

Lieutenant Governor Community Spirit Award Entry Form

Thank you for taking the time to tell your community's stories and what makes it so special.

- Please fill out the following information and then continue to complete your nomination by adding extra pages to this word document so that it will arrive in one single attachment.
- Please save your file by community name.
- All entries should be in Microsoft Word format and, if appropriate, in video format (avi or mpg only) as a second attachment.
- **All completed entry forms and submissions must be emailed to submissions@communityspiritaward.ca by midnight, January 31, 2010.**

Community Name: District Three, Municipality of Pictou County

Key Contact Person for Award Submission: Olive Pastor

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Evening phone number: Same

Names of Groups within the community who have joined together to put forward this nomination:

1. Caribou District Fire Department
2. Bay View Community Club
3. Caribou River Community Club
4. Caribou Women's Institute
5. Ramsay Family Society of Pictou County

By submitting your nomination you are agreeing to allow the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award to post your stories on the Award's website and to share these stories online with the Award's media partners.

District Three, The Municipality of Pictou County

Pertinent District Facts

Major entrance port to the province

Site of Caribou Provincial Park

Site of Munro's Island Nature Reserve
Site of Waterside Provincial Park
Home of the Maritime Kite and Kayak Festival
Close proximity to the Town of Pictou with its festivals, shopping, dining, cultural and recreational facilities
Location of Pictou Lodge Resort which has accommodated: royalty, heads of government, celebrities and ordinary families
Home of a flourishing fishing industry and the industries which support it
The first community to have its own Tartan, known as the "Caribou Tartan"
Locally owned ferry service to Pictou Island, the site of a delicate eco-structure
A District where people chose to live and to build businesses based on the geography, including, spas, vegetable farms, dairy and beef farms, restaurants, meat plant, fish plant boat-building, propeller making, boat hauling and many more
Site of the Bay View and Caribou River Community Halls
Home of the Caribou Women's Institute
Home district to NHL Hockey Player

Background to the District

District Three of the Municipality of Pictou County is composed of a number of communities loosely held together by their geography. These communities share ideals, community history and challenges that effect the day to day living of the residents. The communities within the district include: Bay View, Brae Shore, Caribou, Central, Caribou, Caribou River, Caribou Island, Three Brooks and Waterside. This is a rural area that has no village or any other central point except the fire hall and the community halls to draw the people together.

The land in this district was settled by Scots and in many cases the properties remain with families of the original settlers. This is evident when a community member asks where to find something within the community he or she might be sent to a property under the name of the original owner instead of the present owner. This doesn't present a problem. But, as with all things change was inevitable and people with other ethnic backgrounds, namely the Dutch, joined the Scots. These people brought their own special traits and beliefs to the district. With the arrival of new people the district became more diverse. The people learned to live in harmony with each other and adopted the best of both groups which made for a deep sense of belonging.

Uniqueness of the District

As communities go, those in District Three are much like others in the province. However, the area is unique in a couple of ways. First, a defining factor in the district's development is the influence of life lived along the Northumberland Strait with all the hardships and rewards of living close to the sea. Second, District Three is unique in that

the area has maintained a strong sense of community even though we have few institutions or organizations of our own. Instead, we support those within the Town of Pictou. Our greatest strength evident within the district is the people's ability to recognize the importance of the coastline for our livelihood, leisure activities and our conservation projects. Many people have been willing to stay in each rural community to carve out lives for themselves. Now the "Baby Boomers" are returning. They are bringing back experience and new ideas to the communities. In the last few years the Pictou Lodge Resort returned to ownership by people connected to the community. The new owners are now expanding the site. This bodes well for bringing more tourists to the area.

The people in this district have served this province and this country in all aspects of good citizenship. They have served politically, they are law abiding and they support the province and the country when called upon because they understand that a strong country starts with strong communities.

Community Pride

Community pride is reflected in the things members of the district view as important in their lives and that of other community members. For example, when a community resident became alarmed that the habitat for the eagles on Munro's Island was becoming endangered that resident along with other community supporters was able to convince the Nature Conservancy to purchase the island and then turn it over to the province as a protected site.

When another district resident approached the residents of the district to contribute their stories about their families and community life for a history of the area support was overwhelming. This kind of support led to the formation of a heritage group that was made up of mostly senior citizens who brought a wealth of knowledge to the organization. Later, the group hosted a Ceilidh each year for seven years and helped with graduation prizes for the rural high-school which still continues.

A few years ago an elderly resident created the "Caribou Tartan". The colors in the tartan represent the landscape of the district. Later, the fire department adopted the tartan as a signature part of their uniform- the tie.

Members of the district are always interested in and proud of the creative work our residents put into their entries for the agricultural exhibition held in Pictou. These entries range from animal entries, vegetable entries, and domestic craft entries such as: embroidery, quilt making, painting and preserving of jams, pickles and jellies. Everybody goes to see how the district residents placed in the competition.

Perhaps members are proudest when the youth of the area excel in their endeavors. We are proud of our local NHL player, of the girls and boys who compete in Highland Games and of the children who play and win at soccer, baseball and hockey.

