

Saying “Thanks” Is So Much Fun

by Rob Stewart

Two weeks ago I took part in the presentation of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medals to two very deserving volunteers in our Movement. Out of 45,000 Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medals that were presented to peo-

In my previous role within Scouting, I was responsible for providing staff support to our Honours and Awards program. Over the 14 years I served in that role I came to realize a number of things about people who serve: most exhibit true humility when receiving recognition. Even people who have saved another person’s life while risking their own seem genuinely surprised when someone publicly recognizes their heroic acts. These humble people often question whether or not they are “worthy”. Over the years I’ve noticed that many Scouting volunteers almost feel as if they owe Scouting something for letting them serve youth – something they love to do.

Each year at our Investiture Ceremony we see recipients of Bravery Medals and Service to Scouting Medals who are truly humbled at the attention they receive. Many experience a certain amount of embarrassment because of the attention we give them. When I see this, it reaffirms that we’re doing the right thing by identifying these people for recognition.

Some Real Heroes

As stated earlier, I had the opportunity to play a part in the presentation of the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal. I accompanied Mike Scott (our National Commissioner) to the home of Sandy Stalker where Mike presented him with a medal. Sandy has served Scouting youths for over 45 years. During the past several years he has served on our National

ple across Canada who contributed to their communities, Scouts Canada was given 400 for its deserving members. Of course, our challenge involved identifying *which* 400 of our outstanding 40,000 volunteer leaders were to receive a medal. Obviously, we could only recognize a very small percentage.



Honours and Awards Committee, and has reviewed and adjudicated hundreds of awards applications. What a pleasure it was to see his reaction to receiving this medal.

Afterwards, Mike and I went directly to the office of Bob Laughton, who has served as the Honorary Legal Counsel for Scouts Canada for over 20 years. Don’t be fooled by the “Honorary” title of his position; Bob has spent countless hours of his time advising and guiding us through many legal situations. He, like Sandy, was very humbled and appreciative of the recognition. As we left Bob’s office, I said (half in jest) to our National Commissioner: “This is so much fun, we should do it more often.”

Saying “Thanks” with an official medal or recognition is fun. Of course,

before you get to that point you’ve got to do some work that includes:

- Making a list of people deserving recognition
- Contacting other people to get their input
- Discussing appropriate recognition
- Completing forms about the person, and describing his or her service, and its significance to others.

After sending in the completed forms, you have to wait for a period of time while the application goes through the Scouts Canada awards system. BUT, despite the work and waiting period, in the end a deserving Scouter receives a confirmation that his or her service to youths has not gone unnoticed. The Scouter gets to express surprise and (usually) humble thanks. And you get to have fun watching their face light up.

Go ahead. Have fun. Everyone deserves some level of recognition. Before the Scouting year comes to an end, why not take a few moments to make it truly special for someone else, and yourself? Identify a Scouting volunteer today who deserves recognition. ✕

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