



FOR RELEASE
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Medals awarded at Diamond Jubilee celebration

WHITEHORSE—Diamond Jubilee celebrations were held yesterday in Whitehorse to honour Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's 60-year reign. Premier Darrell Pasloski was joined at the Government of Yukon Administration Building in Whitehorse by Commissioner Doug Phillips, Senator Daniel Lang, commemorative Diamond Jubilee medal recipients and guests.

The celebrations included the presentations of Diamond Jubilee medals to Yukon citizens, in recognition of significant contributions to their communities.

"I would like to congratulate everyone who received medals and thank them for their efforts on behalf of their communities," Pasloski said. "I'd also like to acknowledge and thank the many Yukoners who are out there quietly working on our behalf, who have yet to receive public recognition. Their work is important to all of us."

The medal recipients ranged from champions of First Nations culture to a well-respected swim coach.

"I extend my gratitude to all of those who received medals," Phillips said. "Their commitment and dedication to making Yukon a better place is acknowledged and truly appreciated."

As part of the celebrations, a ceremonial planting of an Amber Jubilee Ninebark tree took place in Jubilee Park by the Visitor Reception Centre. Named in honour of Her Majesty's visit to Manitoba in 2010, the tree is one of ten recently presented to Yukon by the Government of Manitoba.

"Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has represented the principle of strong and stable governance throughout six decades," Pasloski added. "She has served with dignity and commitment throughout her remarkable reign and Yukon joins jurisdictions across Canada in honouring this achievement."

As well as members of the community, the premier is among the recipients of a Diamond Jubilee medal, awarded to all Canadian premiers for public service in their jurisdiction.

Commemorative medals will continue to be presented throughout the remainder of the Diamond Jubilee year. For more information on how to nominate an individual, go to www.gov.yk.ca/diamondjubilee.html.

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See backgrounder below.

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Diamond Jubilee Medal Recipients

Kenneth Baker – For his years of volunteer work in teaching and preserving the Tlingit culture. He has taught his nieces and nephews the songs of the Tlingit culture through his performances.

Barb Chamberlin – For her dedication to Yukon Women in Music and the Whitehorse Community Choir and its subsidiary choirs, the Persephones, the Neptunes, and the Chamber Choir. Barb teaches,

conducts and arranges songs for all four choirs for the enjoyment of Yukoners.

Jim Connor – Jim has been a member of the Klondike Snowmobile Association for over 30 years and has served as director, secretary, treasurer and vice-president. He has also made a significant contribution to the Trans Canada Trail.

Janet Couture – The Yukon tartan was designed by Janet in 1965 and was first proposed as the official territorial tartan during the 1967 Canadian centennial celebrations. The tartan was accepted years later by the King of Arms of Her Majesty's New Registry House in Edinburgh in 1984 and the Yukon Tartan Act was also passed in the Yukon legislature in 1984.

Claire Derome – Claire was instrumental in bringing the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to Yukon. This program provides a new book each month, free of charge, to every Yukon child until they reach the age of five.

Stephanie Dixon – Stephanie is a well-respected swim coach with the Glacier Bears Swim Club and a role model for youth. Stephanie has had a very successful swimming career and has competed in a number of Paralympic games. She has several medals to her credit.

Carol Duquette – For her dedication to preserving and passing on the Tlingit culture. Many members of her family have learned Tlingit songs through her performances.

Marjorie Eschak – For her many years of volunteer leadership within the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous that helped contribute to its longevity and success. Marj is a mainstay with the Snowshoe Shufflers – a most original and popular cancan style. Throughout the years Marj has been an enthusiastic ambassador for Yukon.

Ross Findlater – For his innovative work and dedication as a founding member of the Whitehorse Volunteer Bureau and his active community volunteer work.

Major Gilles (Red) Grossinger – For his dedicated advocacy work on behalf of Yukon veterans through his volunteer work with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254. He is also very involved in the Canada Day, Remembrance Day and Canadian Citizenship ceremonies.

Donna Hogan – For her dedication to the Cancer Society. Donna is one of the original committee members of the Relay for Life for both Whitehorse and Dawson City and Donna remains an active volunteer on the committee.

Donna Jones – Donna is a founder of the Run for Mom and has been an advocate for women who have been victims of sexual abuse. Donna taught yoga at the Teen Parent Centre and was one of the first female auxiliary RCMP members in Yukon.

Jack Kingscote – For his volunteer work through the decades that resulted in the annual success of the Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Air Show. His tireless efforts in planning and organizing travel by air crews from all over the world benefitted not only the visiting crew members but Yukoners of all ages.

Myrna Kingscote – For her enthusiasm and boundless energy as she made the annual Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Meet and Greet a success for many years. Myrna's volunteer contributions included planning and organizing the menu and prizes for the enjoyment of both military and aircrew. She continues to be a true Yukon ambassador.

Donald Knutson – For his tireless work with Branch 254 of the Royal Canadian Legion. Donald was instrumental in the creation of Veterans' Square beside Whitehorse City Hall. He is an active volunteer with Seniors Supportive Living, Council on Aging, New Chelsea Society, Learning Disabilities of Yukon and Autism Yukon. Donald is also a long-time member of the Canadian Power and Sail Squadron and a drummer with the Midnight Sun Pipe Band.

Constable Adam Lightfoot – Constable Lightfoot spent countless hours at the Ross River recreation centre, replacing the rink's end boards, installing ice, fixing the Zamboni and collecting donated hockey equipment for children.

Ron McFadyen – For his dedication in promoting amateur sport in Yukon. Ron has won Sport Yukon’s Media Person of the Year Award eight times for his commitment to excellence in reporting Yukon sports. Ron is the founding president of the Yukon Amateur Radio Association and is a valued community volunteer.

Hank Moorlag – For his continued volunteer activities with Habitat for Humanity and MacBride Museum. Hank has been instrumental in the development of programs such as the Horse and Rider program geared to promote summer tourism. Hank has also been involved in fundraising for the Whitehorse General Hospital.

Premier Darrell Pasloski – For his public service to Yukoners. Premier Pasloski received the medal along with all Canadian premiers for their public service in their respective jurisdictions.

Lana Putnam – For her care and concern for people living with addictions. Lana is a dedicated advocate for addictions treatment in Yukon.

Joe Sparling – Joe is a co-founder and current president of Air North – Yukon’s Airline. The company is a local private sector company with over 200 employees providing air service to Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Fairbanks, Inuvik and throughout Yukon. The airline is well known for its generosity in donating flights to a variety of organizations and individuals.

Jonathan Trefry – For saving a person’s life while volunteering at a local event. Jon has worked for many years educating youth about the risks and trauma of driving while intoxicated. He is a member of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and helps run the remote control go-kart at public and educational events.

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