

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, 2011.**

Community Name: **Ross Ferry**

Key Contact Person for Award Submission: Valerie Patterson

Email address: fraser.patterson@ns.sympatico.ca

Daytime phone number: 1-902-674-2703

Evening phone number: 1-902-674-2703

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

1. Ross Ferry community Centre/Fire Department
2. Ross Ferry Stewardship Society
3. Drummond United Church
4. Ross Ferry Crafters
5. Boularderie Mammowarriors
6. Douglas Arthur Brown (Author) - Writers Group

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.

The Boularderie MammoWarriors are a community Dragon Boat team based out of Ross Ferry, NS. The team was formed in 2008 and is comprised of 24 members of Boularderie Island, with one member we imported from nearby Englishtown.

The Boularderie MammoWarriors were not successful in the races at the Cape Breton Dragon Boat Festival (CBDBF) in 2010. However, the MammoWarriors did proudly receive two awards on race day for Most Spirited Team and Most Donations Raised in the festival. The MammoWarriors raised \$6392. out of the total of \$21000. raised in support of the festival. ALL of the money raised by the MammoWarriors was done in our community.

The money was raised through luncheons held at the Ross Ferry Fire Hall & Community Centre, ticket sales, and pledges made from people in our community. Without this community, we wouldn't have the Boularderie MammoWarriors.

The MammoWarriors use the Ross Ferry Fire Hall & Community Center, as well as Drummond Church for dry land practices, free of charge. These facilities are donated to the team so that we can give all the money brought in through fundraising to the CBDBF.

The Boularderie MammoWarriors are very proud representatives of our community. We proudly brag to other teams about the support we receive from this community. We feel blessed to be able to live and play here.

Michelle Symes
Team Captain
Boularderie MammoWarriors

Douglas Arthur
Brown

December 1/2010

To whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Ross Ferry, Nova Scotia. Our community is small, approximately 450 individuals, but one would be hard pressed to find a community that is as active and community-minded as our own.

The *heart* of Ross Ferry is not only the people but also our community centre and fire hall. In this year alone, over 2500 individuals passed through the doors at the community centre and another 1000 people used the facilities at our local marina.

Our list of activities is impressive, and to illustrate, I have included a sampling of some of them:

- Master Creative Writing Class that runs for nine Saturday mornings each autumn. The twenty professional writers who attend the sessions come from throughout Victoria, Inverness, CBRM, and Guysborough counties.
- Each year the writers and musicians gather for a fund-raising event for the community centre, attracting over 150 individuals, not only from Cape Breton, but as far afield as Antigonish, Halifax, Lunenburg, Port Medway and other communities throughout the South Shore.
- Twice each year, Chef Lars Willum conducts a series of cooking classes that draw participants throughout Cape Breton.

- Our pub nights are always a fund-raiser, not only for the upkeep of the community centre, but to assist those in need.

One of the more striking characteristics of Ross Ferry is the intergenerational activities that we facilitate throughout the year. Our belief is that residents of all ages should be exposed to the company, experience, and exposure to members of the community - both young and old. To this end, we have hosted story-telling activities, inviting older residents to share stories from their past with younger members of the community, lunches for seniors, children's activities like our annual safe Halloween party at the community centre, and a series of workshops and lectures that involve all age groups. We are currently upgrading a community watch program so that in the case of an emergency, older residents of the community with limited mobility have someone who contacts them and attends to their immediate needs.

In short, ours is a community that cares - for each other, our environment, and the growth of our community.



Sincerely,

Douglas Arthur Brown

9879 Kempt Head Road

Ross Ferry, NS

B1X 1N3

November 23/2010

To whom it may concern;

My name is Graham Bardswich and I am presently chairman of The Ross' Ferry Stewardship Society. We are a group of people who got together some years ago to rejuvenate the old Ross' Ferry site , which was in deplorable condition, and dangerous to the public.

Under the capable leadership of residents, John Hugh Edwards and Gordon MacDonald, we received funding from various governments, to rebuild this site which now boasts two beautiful wharf decks, walking trails, a boat ramp, a pump out station for boats, a building complete with bathroom facilities, storage space and an office. It has grass and picnic tables and a small garden ,all for public use. We've even had a few weddings there because it is such an ideal location.

The Society has a management agreement with the Department of Natural Resources which means we care for it and we do . We clean up ,spring and fall; we hold events on July first and Labour Day. Every Sunday in the summer we sell hot dogs, sausages, pop and fries to earn money so we can continue to maintain this lovely marine park. Often we have events at the fire hall to help support this venture.

It is a lot of volunteer work. Who are these workers? They are firefighters, crafters, farmers , church people, construction workers, old people ,young people and people who love their community and want to see good things happen here. And they do!

Without the cooperation of the whole community, this Society could not maintain this fine facility.

For this reason, we fully support the Ross' Ferry bid for the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award.

Sincerely,



Graham Bardswich
Chairman ,
Ross' Ferry Stewardship Society

1-902-674-2156

To whom it may concern,

When Valerie Paterson contacted me to ask if I would write a letter in support of Ross Ferry's bid for the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award, my immediate response was an absolute and unequivocal yes, as no community in which I have ever lived or served could possibly be more worthy of this prestigious accolade.

As a minister with the United Church of Canada, over the past seven years I have been afforded the unique opportunity of working intimately with many Maritime communities from across this great province of ours and many more besides, but never before have I ever encountered a community as compassionate, caring, or civically minded as the community of Ross Ferry.

From the moment I washed up on Boularderie's shores in 2007, I was immediately struck by the uncommonly warm welcome I received from the residents of Ross Ferry, not only from my own congregants, but from the community as a whole. They are extremely ecumenically minded, thinking very little of denominational distinctions, for they are far more concerned with taking care of the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of all who dwell within their community than with the inconsequential details that divide them.

I have seen Presbyterian choirs turn up to fill a United Church choir loft on the day of a funeral, attended community suppers hosted by our Fire Hall strictly for the benefit of our seniors, watched the ground swell of support for our Marine Park, cheered on our Mammo-Warrior Dragonboat team, and thrilled to the constant hive of community activities that is Ross Ferry, but what has always impressed me most is that virtually every resident works at or attends each and every one of these events, a rare thing these days in even the most tightly knit of communities.

I have also been deeply impressed by the uncommon acts of personal kindness that our extended to the members of this community each and every day: the way they look after one another's property when summer residents are away, rally in support of a community member who has experienced illness or tragedy, and generally treat each other with the same kind of care and concern that is more typically found in only the best, and warmest of familial relationships.

As one would expect from a family this kind and caring, Ross Ferry looks beyond its own borders in its efforts to offer support to all those in need: from the Food Bank in our neighbouring community of Big Bras d'Or to our international efforts in support of Haiti and Ghana. Ross Ferry is a community that so consistently and continually cares for others that it is simply considered business as usual, and never a cause for acclamation.

I believe that it is on account of this quiet solidarity and unheralded compassion that Ross Ferry is a community uniquely deserving of the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award, and would ask of you to give this community your due consideration.

Sincerely,



Rev. Sean Handcock