



Community Recognition Policy

October 14, 2020

Purpose:

To implement a Community Recognition Policy that encourages, supports, and recognizes all the time invested, efforts made, and dedication members of the community have contributed to the betterment of Magnetawan. It is important to celebrate local successes and bring attention to all the outstanding people and initiatives that happen in this community. The Community Recognition Policy aims to celebrate and recognize outstanding achievement, commitment, significant milestones, anniversaries, contributions, and accomplishments from individuals, volunteers, businesses, and organizations in the Municipality of Magnetawan community.

CATEGORIES:

Community Spotlight Series

Scope:

The Community Spotlight series will serve as a hub for positive community news, initiatives, activities, volunteer initiatives, interesting statistics, past accomplishments, and historical facts. It is a wonderful way to showcase all the amazing things that happen in our community and aims to spread positivity and ensure Magnetawan remains the vibrant and prosperous community we know and love.

This series will include a mix of community submissions and content that is created by the Municipality of Magnetawan with the intent of one post being published each week. The main landing page for this series will be on the Municipality of Magnetawan website and will also be advertised on our social media channels.

Community submissions are positive community stories, activities and/or initiatives. Community submission forms are available on the Municipality of Magnetawan website and in the Municipal Office. To provide an idea of what a community spotlight could be, here are some examples:

- Leading a neighbourhood project such as a community garden
- Brightening the day of other residents and visitors by writing encouraging sidewalk messages using chalk

- Local business giving free coffee for a day to thank the community for their support

The Municipality of Magnetawan can create their own content based on any activities or initiatives that are suitable for a community spotlight. Some examples of content the Municipality would create are:

- Volunteer initiatives/ shoutouts – events and activities that are happening in the area that people can volunteer for or a spotlight on an outstanding volunteer
- Past historical facts such as how the new lock system came to be, how long Lions swimming lessons have been going on for and how it started, as well as the history of The Almaguin Community Hatchery Program
- Highlights on unique community initiatives
- Activities such as the Farmer’s Market – promoting how long it has been going on for, how it helps the local community, average attendee numbers, and so on
- Statistical information – community profiles with information on the number of businesses in the area, education percent breakdown, total median income, percent of females vs. males and so on

The Municipality of Magnetawan reserves the right to determine what gets posted on their website, www.magnetawan.com, and their social media pages. Submitting a community spotlight does not automatically guarantee that it will be published. The purpose of the community spotlight series is to raise awareness of positive things happening in the Magnetawan community and any community submissions that are deemed to be inappropriate will not be published. This includes but is not limited to profane language, derogatory, discriminatory, sexual, racist, illegal activities, private or personal information without consent, personal attacks, or threats.

Outstanding Community Achievement Awards

Scope:

The Municipality of Magnetawan is committed to recognizing and celebrating deserving individuals, organizations, businesses, and team achievements for their significant contributions in making our community a better place to live.

Certificate of Congratulations

A Certificate of Congratulations and a Municipality of Magnetawan Pin is provided to residents of Magnetawan for significant milestones.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Wedding anniversaries – 25 years, 50 years, 55 years, and every year thereafter
- Milestone birthdays – 80 years old, 85 years old, 90 years old, 95 years old, 100 years old

- Business and/or organization milestones (official business/organization opening, anniversary, business/ organization expansion)
- Long-term resident (permanent or seasonal) of Magnetawan – 30 years or more
- Long-term business and/or organization of Magnetawan – 25 years or more
- Any other achievement of merit

Application Process:

Residents must complete the Outstanding Community Achievement Awards Nomination Form in its entirety and submit the form at least 4 weeks prior to the occasion to qualify. This provides the Municipality with adequate time to prepare the certificates and ensures the applicant qualifies for the certificate.

Lifetime Volunteer Contribution Award

This award recognizes an individual who has provided a benefit and significantly enhanced the community spirit of Magnetawan through their volunteerism.

