

*The Mayor's*  
**NEW  
YEAR'S**  
*Levee*



**JANUARY 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

# Order of Collingwood

Recognizing exemplary volunteer achievements by individuals who enhance the social, well-being, natural or cultural environment, or recreational character of the Town of Collingwood, The Order of Collingwood celebrates their contributions.

## Recipients

- Susan Brindisi •
- Doug Linton •
- D. Barry Manchester •
- Paulina Monette •
- Mark Rich •

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## Companion of the Order

Awarded to individuals who have previously received the Order of Collingwood and have continued to make outstanding volunteer contributions to improve the social, well-being, natural or cultural environment, or recreational character of the Town of Collingwood.

## Recipient

- Sheila Stewart •

*Order of Collingwood Recipient - 2013*



# Order of Events

## Procession

- Town Crier, Ken Templeman •
  - Poet Laureate, Jillian Morris •
  - Mayor Hamlin and Members of Council •
  - Recipients of the Order & Companion •
    - Emcee, Dean Hollin •
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## Ceremony

- Proclamation •
  - National Anthem •
  - Mayor's New Year's Address •
    - Poetry Reading •
  - Year in Review Reel •
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## Award Presentation

- Susan Brindisi - Councillor Jeffery •
- Doug Linton - Councillor Doherty •
- D. Barry Manchester - Councillors Baines & Houston •
  - Paulina Monette - Councillor Perry •
  - Mark Rich - Councillors Ring & Potts •
  - Sheila Stewart - Deputy Mayor Fryer •

# Susan Brindisi



Since the winter of 1996, Susan Brindisi has been a transformative force in Collingwood, embodying the values of the Order of Collingwood through her commitment to community enhancement. A catalyst for positive change, Susan's contributions have left an enduring impact on the social, cultural, and recreational legacy of our town.

From 2000 to 2009, Susan dedicated herself to nurturing not just athletic skills but lasting connections as a soccer coach for the Collingwood Youth Soccer Club. Her financial acumen and support for aquatic endeavors shone through as the Treasurer for the Collingwood Clippers swim team from 1999 to 2002.

In the face of personal adversity in 2009, Susan founded the *Georgian Triangle Hikers* group on Facebook, ensuring that no one in the community would hike alone. This resilient initiative continues to thrive, with three hikes organized weekly.

Susan's commitment to the welfare of others extended to her role on the Board of My Friend's House Women's Shelter from 2014 to 2020, where she served as the Chair from 2018 to 2020. Her dedication to the arts was evident in her involvement with Gaslight Theatre Community Productions from 2019 to the present, where she served as both an actor and Treasurer during challenging pandemic times.

Undeterred by obstacles, Susan captained the *Escarpment NeverRest* team in the Everest Challenge event from 2019 to the present, raising donations for numerous local organizations. Susan Brindisi, through her unwavering volunteerism, stands as a living testament to the Order of Collingwood's mission to enrich our community's social, cultural, and recreational landscape.



# Doug Linton



In the annals of Collingwood's community service, Doug Linton stands as a steadfast advocate for positive change. His journey, spanning several decades, is a testament to his commitment to the Town's Parks, Recreation, Culture, and beyond.

From 1993 to 1996, Doug's service on the Collingwood Parks, Recreation, and Culture Board coincided with the early days of trail development, where he played a pivotal role in advancing this transformative initiative. In 1995-1998, he further demonstrated his leadership as Chair of the Board for the Collingwood Information Centre, now Collingwood Connection.

In 2004, Doug was elected as one of the Founding Directors of the Collingwood Dragon Boat and Canoe Club, later the Collingwood Paddling Club (CPC). His impact continued with the creation of the Paddle Camp day camp program in 2006, a role he fulfilled until 2020. Currently serving as the Facilities Manager of the CPC and the Watts Boathouse, Doug's dedication to water sports is palpable.

Beyond recreational pursuits, Doug's community involvement extended to the Georgian Triangle Association of Realtors from 2009 to 2012 and fundraising endeavors for My Friend's House. Notably, his exceptional efforts in the 6 Hours of Gibraltar Mountain Bike Race and a fundraising hike in Ecuador exemplify his commitment.

In April 2021, Doug's advocacy reached new heights as he was appointed to the Collingwood Affordable Housing Task Force, assuming the role of Chairperson since August 2022. Doug Linton's remarkable journey reflects the essence of the Order of Collingwood, honoring those who enrich the community's well-being and cultural fabric.



# D. Barry Manchester

D. Barry Manchester, a cornerstone of Collingwood since his relocation with his wife Judy in March 1986, has woven a rich tapestry of community service, leaving an indelible mark on various facets of our Town.

Barry's journey began at the YMCA, where he joined the racquetball league and eventually became an instructor. His commitment led him to the YMCA Board of Directors, a role he proudly held for many years. As his children embraced local sports, Barry coached T-Ball, coach pitch baseball, and dedicated over a decade to coaching in the Collingwood Optimists Soccer League.

In 1986, Barry founded the Royal Lepage Charity Ski Day, flourishing for 38 years, raising substantial funds for local charities, including Hospice Georgian Triangle and the Royal Lepage Shelter Foundation. His impact extended to the Collingwood Ski Club, serving on the Board of Directors and actively volunteering. As Chief Steward for FIS World Cup Ski Cross races, D. Barry Manchester led 25+ volunteers, ensuring on-hill safety for racers and the public.

Barry's commitment to community expansion is exemplified by his collaboration with the Georgian Triangle Humane Society, facilitating the acquisition of 5-acre expansion lands for the Regional Centre for Pets and People. His involvement with the Georgian Triangle Humane Society, Collingwood General & Marine Hospital, and the Great Northern Exhibition reflects his ongoing dedication to local causes.

