

Know a Citizen of the Year? Nominate now!



Blake Burnett – 2019 Citizen of the Year

In 2020, we all learned a lot – new phrases like ‘flatten the curve’, ‘social distancing’ and the mother of them all ‘COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus’ infiltrated everyone’s vocabulary.

We did our part, we stayed home, we wore masks and we kept our distance.

There were so many who rose to the occasion and upped their game, and now we’re looking for nominations for the 35th Citizen of the Year, hosted by the Selkirk and District Community Foundation, and we know there’s plenty worthy folks out there.

“It’s been a heck of a year and though we’re not in the clear yet I think we’ve all learned a lot about ourselves and about each other,” said Aaron Martyniw, Chairman of the SDCF.

“Maybe now more than ever we need to take a look around and recognize those who do so much for their communities, not just this year but every year. We all know them, and nominating them for Citizen of the Year is a unique and special tribute.”

Deadline to nominate is fast approaching – they need to be in by Sept. 30.

Last year’s Citizen of the Year was St. Clements resident Blake Burnett and the award night for Burnett was memorable. The volunteer firefighter in East Selkirk was humbled by his nomination and on awards night paid tribute to his mom, who he said was the one who should have been receiving the award.

“It’s difficult for me to accept an award like this when there’s a person like my mom sitting in the crowd,” he said, emotion wringing from his voice.

“You don’t realize growing up. She’s the reason for me having the work ethic and pride in my community. Growing up, there wasn’t a team or a sport or a club my mom wouldn’t let me and my brothers and sisters join. And there was seven of us...Mom, thanks for showing me the way.”

Burnett’s party was filled with love and laughter, and brought his family, friends and colleagues together to honour someone who devotes so much of his time to community.

This year of course is a little different.

The awards banquet is tentatively scheduled to take place on Nov. 4 at the Selkirk Golf and Country Club with a 6 p.m. start time.

Martyniw said the Foundation will decide in the near future whether the event will proceed, based on information from the province and the state of COVID-19 at that time.

“A Citizen of the Year will be named in 2020 and the celebration of that individual may look a little different than in previous years, but there definitely will be an award winner,” Martyniw said.

“We hope to have a celebration befitting the person and in keeping with years past, but we also need to be vigilant in our care for everyone’s health. We know all the fine people of Selkirk, St. Clements and St. Andrews feel the same and we appreciate their understanding.”

Confirmation of the awards banquet will be posted on the SDCF website (sdcf.ca) and social media - Instagram @selkirkdcf and Twitter @DcfSelkirk

The Citizen of the Year Award recognizes an individual, who through their own initiative, ability and effort has made an exemplary achievement in the area of the RM of St. Andrews, RM of St. Clements and/or the City of Selkirk.

Nominations should explain how the individual you are nominating has made the community a better place to live and work; provide a detailed account of the individual’s volunteer contributions and/or professional accomplishments, as they relate to the community; and describe how the individual’s actions have impacted and helped the community.

Written nominations are welcome from any individual, organization, business, association or institution and can be forwarded to the Selkirk and District Community Foundation, Citizen of the Year Selection Committee, 200 Eaton Avenue, Selkirk MB, R1A 0W6.

For more information, contact 204-785-9755 or email exdirector@sdcf.ca

The Selkirk and District Community Foundation is a charitable organization that provides financial support to charitable causes and agencies in the region, which includes Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements. Gifts from donors enable the Foundation to support countless groups and individuals in our community. The Foundation has given in excess of \$2.7 million to more than 125 local charities and community organizations during its 25 years. For more details, contact SDCF Executive Director Bev Clegg at 204.785.9755.