

Media Release: First Annual St. Mary's First Responder Recognition Day



In recognition of the amazing and courageous work done daily by our First Responders, the Municipality of the District of St Marys has just held its inaugural First Responders ceremony in honour of our local firefighters, police officers and paramedics.

The award ceremony was held on May 1st. By acts of Parliament and the Nova Scotia Legislature, May 1st, is designated as "First Responder Day," an opportunity to recognize the outstanding contribution that first responders give to our communities.

By virtue of this event we've all been given a glimpse into just how many dedicated people serve us locally and give so much to their communities each and every day. A total of 107 first responders received awards including:

19 people who have performed over 40 years of service!
16 people who have performed over 30 years of service!
46 people between 10 and 29 years of service!

The event introduced the Valour and Outstanding Service Awards which specifically recognize extraordinary individual contributions.

6 people received the award for Valour!
19 people received the award for Outstanding Service!

Award Types

Time in Service:

For any first responder who has years of service to the community in a department.

Valour:

For any first responder who, at the risk of personal danger, commits an act, either attempted or successful, of rescue, aid, or other lifesaving procedure within the scope of their duties.

Outstanding Service:

For any first responder who goes above and beyond the normal scope of their duties. This can involve community service, special programs, and other community activities outside of first responder service.

Background:

St. Mary's has a diverse field of men and women who selflessly contribute to the health and safety of the municipality. Paramedics, RCMP officers, more than one hundred fifty volunteer firefighters and medical first responders stand daily to respond to the needs of our citizens. The contribution of these men and women is recognized by a day of remembrance, it behooves the Municipality to do no less.

The St. Mary's First Responders recognition program was designed and initiated by Deputy Warden James Fuller. James, a first responder himself, with a lifelong history of fire and police service experience, James well understands the incredible value and personal sacrifice that First Responders contribute to their community. Additionally, all of the municipal council has long understood and appreciated the incredible value of our local First Responders.

Quote from Warden Greg Wier:

"It has been our honour as a municipality to thank the many first responders who do so much to keep all of us well and safe! On behalf of myself and all of council, we are truly humbled by the dedication of our local First Responders. St. Mary's simply would not be the amazing place it is without you!"

Quote from Deputy Warden James Fuller:

"We are so fortunate to have so many of our friends, neighbours, and family who give selflessly to the community by volunteering as firefighters and Medical First Responders. Some have been in service for over forty years. They stand ready to respond to emergencies twenty-four hours a day, yet receive no pay. There are also police and paramedics who, although may be only be stationed in our communities a short time, have integrated themselves not only as emergency responders, but as neighbours. As a municipality, we are happy and honoured to recognize the sacrifice and contributions that all of our First Responders make".

Additional Resources:

- <https://saint-marys.ca/st-mary-s-first-responders-awards-photos.html>
- <https://saint-marys.ca/news/2601-first-responder-s-newsletter-1/file.html>

Special thanks to:

The Municipality of the District of St. Mary's wishes to thank:

The honourable Greg Morrow, MLA for Guysborough-Tracadie, who attended the awards ceremony and took part in recognizing the award recipients.

The St. Mary's Education Centre/Academy for hosting the awards ceremony

Tammie Vautour of Beanie's Bistro Ltd. for catering the awards ceremony.

Awards provided by Sharon Hardy from Sharon's Trophy.

Photographs provided by John Kingwell of Knickles Studio.