



**MIKE BRADLEY**

**MAYOR**

**CITY of SARNIA**

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SARNIA LAMBTON MEDIA

**RE: MAYOR'S 2020 HONOUR LIST**

Please find attached a copy of the Mayor's 2020 Honour List. This year marks the 39<sup>th</sup> Honour List. (No list was presented in 1988.)

The Mayor's Honour List was established by the late Mayor Marceil Saddy in 1981 to honour citizens and groups in the community or surrounding area who have been instrumental in improving the quality of life or making a significant contribution to the City of Sarnia and Lambton County. Helen Keller said it best--"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

The list, as always, is a highly personal list, based on my own observations throughout the year in the community, nominations from citizens and media stories.

The list is a tribute to the unsung people and groups in the community who make a difference in trying to create a good and just community and society. It is living proof that individual citizens and groups can make a difference. Individuals or groups nominated are not notified of their selection to the Mayor's Honour List until the announcement is made through the media so I request that you not contact those on the list until the embargo is lifted.

The 2020 Mayor's Honour List was treated as a regular year to recognize individuals and groups in the community. When we are through the COVID-19 war proper recognition will be given to those who contributed so greatly to bringing us to a better place.

A reception for this year's recipients will be held when regulations permit such a gathering, hopefully later in 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Bradley  
Mayor of Sarnia

## **MAYOR MIKE BRADLEY - HONOUR LIST – 2020**

### **CARRIE BEAUCHAMP**

For 25 years Ms. Beauchamp has made a great contribution towards culture in Sarnia with her musical productions including the Nightingale Chorus Christmas shows at the Imperial Theatre. She works tirelessly to give children the opportunity to explore the world of music and to develop their passion. She inspires them so much that when they go off to college and university they often come back to start their professional lives in Sarnia and want to give back by volunteering with her. This year she organized the Nightingale Chorus to get together outdoors and visit Long Term Care Homes and retirement homes to provide old fashioned carolling. She called this "The Christmas Ribbon" which was greatly appreciated by all. Carrie has said she will continue to put on shows as long as she has the talent to work with and people continue to want to see them.

### **BLUEWATER INTERNATIONAL GRANFONDO COMMITTEE**

The Bluewater International Granfondo began four years ago. The increase in this event's popularity is evident by the increase in the number of bike riders each year—over 3,000 riders have participated to date. Granfondo (B.I.G.) was voted #1 in Ontario and #2 in Canada. Since its inception over \$200,000 has been raised to support Palliative Care at Bluewater Health and St. Joseph's Hospice with a focus on Palliative Care Education for nurses. Although the event in 2020 was cancelled, plans are already underway for the 2021 ride.

### **DAVE DENTINGER**

Mr. Dentinger has 40 years of experience in broadcasting and multimedia journalism. As the News Director at CHOK Radio he is the "voice of comfort" in challenging times broadcasting to the community. Dave and Blackburn Radio are the key component of the City of Sarnia's Emergency Plan to notify the community in times of crisis and to reassure and give direction to citizens. On a professional basis, Dave is respected by his peers and by the community for his fairness and professionalism.

### **HEATHER GILLIS**

For many years Ms. Gillis has quietly assisted people through her volunteer work at the Food Bank. She goes one step further in assisting people on her

own when she has become aware of their need for clothing, appliances, and items for day-to-day living. Heather says she cannot turn a blind eye and walk away when she hears of people requiring assistance. Through Heather being a member of the Bright's Grove Optimist Club she can call upon fellow members of the Club to assist her in finding household items in need. She also relies on her former co-workers and friends to provide assistance. She has held bake sales and small fundraisers to raise money to buy gas and grocery cards to hand out to those in need. For many years Heather has been a driving force in the organization of the Bright's Grove Optimist Club's Canada Day celebrations--day-long celebrations held the weekend prior to Sarnia's Canada Day celebrations so the Bright's Grove community can attend and participate in both events.

### **RON GORDON**

Mr. Gordon has numerous community accomplishments for which he takes no credit, particularly helping numerous organizations through charity donations. Ron was an inspirational Chairman of the Sarnia Canada Day Committee and through his leadership built this event to where now over 50,000 people participate in the Sarnia events. Ron served as Chairperson of the first Ontario Handicapped Games held in Sarnia. He has been a driving force in fundraising drives which contributed tens of millions of dollars for Sarnia General Hospital Sarnia Lambton Women's Interval Home and the donation of a building, which was his Mother's home, which is now part of the Sarnia St. Joseph's Hospice. The Hospice has received national attention and awards because of its compassionate care giving. The Gordon House is an incredible part of that reputation. Ron has been a bridge builder between the 5,000 construction workers and their leadership and the construction industry in Sarnia of which Ron is a strong, dynamic leader. Ron has been instrumental in reaching out to labour and management to ensure harmony, recognizing at the end everyone wins if everyone is treated with dignity and respect. Ron has served in both government and business and has been an inspiration in charity-driven work.

