

## Richly deserved honours

*Kathryn Burnham, Cornwall Standard Freeholder December 9, 2012*



St. Andrew's Church was full to the brim Sunday afternoon for a special service.

A proud MP Guy Lauzon stood at the altar as he shook the hands of 31 special residents of Stormont-Dundas-South Glengarry.

"It is the whole community that is being honoured through these individuals," said Gerald Samson of the Diamond Jubilee awards ceremony.

Lauzon agreed, saying choosing just 31 was difficult.

"People are volunteering, people are giving up their money, their time, day after day."

"You make me proud," Lauzon added.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal was created to honour the Queen's ascension to the throne 60 years ago, and has been awarded to motivated citizens across the country.

The value of community was evident in Sunday's ceremony, as each recipient's long list of accomplishments was read off.

Samson, who has been heavily involved with the Festival of Hope and Alexandria-Cornwall diocese, said he is most proud of his efforts involving children.

"When children are involved, it means that much more to me," said Samson.

Children were a common theme amongst the awardees, from Helen Tupper who organizes soccer in South Dundas, and Mamie David, who has worked on both the Upper Canada and Ahkwesahsne Mohawk school boards.

“It’s so uplifting,” said David of the award honouring “doing things I love that benefit other people.”

David has helped bridge the gap between the two communities and school boards.

Meanwhile, Gilles Latour was honoured for his efforts promoting the Cornwall community as president of Team Cornwall.

However, it was his kids that were his focus even as he collected his award.

Tia and Dante joined their father to collect the award, and Tia’s hockey team, South Stormont Selects, joined their coach on stage for photos.

“Family’s always first,” said Latour, who has a busy schedule coaching and managing his children’s teams while also managing Team Cornwall.

Also among those recognized were a group of lawyers who aren’t comfortable staying in the courtroom.

Sean Adams, who is heavily involved in the Children’s Treatment Centre, and Doug Grenkie, who keeps busy with several Morrisburg organizations, including the Lions Club, were among the 31.

Josee Sauve, who organizes the Terry Fox Run, and Theresa Taylor, who runs the Rotary Club’s cereal drive, were honoured for their volunteerism.

Dr. Mary Randlett was honoured for her efforts in bringing a hospice to Cornwall, Winchester pharmacist Wayne Burns for his efforts in health promotion, Joan Farlinger for her efforts on the Winchester hospital board, and Dr. Gordon Houze for his health efforts as well.

Legion leaders Bill Breesie, Ernie Filion and Ken Heagle also received the Diamond Jubilee award.

Rose Desnoyers was recognized for her promotion of the francophone community; and Barbara Ann Glaude for her promotion of agriculture.

Active community members Sandra Lalonde, Rachelle Lamond, Rick Marvelle, Rick Shaver, Sue Tarle, Trevor Tolley, Karen Torrie-Racine, Sandra Weagan, and Mariam Wheeler also received the award.