



TOWN POLICY NAME:

Town of Rocky Citizen of the Year Awards Policy

POLICY NO:

001/2024

RESOLUTION:

Res-2024-003

ADOPTED BY:

Town Council

SUPERSEDES:

011/2008

RESCINDS:

PREPARED BY:

Administration

EFFECTIVE DATE:

January 16, 2024

REVIEWED BY:

Council

REVIEW DATE:

January 2027

PURPOSE:

To recognize individuals, businesses, groups, or teams who have made a significant contribution and recognition to Rocky Mountain House.

CATEGORIES:

ATHLETICS AND SPORTS EXCELLENCE
MUSIC, ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE
DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTARY SERVICE
YOUTH CIVIC AWARD
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

MARTHA KOSTUCH MEMORIAL AWARD - ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

SPECIAL MESSAGES AND GREETINGS:

LONG-STANDING BUSINESS RECOGNITIONS
ANNIVERSARY AND BIRTHDAY MESSAGES
GRAND OPENINGS/RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES

NOMINATIONS:

Nomination forms for the Town of Rocky Citizen of the Year Awards are available on the Town's website or in person at the Town's Administration office.

Completed nomination forms may be emailed to the Town's Legislative Services Department at Legislative@TRMH.ca; mailed to Box 1509, Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1B2 or dropped off at the Town's Administration office, attn: Legislative Services. Nomination forms with no nominator contact information will not be accepted.

AWARD SELECTION:

Council shall consider nominations and select award recipients. All decisions of Council are final.

AWARDS:

Recipients will be identified by Council, which may assign a nomination to an alternate category provided the nominator(s) agrees to the reassignment.

There is no limit to the number of awards that may be presented in each category each year, however awards may not be presented every year in every category.

Awards will be presented at the annual Community Business Awards or other appropriate venue.

ELIGIBILITY:

In all categories, the achievements must have enhanced the image of Rocky Mountain House, and a span of three years must elapse before a Recognition Award recipient will be considered for an additional award, subject to the discretion of Council.

AWARDS CRITERIA:

The criteria for each of the award categories is set out in Schedule "A".

SPECIAL MESSAGES AND GREETINGS:

ANNIVERSARY OR BIRTHDAY MESSAGES

The Mayor's Office is pleased to provide congratulatory letters and wishes to Rocky Mountain House residents celebrating anniversaries of 50 years and up in ten-year increments (e.g. 50, 60, 70), and birthdays of 80 years and up in five-year increments (e.g. 80, 85, 90, etc.).

To ensure successful delivery, the Mayor's Office asks that you please allow 3-4 weeks for preparation and delivery of your letter/card/certificate.

LONG-STANDING BUSINESS RECOGNITIONS

Rocky Mountain House is a thriving community of small businesspeople and family-run businesses. The Town would like to acknowledge those businesses that have achieved 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, and 60+ years in operation.

To ensure successful delivery, the Mayor's Office asks that you please allow 3-4 weeks for preparation and delivery of your letter/card/certificate.

GRAND OPENINGS/RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONIES

One of the most exciting events for a new business is celebrating a grand opening. The Town will make every attempt to ensure that the Mayor or a Council representative is present at your event. If a representative is not available, a congratulatory letter or card will be sent.

Please notify the Town at least two weeks prior to your event so that arrangements can be made. If you would like a Town Council representative to speak at your event, please provide more advanced notice.

Completed request forms may be emailed to the Town's Legislative Services Department at Legislative@TRMH.ca; mailed to Box 1509, Rocky Mountain House, AB, T4T 1B2 or dropped off at the Town's Administration office, attn: Legislative Services.

Redacted under Section 17 of the FOIP Act.

Mayor, Debbie Baich

Redacted under Section 17 of the FOIP Act.

CAO, Dean Krause

Schedule "A" Criteria and Guidelines

ATHLETICS AND SPORTS EXCELLENCE

To recognize an individuals or groups who have excelled in their particular sport and have achieved one (1) or more of the following:

- Placed first, second or third in a national championship.
- Placed first, second or third in a provincial championship.
- Been chosen to represent Alberta in a national competition.
- Been chosen to represent Canada in an international competition.

Candidates shall be considered for an award only in the year immediately following the year in which the achievement occurred.

MUSIC, ART, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Represents the special recognition given to the Rocky Mountain House citizen judged to have made the most positive impact in the art community over the past year.

Rocky Mountain House citizen who:

- is an artist of any medium, including literary, visual, film and video arts, performing arts, culture, culinary, or heritage; and
- made a positive impact on the music, arts, and culture community.

DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTARY SERVICE

Represents the special recognition given to the Rocky Mountain House citizen judged to best exemplify the attributes of a great volunteer in Rocky Mountain House.

Rocky Mountain House citizen that best meets the following criteria:

- volunteered in Rocky Mountain House to benefit the community; or
- inspired others to become volunteers in Rocky Mountain House.

YOUTH CIVIC AWARD

Rocky Mountain House youth (elementary, high school and post-secondary youth up to age 24) that best meets the following criteria:

- volunteered in Rocky Mountain House to benefit the community; or
- who demonstrates leadership, care and compassion and/or the ability to overcome personal challenges, motivate others or use special skills to improve the community's quality-of-life.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Represents an award to an individual, group or business that has completed an achievement worthy of special recognition.

Rocky Mountain House citizen or someone with strong ties to the Town of Rocky Mountain House; or Rocky Mountain House-based group or business that has achieved:

- a significant honor at the provincial, national, or international level;
- an act of bravery worthy of award; or
- a noteworthy act that brought benefit to the Town of Rocky Mountain House.