### **DR. MICHEL HADDAD**

Dr. Haddad, originally from London and who was a top cardiac surgeon in Philadelphia, came to Sarnia over eight years ago to work in the ICU at Bluewater Health. He then became Chief of Staff. Under Dr. Haddad's leadership and genuine love for our community, he has taken Bluewater Health to a new place in under a decade. The hospital now has dozens of more capabilities and offerings for the Sarnia community than there were prior to his arrival. People no longer need to drive to London for literally dozens of procedures that Dr. Haddad believed needed to be offered locally.

He has changed the way people can receive care in Sarnia. He has recruited more specialists to come to Sarnia bringing in over 20 new doctors. Dr. Haddad has travelled to medical schools, conferences and speaking opportunities all over the country to promote what Sarnia has to offer to new grads and existing physicians. Dr. Haddad has contributed to elevate Sarnia through a formal affiliation with Western University whereby Western students will be practicing in Sarnia. Dr. Haddad is a skilled communicator who offers comfort and direction to the community through social and mainstream media. He recently started a "mini-medical school" which gives the public an opportunity to learn from and ask questions of our local health care experts.

### **SAMI KHAN**

Filmmaker and Sarnia native Sami Khan was honoured in 2020 to have his film, St. Louis Superman, nominated for an Academy Award in the short documentary category. In addition to the Academy Award nomination the documentary received awards at the Tribeca and Hot Docs Film Festivals. Sami attended film school at Columbia University in New York. Ten years ago his thesis project was a film in which he used Sarnia as the backdrop in a story about what home means. The film "75 El Camino" drew critical acclaim and was premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival. Sami currently lives in Toronto where he is a writer on the TV drama "The Transplant".

### **LINDSAY KIRKLAND**

Lindsay is an advocate for struggling youth with mental illness drawing on her own experiences. She manages a social media account called "Stigma Survivors" to create a safe place for the nearly 600 followers. She has been invited to speak at youth summits for leaders and also assists the community in food drives to help the Inn of the Good Shepherd. She was recently awarded the YMCA of Southwestern Ontario Peace Medal in recognition for her work to help the youth in her community. Lindsay believes that you are never too small to make a difference.

### **CAROLYN LEAVER-LUCIANI**

Carolyn is a strong community supporter, always willing to help out. She is a driving force with "Backpacks for Kids" (working with the Inn of the Good Shepherd to give kids starting school the tools they need). She is a very active member in the Rotary Club of Sarnia. She organizes fundraisers for

the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and in 2017 was recognized by the Sarnia Community Foundation as a Woman of Excellence.

Carolyn works to strengthen people and support them in achieving their own independence. An example would be her son Daniel, who has Type 1 diabetes. Since he was little, Carolyn has made sure Daniel understands diabetes and what he needs to do to address his own condition. She helps educate his friends and those around him as well, so Daniel has the supports that he needs. Carolyn is a very astute person who is very aware of community needs, and is the first one to reach out and help. Her door is always open and she is welcoming to all. Carolyn is a delight with her personality and charisma who brings joy and enthusiasm to every project where she is involved.

### **KAREN MATHEWSON**

For many years Karen has served as Chairperson of the Poverty Reduction Network an organization which advocates for better support for people who are struggling to survive each day. An Anti-Poverty Rally has been held for many years on the steps of City Hall on the Friday closest to the UN International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (October 17). Karen has been the organizer of this rally bringing together numerous agencies in the community and arranging for speakers to share their stories of survival and making a better life for themselves. Karen's dedication and hard work has made the issue of poverty front and centre in the community and to not allow people to forget that it is occurring around us.

### **CAMILLA MCGILL**

Camilla, a member of Sarnia Bluewaterland Rotary Club, is passionate about creating healthier communities. She has worked to improve literacy skills in Kenya through the "Rain of Hope Project" an organization striving to provide better education to students. She works closely with an optometry clinic in India which provides eye care to those who cannot afford such services. Camilla was a 2020 recipient of the YMCA Peace Medallion, given to an individual or group who, without any special resources, status, wealth or position, demonstrate a commitment to the value of peace through contributions made within their local, national or global community. Camilla is to be commended for her dedication in seeking to make not only local communities but also international communities better places to live.

### **EVE MORGAN-LANGILLE**

Eve is an incredible volunteer who has been with the Sexual Assault Survivors' Centre for over 10 years. She is currently the Centre's President. Eve was also involved with the local Alzheimer's Association and is a former board member. Eve is heavily involved with "Dancing with the Stars" and channels the funds to organizations that doesn't have a lot of volunteers and are often overlooked for donations. Eve has been described as someone who brings passion and drive to everything she volunteers to do.

