

Frequently Asked Questions

Why has the Office of the Lieutenant Governor decided to create the Community Spirit Award?

In her role as Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour sees the opportunity to move her interest in communities to an enhanced level. The Community Spirit Award is one of the many ways in which she plans to raise awareness about – and celebrate – what it means to be a community that makes Nova Scotia a better place to live, work and play.

Who 'built' the Award?

The Office of Lieutenant Governor has relied on the leadership of an Award Host, the United Way of Halifax Region, a champion of strong and vibrant communities. United Way established a Design Committee consisting of people from wide and varied backgrounds who met over a period of time to determine the Award's parameters and the number of times it is to be awarded every year. Her Honour approved the final document in April 2007. You can see who the Design Committee is under Selection Committee .

How is 'community' defined for this Award?

For the purpose of the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award, community is described as a Nova Scotia geographic area as defined by the residents who submit the nomination. It can be a neighbourhood, town, city or district. It can be contemporary or historic, formal or informal.

Who can nominate a community for the award?

Anyone living in, or knowing of a community, as it is defined above, can nominate a community. One person will be responsible for being the prime contact for the nomination form, but many people may participate in making the submission. In fact, the more people and types of people helping to put the nomination together, the better!

What is required to submit the nomination?

On a basic level, the spirit of the Award is to promote your community's stories - what makes it unique, helpful, active, welcoming and more. If you can answer 'yes' to each of the four following essential criteria, then you should apply to the Award. Your community has:

- An ability to build on unique strengths within the community,
- A high degree of citizen participation in community projects of a wide variety, range and interest,
- Clear evidence of community pride, and
- A focus on creating an enduring community

There are other criteria that you can use as supporting information, but these are the four most critical ones to answer before proceeding. The Community Spirit Award website outlines the whole range of criteria, found at www.communityspiritaward.ca.

How do we apply for the Award?

You apply by writing the stories that describe your community. Each story should not exceed 300 words. The total nomination submission cannot exceed ten, one-sided, 8" x 11" pages, single-spaced, in a 12 point font, in a Word document.

In addition, your community may choose to add no more than a five-minute video segment. This is not a requirement of submission and video does not, in any way, diminish those nominations that are submitted only in writing. All video submissions still require a written submission.

All nominations, in word and video, are to be sent electronically to the Award's website at submissions@communityspiritaward.ca.

What does the 'winning' community get?

Should your community be chosen for the Lieutenant Governor's Community Spirit Award, it will be honoured through celebration and recognition. You will help determine the most appropriate way to celebrate with a special event suited to your community. It could be a picnic, regatta, concert, tea party, dinner or dance. Whatever way your community best celebrates! The Lieutenant Governor will attend, bringing a gift of recognition for display and there will be province-wide public recognition. Both are possible thanks to our corporate sponsor Nova Scotia Power Inc. and media sponsor Transcontinental Media Inc.

Up to four Nova Scotian communities will be honoured each year. In 2008 the winning communities included Annapolis Royal, Clare, Port Morien and Tatamagouche. Each received a beautiful award of hand-crafted, mouth blown Nova Scotian Crystal with cuts emblematic of each community and the Award program itself. In 2009 the winning communities included Brookfield, Shearwater, South Mountain Arm of Gold and Tatamagouche.

Who picks the honoured communities?

Again, the Office of Lieutenant Governor has relied on the leadership of the United Way of Halifax Region. United Way established a Selection Committee as diverse and enlightened as our province's communities. These individuals accepted the challenge of determining which entries meet the 'winning' criteria and will meet following the submissions deadline in the winter to determine which communities deserve Her Honour's attention.

The Selection Committee photographs and bios are located on the Award website.

Is there a physical 'award' that gets left behind once the party's over?

Yes, each community honoured will receive a lasting gift which can be displayed wherever the community determines is best.

When will the honoured communities be announced?

The Selection Committee meets during the winter months following the submission deadline to review in detail all the nominations. They may choose up to four communities to be awarded the Community Spirit designation. These communities will be announced in the Spring with additional media coverage and recognition at the actual time of the celebration with Her Honour in the community. The timing of this celebration is determined by the community working with award organizers.

Is there any way our community can see examples of other communities applying?

Yes. When Award submissions are received, the Award Communications Committee requests your permission to publish them on the website and provide them to our print media sponsor, Transcontinental Media, who will link your stories to their website at www.capebretonpost.com. In this way, communities thinking about applying can see what other communities have already done – and seeing what other communities have done will trigger the reality that your community has done great things worthy of attention, too. In addition, the winning submissions from 2009 Award winners Brookfield, Shearwater, South Mountain Arm of Gold and St. Andrews are on our website.

When does our community submission have to be in?

All entries must be received electronically by midnight January 31, 2010.

When Her Honour's term is finished, does this Award continue?

Every Lieutenant Governor has the option to continue, or discontinue, any of the awards given by the Office. It is hoped this Award's legacy will be such that Lieutenant Governors will be happy to continue it for years to come.