The community pride is very evident when tourists visit the area and ask about our communities. Young and old alike speak about the district with a deep sense of pride and belonging.

Volunteerism in District Three

District Three has produced many volunteers over the years. Residents of the area worked hard to establish the Caribou District Fire Department. This became necessary because the Pictou Fire Department could no longer handle more than the town fires. The Caribou District Fire Department is made up of twenty-four volunteer firemen and the Ladies Auxiliary. Funds are raised for the department through dinners, variety shows and other types of entertainment. In the early years funds were raised through the production of a Heritage Calendar that was donated to the Fire Department to sell. Some of those proceeds went to the Community Halls as well. The fire-hall has become a center for having wedding receptions, funeral receptions and for fundraisers for district people in need. The firemen participate in parades, join other fire departments in the “ Boot Drive” and work along with other first responders. In 2009 two bays were added to the hall and a new truck will soon follow.

The Bay View and Caribou River Community Clubs were formed after the one room schools closed. The members of these clubs became the custodians of the old school - buildings and grounds. The clubs have done well keeping the people in touch with their past. Community members hold showers, family events and meetings at the halls. The members of the Caribou River Hall have served breakfasts during the tourist season and in 2009 started a farmers market. Both halls are used as polling stations for Provincial and Federal Elections. The turn out for polls in the district average about 65% with an equal number of young and old.

The Caribou Women’s Institute has met in the district for many years. The original reason for the organizations formation was to educate the rural women and to get them out of the homes for social activities. Today, the group is active in volunteering their time to help with the craft section of the exhibition and they will help other groups that need people to cater to their events. As well, the ladies fundraise and donate the money they make to the IWK, the food bank and to Tearmen House, a home for abused women and children in Pictou County. Educational activities involve guest speakers talking to the women about subjects of their choice.

The district can boast that there are two groups of ‘Red Hat Ladies’ in the district. These women are very supportive attending functions within the district.

A number of district residents belong to Scottish Clan Societies. As members they strive to protect the Scottish culture in Nova Scotia. They are supportive of the yearly Scottish festivals held in the county. They promote the teaching of Gaelic in Pictou County and they display the clan tartans at many events.

Because of our proximity to the Town of Pictou, people in the district usually attend one of the five churches located in the town. This has not been a barrier to volunteering, instead the rural people work hard and donate their time, expertise and money to those churches.

District Three residents volunteer at the lobster carnival held in the town which is well represented by rural fishermen. Many residents volunteer at the Pictou North Colchester Exhibition, a place where farmers compete and display farm products and animals. Residents of the district are well represented at the Hector Festival and the Northumberland Fisheries Museum. Many District Three community members belong to

lodges such as the Masons, Oddfellows, Rebekahs and the Order of the Easter Star. Others serve or have served on both local and provincial boards such as the Aberdeen Hospital Board and the Provincial Heritage Advisory Council for Heritage Properties. Other members can be found coaching and refereeing hockey, soccer, baseball and other sports. Still others canvass the area for the Cancer Society, Heart and Stroke Foundation and for the Kidney Foundation.

Our entertainers, who provide fiddle music, step dancing and singing for many of our events, need to be recognized. Without them the events would be sadly lacking. These people also volunteer their time to entertaining in the nursing homes for our seniors. At least two members of the community teach music and dancing to the children, therefore, we are guaranteed future musicians and dancers for the area.

Other community members take their pets in to visit the seniors. One family takes their pet miniature horses in to the senior's home for an afternoon visit.

A member of this district formed a branch of the Monarchist League of Canada. The group promotes "Constitutional Monarchy" as the best form of government for Canada. They have become a visible presence fighting for our Canadian Monarchy within the whole county. The functions that the Northumberland Branch of the Monarchist League host are extremely well attended by the district and county residents. Dinners are held to celebrate the Queen's birthday or to celebrate her coronation. This group hosted a dinner to celebrate "Democracy 250" with emphasis on constitutional monarchy and parliamentary democracy in Canada.

Lastly, no mention of volunteerism and community spirit would be complete without mentioning District Three's veterans. These men and women volunteer their time to educate our youth about the tragedy of war and the sacrifices of those who serve the country. We see these people at Remembrance Day Services every year, at nearly every parade in the Town of Pictou and in the schools talking to the students.

An Enduring Community

Residents of District Three of the Municipality of Pictou County will have no problem providing an enduring community for future generations. We are willing to change with the times. However, we will keep one foot firmly planted in the past because we know what sacrifices were made to build the communities of District Three. We will see that our young people are well educated so they can participate in this hi-tech world. We will keep our culture alive. We will cling to our faith. We will listen to our senior citizens. And while we keep our traditions we will learn new traditions. The rural people of District Three will continue to support the towns that surround us so we have a strong system of health care, modern sports, cultural and recreational facilities within Pictou County. We will work together when sources of our livelihood are threatened and we will help those who need community support. With every community member who decides to work out of the district reaching the global community our survival is ensured and it helps to stem the flow of those flocking to the urban areas. It brings new people to the area as well as attracting those back who have left.