### **JUDITH MORRIS**

Ms. Morris has been the President and CAO of Lambton College since 2012 and before that was with the College beginning in 2002. Judith is being recognized for her extraordinary work outside of her leadership role as President and CAO of the College. She is a champion of Indigenous relationships, attraction of international students to the College to grow the city's population in the years ahead, establishing strong connections with partnership in the Greater Toronto Area. Beyond her role with the College she has served on the Bio-Industrial Innovation Board, The Western Sarnia Lambton Research Park Board, Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership. Judith has been a leader in many areas of endeavour outside of her role with the College and is respected by all who have had the opportunity to work with her because of her dynamic and charismatic leadership skills.

### **RICK PERDEAUX**

Mr. Perdeaux has been a champion for the past ten years of the Oversized Load Corridor project—a project which is now underway. This will have great economic benefit to the communities in the decades to follow. Rick was responsible for its implementation while serving on the Sarnia Lambton Industrial Alliance Board, as well as tirelessly spending many hours being involved with the City of Sarnia, Lambton County, St. Clair Township, Lambton College and many other governing bodies both provincially and federally. As this project started as a conversation in a meeting room years ago, its completion with the final phase of the named CESTAR dock will be by the end of 2023.

### **JOANNE ROGERS**

Joanne Rogers builds bridges between the First Nations and the community. Joanne currently serves as a member of the Aamjiwnaang Council and is a past Chief whose outreach and engagement on reconciliation in strengthening the ties with the City of Sarnia and Lambton County were of

great value and continue to this day. Joanne is a valued member of the Sarnia Police Services Board where she is a leader in modernizing the Board and its policies.

## **SARNIA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

The year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sarnia Horticultural Society. The organization was formed to contribute to the beautification and cultural growth of the growing city. Hospitals, schools, veterans' association and many other activities were all beneficiaries. Members were able to grow their horticultural skills at monthly meetings through lectures, friendly competition, garden tours and collaborations with new, like-minded friends.

## **SARNIA LAMBTON CRIME STOPPERS**

Sarnia Lambton Crime Stoppers began in 1986 as a joint effort between the public, media and Sarnia Police. It was originally established by the Sarnia Police Commission who recruited members for the Board of Directors from Lambton County. Sarnia Lambton Crime Stoppers is a three part approach to solving the crime problem. Crime Stoppers relies on the co-operation between police, media and the general public to provide a flow of information about crime and criminals. With a major cut in funding from the OPP the organization was on the verge of not being able to function any longer. Through the efforts of the Board in seeking private donations and fundraising Crime Stoppers has worked its way back to once again being able to serve the community to its fullest extent.

## **SARNIA QUILTERS' GUILD**

The Sarnia Quilters' Guild, which began in the community 41 years ago, has approximately 165 members, including two founding members. Members' ages range from 20 to 95 with the purpose being to share ideas and projects and to foster the art of quilting. A large part of the Guild's mandate is Community Projects. Members donate their time, materials and talent to support several agencies such as Bluewater Health where they have provided pillowcases for children having Day Surgery. Quilts called "Quilts of Valour" are given to veterans; clients of the Alzheimer Society of Sarnia Lambton are also recipients; comfort quilts are given to people who are in need of comfort through agencies like Children's Aid Society, local Nursing Homes, St. Joseph Hospice, Ohana's Landing, New Beginnings ABI and Stroke Recovery, Standing Oaks, Good Shepherd's Lodge, River City Vineyard Church, Woman's Interval Home, and The Therapeutic Clown Program at London Health Sciences where Bravery Bead Bags are given to

children who are receiving treatments to hold the bravery beads the Therapeutic Clown Program gives them. In addition the Sarnia Quilters Guild holds fundraising drives at a variety of events throughout the year where some of the receiving agencies have been Rebound, Ohana's Landing, Organization for Literacy Lambton, Inn of the Good Shepherd, St. Joseph Hospice, Woman's Interval Home, Big Sisters and Big Brothers.

## **ROBERT WILLIAMSON**

The year 2020 marks 50 years Mr. Williamson has been active in sports activities such as hockey, baseball, lacrosse, football. He is a former General Manager of the Sarnia Legionnaires. Bob has made an impact on youth not only in this community but in outside communities. He does not seek recognition. He contributes to improve the lives of young people.

## **DONOVAN WOODS**

Donovan, born and raised in Sarnia, is a highly respected folk and country singer/songwriter. He was recognized by his peers with the English Songwriter of the Year Award at the 12<sup>th</sup> Canadian Folk Music Awards. His album "Both Ways" at the 2019 Juno Awards received a Juno for Contemporary Roots Album of the Year. Donovan has developed a reputation, nationally and internationally, as a songwriter, musician and singer.

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