



Curtin, left, with Edwards last year.

Something to sing about – nominate an unsung hero for the 39th Citizen of the Year

It's that time of year again – the time when we need to think about the unsung heroes in our lives. We all know those folks who drop what they're doing to get community projects done, who are the first to raise their hand when a call for assistance goes out and who do it with a smile on their face.

The Selkirk & District Community Foundation is asking you to nominate the person in your life that fits that description, so they can be unsung no longer!

That's right, nomination for the Citizen of the Year are now open, but the deadline to nominate closes on Tuesday, Oct. 1.

Last year's recipient was Tim Edwards, a devoted community member of Grand Marais, and a perfect example of what the Citizen of the Year Award aims to honour.

On the evening that the Foundation crew snuck up to the Grand Marais Community Centre – on Bingo night – to inform Edwards of his award, he was moving too fast for us to get his attention.

SDCF Chair Shauna Curtin called out to Edwards in the packed Bingo crowd and got a hilarious response.

“I’m busy,” was Edwards’ reply, and he quickly disappeared back into the canteen to keep serving up burgers and fries.

He did eventually take a minute to say thanks and enjoy the cake brought in his honour, but the man was busy. Plain and simple.

Edwards had a few words for his friend and nominator – Terry Neplyk – when he found time to chat.

“My buddy Terry Neplyk, he’s very sneaky when it comes to things like this,” Edwards laughed.

“I had heard rumblings about a nomination in the wind, so to speak, but I didn’t realize any paperwork had been put through. To be honest I wasn’t really interested in getting an award, but I am flattered by it and what more can you say? Terry and I will be talking a little later on. But I am very appreciative.”

Tim’s wife Kathia was thrilled that her husband’s commitment to community had been noticed.

“He got an award and went right back to work in the canteen. That’s just what he does. He’ll probably be a little embarrassed because as much as he likes to do for people, he gets embarrassed about being recognized,” Kathia said.

“He deserves this for everything he does. If he hears of anybody, any organization that needs help he jumps right in with both feet and he doesn’t care what anybody thinks, if it needs doing, he does it.”

Edwards’ involvement in Grand Marais includes: president of the Grand Marais Rec Association (5 years), head organizer of the annual Santa Parade & Breakfast and the SAFE Halloween event (5 years), spearheading renovations at the old Grand Marais curling rink and turning it into a multi-purpose room, and past president/director of the Grand Beach Area Development Corporation (3 years).

He received the 2019 Interlake Municipal Recreation Association Award in 2019 and he’s a former talent/onsite producer at 92 Citi FM and Kiss 102.3 Winnipeg (5 years) and the CEO and founder/owner of Orange Door Entertainment.

For the guilty nominator, Neplyk, he was more than happy to raise the ire of his friend to make sure Edwards got the recognition he deserved.

“It was easy to nominate Tim Edwards,” Neplyk said.

“I’ve known Tim for about seven years and he takes on a lot of responsibility for our community. He goes way beyond the call of duty to make sure everything in the community and in our community club is done to the best of his ability and in favour of all the community members, young and old, including all the activities we have in our hall all year round.

“He’s a huge part of our community, he volunteers for everything, anytime, anywhere, anyplace, and he spends all of his free time here as a volunteer, as president of the Grand Marais Rec Association. He’s a wonderful man and a really dear friend and we’re really glad to have him in our community.”

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@sdfc.ca

For more information, contact 204-785-9755 or email selkirkfoundation@shaw.ca

Details on how to nominate can be found online at sdcf.ca.

Deadline to nominate is Tuesday, Oct. 1.