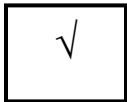


Award Application

Community Name: Wallace

Names of Groups within the community (**minimum requirement of four supporting groups**) who have joined together to put forward this nomination:

1. Wallace Area Development Association
2. Wallace Area Community Centre Society
3. Wallace & Area Recreation Committee
4. Wallace and Area Museum Society
5. St John's Mens Club
6. Wallace and Area Sunrise Seniors



I acknowledge that if I am the winning community, my submission in its entirety will be made available to the public and other program sponsors through the Communities, Culture and Heritage website and my story will be used for other related marketing and promotional purposes for the Community Spirit Award Program. All other information collected for the purposes of administering the Community Spirit Award program will only be used for the purposes for which it was obtained and will be managed in accordance with the ***Freedom of Information, Protection of Privacy Act*** of Nova Scotia.

This application is under the name of Wallace but it is from the community comprised of all the hamlets in the area which include Malagash, Richmond, Middleboro, and Fox Harbour along with the multitude that incorporate Wallace in their name, such as Wallace Ridge and Wallace Station. Each citizen takes pride in announcing which hamlet they come from while effectively living and working together as a single community. Our community boasts a few hundred year around residents and like many coastal communities our population swells during the warm months as "snowbirds" return and cottagers make extended stays in their retreats from urban chaos peaking near one thousand.

Wallace is a quiet community similar to many rural coastal communities. What sets Wallace apart is its attitude and approach to challenges. The community just gets things done when a need arises or an improvement project is contemplated. Typically little fanfare is involved and equally typically Wallace relies more on the strengths of its citizens than on contributions from outside government or commercial organizations. As proof of our community spirit our application consists of examples of how Wallace gets things done. These examples will demonstrate how Wallace meets the Essential Criteria for this award and will hit upon the majority of Supportive Criteria.

Rallying the masses when appropriate.

Wallace has recently been severely impacted by the temporary closure of its only gas station. In December 2012 a fire destroyed the building that housed not only the gas station but the local Rite Stop convenience store. The property owner, multi-national Ultramar Ltd., was reluctant to commit to rebuilding. Being a rural area, private vehicles are our only means of transportation and they, along with our tools and equipment, need fuel. A gas station has been present at the intersection of highway 6 and route 307 since the beginning of automobile popularity. This station is the hub of our community and there were fears a permanent loss of fuel services will lead to our community drifting apart as citizens would more frequently travel to surrounding villages in order to acquire fuel. Wallace reacted to these concerns by becoming vocal about our crisis and letting Ultramar know how important their decision is to us. Hundreds of phone calls, letters, and e-mails directly to Ultramar combined with rallies and soliciting media attention is how we met this challenge. As quoted in the Chronicle Herald, Ultramar management states "The level of mobilization of a local community regarding one of our sites is quite unique. It's phenomenal, actually. It's something which goes way beyond what we've seen in the past". Furthermore, the community supported the local business owner that operated the store with offers to do what ever small things it could to help them succeed in having their business resume. We are very pleased as the latest information is the community has been successful and a store with fuel service is now being planned for the site. This recent exhibit of community spirit and determination is what inspired us to make this application.

Since Wallace is rarely vocal, preferring to quietly accomplish our goals, our efforts to retain fuel service in our community reminds many of the efforts decades ago to get the condemned bridge between Wallace and North Wallace replaced. Although the community was told many times for over multiple years the bridge would not be replaced, this community did not forsake the need for a bridge. Multiple meetings with officials and community "town halls" implored the importance of this transportation link. At one point a large group of citizens went so far to interrupt a near by political event to voice concerns directly to the premier. Eventually political powers agreed and the bridge was replaced. A stellar example in our past of how this community will rise to meet any challenge.