Eligibility criteria:

- Nominees must be a resident of the Municipality of Magnetawan or have an identifiable presence in the Magnetawan community
- An individual whose volunteerism and outstanding dedication have made a significant contribution and impact to the Magnetawan community
- An individual who has made a positive difference in their fellow community members’ lives through community-based organizations, volunteerism/ coaching in sports, school, church, and/or charitable organizations
- An individual who has shown tremendous leadership in the community without any regard for personal gain
- Individuals cannot nominate themselves

Youth Community Service Award

The purpose of this award is to encourage youth volunteerism and inspire other youth to give back to their community.

Eligibility criteria:

- the nominee must be 18 years of age or younger
- A youth community member who has exemplified tremendous leadership in community service
- A youth who has made significant improvements to the Magnetawan community without any regard for personal gain
- A youth cannot nominate themselves

Business Appreciation Award

It is important to give local businesses the recognition they deserve for all the dedication and services they provide the Magnetawan community.

Eligibility criteria:

- Business growth or sustainability
- The business has a record of giving back to the community
- The business goes above and beyond to meet their customers' needs and provides a positive experience within the community
- The business demonstrates professionalism, honesty, and integrity
- Businesses cannot nominate themselves

Promotion of Heritage

The Promotion of Heritage Award celebrates individuals who have shown leadership in heritage conservation and preservation in Magnetawan. This award aims to inspire and encourage the preservation of Magnetawan's rich history and culture for future years to come.

Eligibility criteria:

- An individual who has made a lasting and significant contribution as a volunteer or professional to the heritage preservation and conservation in Magnetawan
- Significant contributions to the Heritage Centre
- Volunteerism surrounding Magnetawan's historical events, information and/or historical-based services
- Individuals cannot nominate themselves

Key to the Municipality Award

The Key to the Municipality award is a symbolic honour that can be presented to a highly valued resident or visitor to the community.

Eligibility criteria:

- An individual who has made a significant impact to the community and its residents
- An individual who had an extraordinary accomplishment

Making an Award Nomination:

All individual(s) wishing to make an award nomination must complete the Outstanding Community Achievement Nomination Submission Form located on The Municipality of Magnetawan website, www.magnetawan.com and at the Municipal Office. If forms are incomplete they will not be considered

as submissions. Award submissions are open year-round, with the exception of the Ontario Senior of the Year Award.

The Award Selection Process:

All awards except the Ontario Senior of the Year Award will be awarded at the discretion of Council. They will review all nominations and select a recipient if they deem that they demonstrate the eligibility criteria. All decision made by Council are final.

Display of Awards:

Award plaques may be on display for the community to see in the display case located in the hallway next to the Municipal Office leading to the Community Centre.

Ontario Senior of the Year

The Government of Ontario has initiated an Ontario Senior of the Year award for municipalities to recognize seniors who have made outstanding contributions. This award is presented by the Government of Ontario and recognizes a senior, who after the age of 65, have made significant contributions through the form of enriching social, cultural, or civic life of the Magnetawan community.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Seniors must be a resident of Ontario
- Contributed to various fields such as arts, literature, community service, volunteering, education, environment, fitness, and humanitarian activities
- Seniors cannot nominate themselves, someone who has passed away, or someone currently holding political office

The Selection Process:

The Municipality of Magnetawan will put out a call for nominations where residents of the community can submit their nominations. Submissions can include the nominee's name, description of their community contribution after the age of 65 and any media attachments to support the description. The deadline to submit nominations to the Municipality of Magnetawan is in mid-March of every year. Council will then nominate a senior for the award to the Government of Ontario, who presents the award. This award is presented annually, typically in June, during Senior's Month. All decisions made by Council and the Government of Ontario are final.

Volunteer Appreciation

Scope:

An opportunity to celebrate, acknowledge and show appreciation to our volunteers who have devoted their time and efforts in supporting the Magnetawan community.

Event Details:

Volunteers who have contributed to the Magnetawan community could be invited along with the Outstanding Community Achievement Award recipients. This event celebration can vary dependent on the year with different venues, event schedules and menu types. For example, the event celebration could be held in the Magnetawan Community Centre in April during volunteer appreciation week and appetizers and refreshments can be served. If there is a Lifetime Volunteer Contribution Award recipient and a Youth Community Service Award recipient, they may receive their award during this event.