chorus marshal and sings in the tenor section of the chorus. Mike is well respected and popular among the chorus members. The chorus performs at Seniors Homes across York Region and other worthwhile community events. Mike has dedicated over 2,000 hours to the York Regional Police Male Chorus. In addition to his Volunteer time spent with York Regional Police, Mike, also volunteers locally with the Canadian Cancer Society and the "Out of the Cold" programme.

Mike's past accomplishments include Distinguished Citizen and Humanitarian Award from the Canadian Red Cross, Canskate coach from the Canadian Figure Skating Association and Vice President of the Provincial Riding Association. Mike is also a national and international go-kart racing champion and he received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award in 1998. These are just a few of the ways Mike demonstrates our values. Mike shows us all by getting involved we can make a change for the better.

Mike brings to life our motto "Deeds Speak" and truly does "inspire by example". None of Mike's volunteer work would be possible without the support of his wife, Catherine, and their five daughters and grand-daughter.

APL/kb

Armand P. La Barge, O.O.M.
Chief of Police