Filling a Technology Void

More recently, in the late 1990s the evolution of computer usage and the Internet as an information source had reached the point where Wallace knew its youth should have computers in their school. It was obvious our local school board would not consider our small elementary school to be a priority within their computer deployment plans. With the announcement of the Community Access Program (C@P) our community came together and provided a cooperative solution for our school. In partnership with the school board, Wallace was among the first communities in Nova Scotia to have a C@P site. The school provided two things: a room and Internet access; the community provided the rest. A committee of enthusiastic volunteers raised over \$20,000 in eighteen months which, with a similar amount from C@P grants, enabled Wallace Consolidated Elementary to have a technology set-up that was second to no other school. Installed, set-up, and maintained by volunteers each classroom was equipped with one or two personal computers and a wall mounted television. The televisions are on a closed circuit system complete with a video camera enabling in school broadcasts of announcements using a "news desk" approach. The televisions could also be connected to a PC enabling them to be used for in class presentations of computer or Internet content. In addition, twelve computers were set-up in a room by themselves which had public access. This computer room allowed teachers to incorporate computer based education into their programs. Furthermore, the room was open to the public when not in use by students so the community had computer and high-speed Internet access at a time when only dial-up Internet was available to the majority. Paramount to the committee was having the computer and Internet access free so there would not be any financial barrier to its use; the only charges are for the use of consumables such as printing. Sporadic grants enabled employed staff to assist teachers with program delivery and to aid patrons of the C@P site; but the majority of C@P site assistance was done by volunteers. The committee sponsored computer literacy training so residents could more easily adapt to computer and Internet use which was becoming increasingly necessary in our society. The C@P site also provides free access to a digital camera, video camera, and a digital projector so residents and community organizations have these at their disposal if wanted. After a little more than a decade, the school board and the community decided to eliminate the publicly accessible aspect of this infrastructure. Security concerns meant restricting the accessible Internet sites from within the school and public access to the school property. So, the community donated the entire set-up to the school and relocated its C@P site on a smaller scale to the near by museum. The Wallace C@P site remains a free to use service even though government funding for the program has been drastically reduced in recent years.

While no direct link, this community's push to foster computer literacy we believe is one reason it was chosen as a demonstration area for what would become the province's Rural High-Speed Internet initiative. By having the facility to educate and aid householders on Internet use it meant more people would be willing to participate in the demonstration. Wallace was one of the first rural communities to have ADSL service from Bell Aliant.

Museums Honouring Local History

Wallace is steeped in history. Once known as Remsheg, the area has been a social and commercial centre for centuries. Meaning “the place between”, in the original Mi’kmaq language, Remsheg was a gathering spot for Native Canadians. Acadians also chose the area and had established a strong community here which was the first to be destroyed by the Expulsion in 1755. Loyalists were brought to the area with the lands offered to them by the Remsheg Land Grant. In the early 1800s the now predominantly English speaking community adopted the name Wallace. Throughout the 1800s and early into the 1900s, Wallace was a major commercial centre. Boasting several shipyards and fish packing factories its harbour was filled with vessels carrying its exports of fish, timber, salt, and our famous Wallace Sandstone. Wallace is proud of its history and has chosen to make it readily available for everyone by operating not one but two museums. Each is operated by not-for-profit societies and relies upon many volunteer hours. Both museums host C@P sites providing free computer and Internet access for visitors, cottagers, and citizens in outlying regions where highspeed Internet is not economically available. During the summer the museums host many free social events such as teas which enable the community to gather in a casual neighbourly environment to share news and stories. At the site of Canada’s first salt mine; the Malagash Miners Museum gives patrons the opportunity to gain knowledge of mining as it was done decades ago. Housed in the former miners’ hall, this little museum is one of Nova Scotia’s hidden treasures. The Wallace and Area Museum is in Wallace Bridge on a property that once belonged to the Davidson family who operated one of the larger shipyards. The Wallace museum site is the result of the community seizing an opportunity and building upon it. In 1987, Davidson descendant John Kennedy bequeathed the property to the public with the condition it be used as a museum. The province was reluctant to accept, however citizens of Wallace worked feverishly with officials and negotiated to have a museum established there. The gardens on the property have been revitalized and are an attraction of their own often forming the backdrop for wedding party photographs. The remaining 200 acres have been left essentially undeveloped with few well maintained walking trails to allow visitors a chance to see native flora and fauna. The mission of the volunteer society established is to collect,



preserve and display local history. This museum is home to so many artifacts donated by families, a permanent exhibit of any one theme is impractical so exhibits are perpetually changing. Space in the original house is limited so after ten years the society embarked on an expansion project which came to fruition in 2005. The added space includes a community room that is used by local clubs for their meetings and for special events. The expansion is an example of how this community completes projects that are of a larger scale.