D. Barry Manchester's legacy is one of profound community enrichment, embodying the essence of the Order of Collingwood through decades of selfless service and the cultivation of enduring friendships in our town.



# Paulina Monette

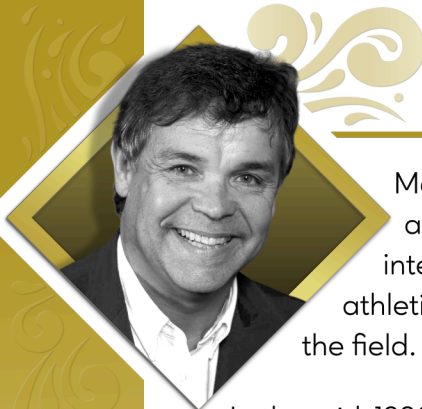


Recipient of the esteemed Order of Collingwood, Paulina Monette's journey in our Town is a testament to the transformative power of compassion and community spirit. Together with her husband Ron, they embraced retirement in Collingwood, seeking fulfillment beyond the idyllic lifestyle, and found it at First Presbyterian Church.

Engaging with the church's outreach programs, Paulina and Ron became pillars of support in initiatives such as Community Dinners, Christmas Hampers, and the School Reading Buddy Program. When the challenges of the Covid era unfolded, their compassion shone brighter.

Witnessing the profound impact of the pandemic on families, Paulina and Ron rallied the community around them. What started as a call for assistance resulted in a cascade of generosity, with hot meals, groceries, gift cards, clothing, and more pouring in. With determination and a listening ear, Paulina personally delivered these provisions, establishing trust and connection with those facing hardship.

Paulina's initiative has evolved into a formidable team of volunteers and benefactors, working seamlessly to address the multifaceted needs of referred families. Through her commitment to community well-being, Paulina Monette exemplifies the Order of Collingwood's ethos, enriching lives and fostering hope in the face of adversity.



# Mark Rich

Mark Rich is a familiar name in Collingwood's athletic circles. His journey, deeply intertwined with the Town's year-round athletics, reflects a passion that extends beyond the field.

In the mid-1990s, Mark was invited to join the Board of the Collingwood Sports Hall of Fame, a role that evolved into his becoming the Chair in 2002—a position he proudly holds to this day. His dedication to preserving and honoring local sports legacies is unwavering.

Beyond sports, Mark embraced his Scottish heritage with a decision to learn the bagpipes on May 24, 1999. His commitment transcended personal skill development, extending to the formation and growth of the Beinn Gorm Highlanders Pipes and Drums. Serving two terms as President, from 2011-2014 and again from 2017 to the present, Mark has been a driving force in nurturing this local cultural gem.

Mark's involvement in sports goes beyond administrative roles; he actively supported his daughter's and niece's competitive swimming careers with The Collingwood Clippers. From fundraising efforts to serving as a Level 2 Swim Official from 2014-2017, Mark invested time and energy not just into the sport but also into fostering a supportive environment for young athletes.

Mark Rich, through his multifaceted contributions, exemplifies the spirit of the Order of Collingwood, enriching the town's athletic and cultural heritage with boundless enthusiasm and commitment.





# Sheila Stewart

## *Order of Collingwood Recipient - 2013*

In the realm of music, Sheila Stewart has orchestrated a symphony of volunteerism that resonates through the heart of Collingwood. Since 2000, she has been the driving force as a founding member, teacher, and Pipe Major of the local pipe band, The Beinn Gorm Highlanders.



Every Tuesday night, for over two decades, Sheila dedicates three hours to imparting the art of playing bagpipes to enthusiasts of all ages. Her impact is evident in the 23 students, spanning ages 12 to 84, who now grace not only the ranks of the Beinn Gorm Highlanders but also other pipe bands.

Beyond instruction, Sheila and the band generously contribute their time to nursing homes, schools, churches, hospitals, Highland Games, local parades, and veteran's events. In a crowning achievement, they represented Collingwood and the South Georgian Bay Area at the 2022 World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, Scotland, marching proudly among 10,000 international pipers and drummers.

For Sheila, the last 24 years have been a labor of love, witnessing the evolution of the band. Looking ahead, she remains committed to sharing the music of their heritage with the community, weaving a timeless melody of dedication and community harmony that embodies the essence of the Order of Collingwood.

## Emcee – Dean Hollin

Dean, a versatile entertainer, excels as an actor, emcee, director, host, and singer. Renowned for his captivating lectures and concerts, he emphasizes the importance of the Great American Songbook and its creators. Dean hosts various shows on Zoomer Radio AM 740, including *Radio Limelite*, *All Things Great American Songbook*, and *Big Band Sunday Night*. Additionally, he co-hosts *The Garden Show with Charlie Dobbin* and hosts *Breakfast Classics* on The New Classical FM. Visit [deanhollin.com](http://deanhollin.com) for more information.

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## Musician – Kendall Lilly

Kendall Lilly, a 16-year-old musician, singer, and songwriter, graces community and church events with captivating performances. Proficient in acoustic and electric guitar, piano, and drums, Kendall weaves tales through covers of contemporary and iconic artists, along with original compositions. Passionate about sharing the gift of music, Kendall loves connecting through the art of storytelling in song.

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## Poet – Jillian Morris

Jillian Morris is Kanien'kehaka and band member of Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, currently residing in Collingwood. Jillian has established her presence in the community as a writer with local media, publishing pieces that contribute to fostering a healthier Indigenous/non-Indigenous relationship. She believes that art is an impactful medium to build bridges between cultures and worldviews. Jillian's poetry layers traditional teachings and interconnection with the natural world to explore identity, redress untruths and foster connection.