MARTHA KOSTUCH MEMORIAL AWARD - ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Represents the special recognition given to a Rocky Mountain House citizen, business or community group judged to have best demonstrated environmental leadership in Rocky Mountain House.

Rocky Mountain House citizen, business or community group that best meets the following criteria:

- positive environmental action benefiting the community;
- leader of a project that positively addresses climate change;
- proven commitment to the education, preservation, protection, enhancement of the of the environment impacting the quality of air, water or land.

Backgrounder: Martha Kostuch

Martha Kostuch was a retired veterinarian who had lived and worked in the Rocky Mountain House area since the 1970s. In addition to raising four boys, she became very involved in her community and soon found herself immersed in environmental issues.

She worked tirelessly as a volunteer participating in diverse hearings through the 1970s and 80s and more recently in a number of multi-stakeholder processes on environmental issues affecting our air, water, land and wildlife. She had been a member of a number of Alberta environmental organizations and had also participated actively in many federal government environmental advisory committees over the years. In 2006-2007, Martha was part of Alberta's Oil Sands Review, first as a member of the Process Design Committee, then as an Environmental Non-Government Organization member of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Committee, and ENGO member of the Hearings Panel.

Martha's personal integrity and commitment were beyond reproach. Her focus had always been on the content and the issue rather than the person, which has given her credibility and respect, even from those who didn't always agree with her. This is part of the reason why she was often consulted by senior industry and government officials as well as her NGO colleagues for her advice and opinions.

One of Martha's key contributions had been her ability to empower others and to help them learn how to participate effectively in public processes. Recently, prior to her death, and despite being diagnosed with a serious neurological disorder, she accepted an invitation to speak to a conference in Korea to share her experiences with the oil sands multi-stakeholder process.

Martha also "walked the talk" in that she had worked hard to reduce her own environmental footprint. On land she shares with her son and his family, she realized a longstanding goal of building an environmentally friendly, off-grid house. Its construction had also been a multi-stakeholder activity, epitomizing the esteem in which she is held, as friends and colleagues from industry, government and NGO communities alike have helped with the house raising.

Martha was known to be an active grandmother and was a strong role model for her family and friends.

Below are some highlights of Martha's accomplishments on key issues.

Improving Air Quality

Martha had been a major player in securing reduction of SO₂ emissions in Alberta, especially from sour gas plants. As a newly arrived veterinarian in Rocky Mountain House, she had alerted farmers and ranchers in central Alberta to the link between sour gas emissions and animal health in the 1970s.

She actively intervened in local hearings for approvals, worked directly and behind the scenes with companies to improve their performance, and worked with other landowners to make them aware of things to watch for in terms of potential effects and how to respond. She had also been actively involved in strengthening the sulphur recovery requirements for sour gas processors.

She was a major NGO participant in the project of the Clean Air Strategic Alliance (CASA) to achieve reductions in flaring and venting. This has led to voluntary reductions of some 70%. The model used in Alberta has been adapted and used internationally. It also won for CASA a Pollution Prevention Award from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, as well as an Emerald award for the Flaring and Venting Project Team.

Martha had served on the CASA executive as NGO Vice President and was part of many CASA teams that have developed innovative approaches to managing air quality in Alberta. Martha was a co-chair of CASA's Electricity Project Team which created a new framework to manage air emissions from Alberta's electricity sector (2003). The team was formed in response to a request from Alberta's Minister of Environment. Over time, this framework will lead to significant reductions in four major pollutants, including mercury, and represents a new approach to addressing these issues. It was implemented in its entirety by Alberta Environment, and this hard work was recognized by an Emerald Award.

In 2005 CASA, with the involvement of Martha, won the Arthur Kroeger College Award for Policy Leadership. This award, sponsored by Carleton University, is given to an individual or organization that serves as a model to others on how to define an issue and successfully advance the policy process through the use of innovative leadership.

She was a founding member of the Parkland Airshed Management Zone (PAMZ), and like the other airshed zones in Alberta, PAMZ is a multi-stakeholder process.

Protecting Fisheries

Martha won a Supreme Court decision in 1992 with a landmark ruling that upheld Ottawa's constitutional responsibility to conduct environmental assessments on provincially-sponsored projects. This decision was incorporated into the provisions of the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act.

She acted as agent for private prosecutions related to damage by the county in building roads over streams. This was settled out of court, but the outcome is that all crossings are now built to protect streams and fisheries habitat, and require the approval of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Gravel mining of rivers in Alberta is no longer done due to another prosecution involving Martha which targeted gravel mining in the North Saskatchewan River.

Martha had been a leader on Article 14 and 15 submissions under the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, a side agreement of the North American Free

Trade Agreement. One submission ultimately led to the deployment of a significant number of additional federal fisheries officers in the Prairie Provinces to protect fish habitat and enforce Canada's Fisheries Act.

She had been chair of the Canadian Environmental Network's Water Caucus for many years where she has been instrumental in setting the national agenda on water issues. Martha was instrumental serving on a working group that has brought NGOs and Department of Fisheries and Oceans together to develop a path forward on fisheries habitat management in Canada.

Previous Awards

In 2004, she was awarded a Wilderness Defender Award, the "Ernie"-- Alberta Wilderness Association's lifetime achievement award--for her dedication to wilderness protection.

In 2003, she was awarded the Douglas H. Pimlott Award--Nature Canada's most prestigious Award--for her outstanding contributions to Canadian conservation.

In 1992, Martha was presented with an award at the inaugural Emerald Awards for her leadership on environmental issues.