

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why was the Community Spirit Award created?

The Community Spirit Award was created by Her Honour, Mayann Francis, past Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, 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.

As a long-time resident of rural Nova Scotia, His Honour, Brigadier-General The Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd) has a special connection with those dedicated to preserving and enhancing life, particularly in medium and smaller towns and villages. Through the Community Spirit Award, His Honour aims to recognize the many unsung heroes of Nova Scotia that, collectively, make their community a great place to live.

Who 'hosts' the Award?

The Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage hosts and administers the Award.

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 diversity of its residents who submit the nomination. It can be a neighbourhood, town, city or district. Communities 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 defined above, can nominate a community. One person will be responsible for being the main contact for the nomination application, but many people may participate in making the submission. In fact, the more 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 for 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. Visit the Community Spirit Award website for complete details 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 Arial font, in a Word document. All nominations should include clear evidence for each criteria as listed in the Awards Criteria Check-list located on the webpage.

All nominations, are to be sent either electronically to the Awards e-mail address at communityspiritaward@gov.ns.ca, faxed to (902) 424-0710, Attn: Community Spirit Award, or mailed to Communities, Culture and Heritage, Attn: Community Spirit Award, P.O. Box 456, Halifax, NS B3J 2R5.

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 and present an award that will stay in the

community and there will be province-wide public recognition. Up to four Nova Scotia communities will be honoured each year.

Who picks the winning communities?

A Selection Committee as diverse and enlightened as the province's communities picks the winning communities. These individuals accept the challenge of determining which entries meet the 'winning' criteria, as listed on the Awards Criteria Checklist, and meet following the submissions deadline in the Spring.

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

Yes, each winning community will receive a beautiful handcrafted, mouth blown Nova Scotian Crystal award piece, with cuts emblematic of each community, which can be displayed wherever the community determines is best.

When will the winning communities be announced?

The Selection Committee meets in the spring following the submission deadline to review all the nominations in detail based on the Awards Criteria Checklist. They may choose up to four communities to be awarded the Community Spirit designation. These communities will be announced shortly afterwards with additional media coverage and recognition at the actual time of the celebration with His Honour in the community. The timing of each celebration is determined by the winning community working with His Honour and the award host, the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage.

When does our community submission have to be in?

All completed application forms and submissions must either be emailed to communityspiritaward@gov.ns.ca, faxed to (902) 424-0710, or mailed to Communities, Culture and Heritage, Attn: Community Spirit Award, P.O. Box 456, Halifax, NS B3J 2R5 and received by midnight of the closing day March 31, 2016.

Do you have any additional questions?

If you have any additional questions you can send an e-mail to communityspiritaward@gov.ns.ca or call (902) 424-1723.