

## It's time! Time to nominate the 37<sup>th</sup> Citizen of the Year

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Citizens of the Year from 2019-2021 hitch a ride in the back of a classic at last year's Selkirk Parade. Who are you going to nominate this year?

It's that time of year again – when the Selkirk & District Community Foundation asks you to think about the people you know and which among them is community minded and works hard to make the lives of those around them better.

We all know someone who fits that bill, and now is the time to nominate them for the 37<sup>th</sup> Citizen of the Year.

Our three communities of Selkirk, St. Andrews and St. Clements are full of wonderful people who volunteer their time and go above and beyond to make our communities the best they can be," said Shauna Curtin, Chair of the Selkirk & District Community Foundation."

"It's nice to recognize these people and the Citizen of the Year selection committee always struggles to narrow it down to just one deserving person. But it's a good struggle, and it fills your heart to read about these everyday superheroes. I know the nominations this year, as in past years, will be fantastic."

Last year's Citizen of the Year was Brett Mitchell, the hat-wearing owner of The Selkirk Record and all-around good guy.

He was nominated by Jim Pelletier, who said Mitchell's Energizer-bunny-like persona made him a natural choice.

"I couldn't think of a more deserving, hardworking and community minded individual than Brett Mitchell," Pelletier wrote in his nominating letter.

"Under his iconic hats, there are so many more different hats that Brett wears: father, spouse, son, entrepreneur and philanthropist. At times it's hard to differentiate between Brett Mitchell the person and Brett Mitchell of The Selkirk Record as they are hand in hand and both entities do so much for the communities and the people that live in them."

For Mitchell, the nomination and subsequent selection was a surprise.

And when the SDCF crew showed up with champagne and balloons to break the news to him, he was humbled.

“I’m shocked right now. I don’t know all the names on the list of previous winners, but the ones that I can recall...they’ve done amazing things for our community. I can’t believe that I’m on that list,” Mitchell said.

“One of the things that I believe is that we were lucky as a family to move to this community that’s full of these people whose main focus is to make this place better for all of us.”

The list Mitchell referenced is full of good folks who do all they can for the region and do it all with smiles on their faces.

It includes recent winners Michele Polinuk, a retired educator and a former superintendent of the Lord Selkirk School Division; Blake Burnett, a Canada Post employee who also works at the East Selkirk Rec Centre and is a long-time St. Clements volunteer firefighter; and Bob Hebert, who lives with an intellectual disability, works part-time and volunteers more than full-time.

If you scroll further down the list, you’ll find names like Jean Oliver, Rene Gauthier, Shirley Muir, Eva Hawryshko and the very first Citizen of the Year, Eileen Cyr.

They come from every walk of life and have the desire to improve their community in common.

Deadline for nominations for the 37<sup>th</sup> annual Citizen of the year is Sept. 30.

Like last year, this year’s Citizen of the Year will be celebrated through a series of videos highlighting their commitment to community. An awards banquet will not take place.

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.

Nominators 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 dropped off at the Selkirk & District Community Foundation office at 200 Eaton Ave., to the attention of the Citizen of the Year Selection Committee, or e-mailed to [exdirector@sdcf.ca](mailto:exdirector@sdcf.ca)

For more information, contact 204-785-9755 or email [exdirector@sdcf.ca](mailto: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 \$4+ million to more than 125 local charities and community organizations during its 27+ years. For more details contact SDCF Executive Director Bev Clegg at 204.785.9755.