Recreation Facilities for All

For some time the local ball field was a frequent centre of summertime activity. However, the years had not treated the circa 1970 facility well and it had become a dirt field with a leaning back-stop and rotting team dugouts and dilapidated bleachers and was not getting much use. Local youth had to travel to neighbouring communities to enjoy minor baseball. Spearheaded by a few but involving many, the Wallace Area Recreation Committee decided improvements were past due. A blitz of fundraising activities such as dances and tournaments got the improvements rolling. First the ball field was completely redone, new fencing, new dug outs, new back-stop, new grass outfield with appropriate gravel infield and new bleachers. To establish the grass outfield the community turned to a traditional fertilizer, lobster. Several loads of the waste carcasses from the local fish packing plant were tilled into the earth and the following season volunteers raked the soil to remove any pieces that remained. This is a small example of Wallace using its own resources when available, instead of looking externally. With



these improvements minor ball returned to the community. Not content with just a ball field the community decided to add venues for other sports so a combination tennis-basketball court with asphalt base and high fencing was added to the back of the property. Also present is a permanent facility that can be used as a canteen during organized events.

When funds became available an outdoor rink facility was built complete with boards and fencing and additional basketball nets. A drilled well was installed so the rink can be flooded quickly and easily without asking the fire department to use their resources. A used ice resurfacing unit that attaches to a farm tractor was obtained from Tatamagouche; they had it in storage as an emergency back-up for their rink. A local business donated the use of a tractor so when weather cooperates well maintained ice is provided. Lights surround the rink so it can be used in the dark winter evenings. With these improvements Wallace boasts a well maintained multi-sport venue that compares favourably with what many larger communities have. The best part, from our perspective, is these facilities are free for use by anyone at anytime. It is a great pleasure to hear our youth playing pick-up games on these facilities. The area schools also make use of the facilities for skating and softball. It is not only the youth, adults make use of the facilities as well with tennis being a part of many summer days.

An unexpected bonus for the community is the now annual fund raising event used to provide the monies to maintain the recreation facilities. Every summer an outdoor dance is held within the confines of the outdoor rink. People of all ages come to enjoy the joyful atmosphere of dancing under the stars. The dance's popularity has become such that people plan their summer around being able to attend, including return trips from working away. It is often a reunion time for people who have not seen one and other since the previous year's dance. The popularity of the dance means enough funds are raised in the one event to operate the facility year round which eases the time commitment of volunteers for fund raising.

A Park for our Scientists

Wallace has been blessed to be the birthplace of many notable citizens. Two internationally renowned scientists are at the top of the list. While both relocated to the USA where their achievements were accomplished, both got their start in life here. Simon Newcomb is the father of modern navigation and astronomy. Born in 1835 he rose to the rank of Rear Admiral in the US Navy while making many contributions to the fields of mathematics and astronomy. His mathematical models of the cosmos remain the foundation of those used for space exploration today. In 1935 a small cairn was placed in Wallace near his birth place and stands today as a National Historic Monument. The other notable scientist is Nobel laureate Willard Boyle. Born in 1924, Bill Boyle was educated in Quebec and found himself working for Bell Laboratories in New Jersey as the digital age was dawning. While there were many, his most notable achievement was the co-invention of the charge-coupled device (CCD). This digital circuit design enables light to be sensed and recorded as a digital value and is the foundation of the explosion of digital image technology. Retiring to his birthplace here in Wallace, Bill and his wife Betty were inspiring members of our community for many years.

