

Every community has those special individuals who go above and beyond, generously giving their time to help others, support local organizations and make our communities better places to live.

MPP Billy Denault is encouraging businesses, municipalities, community organizations, service clubs and residents throughout Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke to nominate deserving volunteers for the 2027 Ontario Volunteer Service Awards.

These awards recognize individuals who have dedicated years of service to their communities, whether through local charities, sports organizations, community events, service clubs or countless other volunteer initiatives.

We recently had the pleasure of celebrating some of our outstanding local volunteers at the September 10, 2026, awards ceremony in Cobden. It was a wonderful reminder of just how much these individuals contribute to our communities.

The nomination deadline is **November 15, 2026**.

Nomination details and eligibility information can be found here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards-volunteering#section-1>

We encourage you to think about the volunteers within your own organization or community who deserve recognition. We also ask that you share this opportunity with your staff, members, colleagues and community networks to help spread the word.

Attached is a letter from MPP Denault highlighting the importance of recognizing the dedicated volunteers who make the Ottawa Valley such a wonderful place to call home.

Let's make sure the people who give so much of themselves to our communities receive the recognition they deserve!

Thank you for helping us celebrate volunteerism throughout Renfrew–Nipissing–Pembroke.



## Office of MPP Billy Denault

Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

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**Dear Heads of Council, Community Leaders and Members of the Community,**

I am writing to recognize an important group of people in our community: the volunteers who give their time, energy and talents to making Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke and the Ottawa Valley a better place.

Every year, the Volunteer Service Awards provide an opportunity to recognize volunteers from across our community for their service and contributions. This year, we gathered at the Cobden Agricultural Society on September 10, 2026, to celebrate those individuals who give so much of themselves to others.

It is an evening that always leaves an impression on me. We hear the stories of people who have spent years helping their neighbours, supporting local organizations, coaching our children, organizing events, serving on boards and finding countless other ways to make our communities stronger.

Volunteers are the backbone of our communities. They play a vital role in providing support and services, building connections and creating a sense of community that makes the Ottawa Valley such a special place to call home.

I know that many volunteers do not do what they do for recognition. They do it because they care. They see something that needs to be done, and they put their hand up. But it is important that we take the time to recognize them. In many ways, volunteerism is a form of public service. So many people put their names forward not for greater glory or personal fortune, but simply to give back to a community that has given so much to them. That is a valiant and honourable calling, and it deserves to be recognized.

Today, volunteerism is facing real challenges. It is getting harder to find people willing to put their hand up and for organizations to find the volunteers they need to continue their work. But in the face of those challenges, people across our communities continue to step forward. They continue to coach, organize, serve and give their time. Because of what they do, our communities are better and brighter places.

That is why I want to make an ask of everyone reading this letter: if there is someone in your community who deserves to be recognized, nominate them. Tell your friends, your family and the organizations you belong to. Share their stories with your community.

There are people throughout Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke who quietly give their time every day, and I believe we can turn back the tide on the challenges facing volunteerism by recognizing those people and encouraging others to follow their example. But we need to do it together.

The nomination deadline for the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards is November 15, 2026. Other awards are also available, including the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers. You can find information on how to nominate here:  
<https://www.ontario.ca/page/honours-and-awards-volunteering#section-1>

To every volunteer across our riding: thank you. Thank you for your time, your generosity and your commitment to your neighbours. Each of you makes the Valley a better place through your contributions, and I am honoured to have the privilege, as your Member of Provincial Parliament, to recognize you and celebrate the difference you make in our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Billy Denault".

**Billy Denault, MPP**  
Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke

