

Rotary Club of North Bay

Unsung Hero Service Award Recipients 2023

BACKGROUNDER

Megan Lee (Sunridge)

In 2019, Megan's beloved figure skating coach passed away and, in her memory, Megan set out to create the Judy Coalter Memorial Scholarship fund, focusing on increasing the accessibility to youth sports in the community. Each year since, a scholarship covering a full season registration has been awarded to a deserving skater. But Megan didn't stop there. Through her dedicated fund-raising efforts, which include an annual golf tournament, the scholarship fund recently expanded to add a second yearly scholarship. Megan doesn't only fund raise, she also volunteers. This summer, she volunteered through the LEAD at the North Bay Regional Health Centre, the West Parry Sound Health Centre, and as an assistant coach at the South River Figure Skating Club. Through her ongoing commitment to volunteer work with both youth and seniors, Megan has made a significant impact and continues to strive to support her community. Megan is currently enrolled in the Honours Health Science Program at McMaster University, where she volunteers at McMaster's Children's Hospital and the Spark Mentorship Program on campus.

Chantal Brousseau (North Bay)

Chantal is a strong advocate and supporter of individuals with disabilities, both in the workplace and in the community. Chantal is strongly dedicated to sledge hockey, being one of the founders of the North Bay Ice Breakers, serving on the executive of the Ontario Sledge Hockey Association, and being instrumental in getting the Ontario Sledge Hockey Association Day of Champions to North Bay back in 2014. In addition, she helps the team with the Ontario Winter Games, as well as the Parasport Ontario Games. Since 2016, Chantal has been the Go-To person for the Tour the Trout, where swimmers swim the contour of Trout Lake to raise funds for the North Bay YMCA. Chantal is a Child and Youth Worker for special needs students and has made a positive impact both amongst students and co-workers. For 16 years she headed the "Troupe de dance", an activity that helped develop skills and built confidence to benefit students throughout their lives. She was instrumental in growing a sustainable graduation gown programme. And she organizes fund raising amongst staff for Christmas donations, sponsoring a family through the Children's Aid Society and adopting a senior through Cassellholme. One of the North Bay Ice Breakers parents said "Chantal has always put her needs ahead of everyone. She is a trusted individual who approaches special needs individuals with dignity and respect. She has always been an advocate for special needs children and adults. She will make sure all events are barrier free and, if not, she will advocate to the establishment for easy access for handicapped individuals. Chantal has gained the trust, confidence, and respect of all individuals she encounters and works with."

Christine Lacoste Froud (North Bay)

Christine is described as an absolute unsung hero to staff and clients of the homeless shelter where she works. She is one of the most empathetic people you could ever meet, as demonstrated by a simple gesture keeping a box of dog cookies behind her desk to give to dogs belonging to individuals that use the shelter, recognizing the importance pets has for these individuals. She selflessly serves the community, giving 100% every day. Christine's job is challenging and some days weigh very heavily on her heart because of the hardships she experiences on the job. Regardless, she never sways from her professional, supportive way. She has been a part of life-saving event on more than one occasion and has always been a shoulder and a listening ear for others who experience similar emergency situations. Meagan Brylikowski, who nominated Christine, said "Christine is kind, hardworking, and one in a million. I am so proud to have her as an ambassador for our team and as a colleague. She is invaluable to our team and so suitable for this honor".

Seth Compton (Callander)

Seth recognized that the 2SLGBTQ+ youth community needed strong support services and a safe hangout space, and he set out to do something about it. In 2019 he founded OUTloud, to build a strong and supportive community for these youths, in which individuals can support, collaborate with, and inspire each other. Through Seth's leadership, this much needed service has grown to include services such as mental health workshops, suicide prevention, educational supports, and other services, many offered through community partners that Seth built relationships with. After two years of a sole investment, OUTloud achieved registered charity status in 2021, but still operates without substantial government funding. Seth goes out of his way on a daily basis to help the 2SLGBTQ + youth community with their mental health needs, has saved lives, and is a much-needed advocate for gender affirming care. Nicholas Forsyth, who nominated Seth, said "Seth is my and lots of others unsung hero". And you'll find that testimonials on the OUTloud website certainly attest to that statement.