Since 1935, when the Simon Newcomb cairn was placed, the roadway past it was transformed into Highway 6 and traffic became heavier and moved faster. No provision had ever been made to provide a safe location for people to stop and view the monument and so, in recent years, few braved the hazards of stopping. The property which the cairn sits upon is just a few feet larger than the cairn itself. Wanting this memorial to Simon Newcomb to be witnessed by more people a local club, St John's Mens Club, recently spearheaded a project to establish a place for visitors to the site to safely park their vehicle. In the preliminary stages a meeting with Parks Canada officials (Parks Canada is responsible for the upkeep of the cairn) was held at the site to review the deficiencies of the situation and solicit support. Ironically, the Parks Canada officials had difficulty identifying the site and drove past it which made it obvious the site was not clearly marked a further deterrent to fostering visitors. However, due to federal funding situation, Parks Canada was not able to provide any tangible support for site improvements. Fortunately the property surrounding the cairn was not currently in productive use and that property owner was willing to sell it. In collaboration with other volunteer groups a project was embarked upon to acquire this property for the community and turn it into a small green-space style park. Donated funds were used to purchase the property and given the historical nature of the cairn it was agreed the Wallace Area Museum Society was the appropriate community entity to take ownership. Plans for a gravel driveway with parking area and walking path to the cairn were prepared and the development was initiated. Volunteers cleared brush and other landscaping tasks to convert the overgrown field into a park. Sadly, at an early stage in this project Bill Boyle died. Following his death the community felt compelled to establish a permanent memorial honouring his work and placing that memorial near the Simon Newcomb cairn seemed very appropriate. This renewed focus on the project to develop the property and the Newcomb – Boyle Park, with a small but critical infusion of provincial funds, was born. A stone memorial for Willard Boyle was designed with Boyle family members. Our famous sandstone from the Wallace Quarry was the obvious preferred material and local stone carver Keith Elliott was the correct craftsman to convert the material into the



appropriate monument it is. Both Wallace Quarries Ltd and Keith Elliott Stone made significant in-kind contributions to the project. In July 2012 a joint ceremony was held unveiling the monument and opening the park. This summer season the park will be enhanced with the addition of flower beds and benches.

Our Unique Weather on Display

With Nova Scotia having so many micro-climates one thing that was often an issue for us was the weather information for our area was frequently inaccurate. This is principally due to the fact no weather monitoring is done in our area by weather reporting organizations so weather conditions are deduced from monitoring stations located well away from us. Wallace uses both printed brochures and a community website (www.wallacebythesea.ca) to publish its charm and features; so the idea came about that it would be useful to have a weather monitoring station locally located with its readings made available on our website. This would make current weather conditions available for anyone with Internet access, a vast improvement. As the idea was being developed into a project it was enhanced to include the use of Internet cameras to allow people to visually see the current conditions. No one community group had the funds to purchase the required equipment so several groups pooled their resources to make the project possible. Wanting a camera to be facing the wharf, so fishermen could monitor their boats during foul weather events, a location near the wharf was sought. The owner of the building adjacent to the wharf was more than willing to support the project and in conjunction with the business on its ground floor, Whirligigs Café, agreed to sponsor the project by perpetually providing use of space as well as Internet access and electrical requirements. A Davis brand weather station was acquired along with three StarDot Internet cameras. Volunteers configured and installed the equipment and now maintain it. The addition of the weather information as well as live images of the area has proven to be very popular. Commuters will often check to see the current conditions before beginning their trip. People with ties to the area that find themselves away, either temporarily or on a long term basis, "check-in" on the weather and the images to get a small taste of home. We get feedback from all over Canada as well as the United Kingdom and our snowbirds in southern climates. This year our intention is to enhance the weather information by adding the temperature of the water in Wallace Harbour. Our project has not gone unnoticed by other small communities as we have been contacted to provide advice to those intending to implement similar facilities.

Raising Funds While Entertaining

In the mid 1900's the owner/operator of a dance hall in Wallace wanted to divest himself of the business and indirectly the property. Being very community minded he offered to sell the building to the community so it could be utilized as a community centre. The Wallace Community Centre was established and remains a core feature of our community today, owned by the community as a whole a board of trustees oversees its operation. To provide funds, semi-regular card parties and "Fun" bingos are held. These provide a local social event for people, particularly seniors, while also raising some monies. With the recent increasing costs of heating fuel a new source of revenue was needed. A group of volunteers stepped forward and attacked this need. Our region of the province was seeing an increase in the number of public Open Mic sessions where musicians donate their time and talent allowing free will offerings at these sessions to be utilized by non-profits. Wallace was added to the expanding list of communities participating and monthly Open Mic evenings are now used to

raise the funds needed to heat the building during cooler months. These Open Mics are now an essential component of our rural life providing low cost entertainment within close proximity. These same organizers and musicians have held special benefit events in Wallace where the funds raised went for a specific urgent need such as assisting a family who lost considerable property due to a fire.

One Day Festivals

Yardsales, bake sales, and craft sales are frequently used by our many non-profit groups to raise funds. Having several sales happening at the same time is known to be a good method to bring in additional shoppers. With this concept and the thought that a community festival in the spring would help launch our summer, the community recently introduced an annual festival. Borrowing the idea from a community in another province Wallace chose to celebrate a common spring time bloom and named our event the Dandelion Festival. In addition to a variety of sales held by non-profits and local citizen yardsales, the festival includes other activities such as antique displays, a barbeque, games at the ball field, art exhibit and photo contests (themed around the dandelion) and a community supper. Not a lot of fanfare, just a nice day to get out and enjoy a few events with friends and family. The quirky theme has also garnered us some media attention which helps to advertise the event.

The Dandelion Festival is not the community's only annual event. On June 30th Wallace celebrates Canada Day with a festival like atmosphere and of course fireworks at dusk. June 30th is our small celebration so it does not compete with neighbouring Pugwash's Gathering of the Clans festival that launches on July 1. Later in summer a Sand Castle Festival is held at Blue Sea Beach provincial park. In December we have our Country Christmas event that includes a parade and also fireworks. Organized by volunteers, these simple low cost community events are one way our community works together to keep its spirit vibrant.

Wallace does not have a central organization that leads or coordinates events and projects. Wallace is rich with people who are willing to volunteer for the betterment of the community. What transpires is collections of these volunteers that commonly support an event or project form and they work to see it to fruition. These collections in many instances have formally organized into committees or associations but not always. As people have many interests, volunteers are typically members of several of these groups and it is through this intersection of membership that the groups communicate amongst themselves and as appropriate work together.

We have cited a few of the more significant improvement projects we have completed. We believe these amply demonstrate this community has the spirit this award is intended to acknowledge. Our community has but a few hundred citizens and a significant portion are seasonal residents choosing to live here only during the warmer months. Our investment in community infrastructure such as the recreation facilities shows we see our community is enduring. The variety of the projects clearly indicates a wide range of interests, from showcasing local musical talent to educating people on the latest technology. Our wide spread "don't take no" attitude when crucial pieces of the community fabric are threatened shows we are proud of this community and expect it to thrive. Furthermore, we make the following points with respect to some the criteria used to select the communities for this award.

- The presence of two volunteer run museums are a stellar illustration of how much we recognize the importance of our history and cultural heritage. Presently, we are in negotiations to assume ownership of the local lighthouse building as we see it as an icon of our heritage.
- Our community is becoming a retirement community as society abandons rural based economies; as such we necessarily welcome newcomers and most feel so welcomed they quickly join in on the volunteer efforts. We have new residents from the United Kingdom, New York State as well as other parts of Canada.
- As welcoming gesture, new residents are greeted shortly after settling in with a small gift basket consisting of local products and gift certificates from local businesses including wine from Jost Vinyards and produce from Vista Bella Farm.
- Our partnership with Tatamagouche with respect to the used ice cleaner is unique, we store their emergency back-up equipment for no cost and in turn we may make use of it as needed.
- Similar partnerships exist between organizations, the community centre stores some of the chairs and tables purchased for the annual outdoor dance and gets to use them during the year meanwhile the recreation committee does not have to rent storage space.
- Our respect for the environment is evident by our high participation in waste diversion. We were hesitant to adopt curbside pick-up for fear it would reduce the effectiveness of diversion. More significant though, Wallace is one of very few rural coastal communities to have a waste water treatment facility as decades ago the need to divert raw sewage from the harbour was evident and acted upon.
- Our respect and support of spiritual groups is also evident as we have seven active churches within the community and in addition many residents are adherents to churches in neighbouring communities. Church fundraisers are always well attended as everyone acknowledges their importance to our culture.

In summary, we believe Wallace is well deserving of an award for community spirit and respectfully thank you for considering our application. We intend to acknowledge the 30 year milestone of the Wallace and Area Museum this year and would be very pleased to use the benefits of this award to make this a larger and broader celebration for the community.