

Diamond Jubilee medals for NRP



Diamond Jubilee medals for NRP. Const. Michel Thibodeau of St. Catharines receives a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal from Niagara Falls riding and federal justice minister Rob Nicholson at Club Castropignano in Thorold on Dec. 8. More than 30 current and former NRP officers and civilians received the medals. ?Paul Forsyth/staff photo

Paul Forsyth

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They say diamonds are forever, and Rob Nicholson said the same will apply to the current and former Niagara Regional Police employees awarded Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals last weekend.

Nicholson, MP for Niagara Falls riding and Canada's federal justice minister and attorney general, was on-hand at Club Castropignano in Thorold on Dec. 8 to hand out the cherished hardware created in honour of the 60th anniversary of the queen's accession to the crown.

He told the more than 30 uniformed and civilian NRP recipients that, just like Canadians who have received medals earned during times of war, their names will be kept on royal records long after they've left this mortal coil.

"For all time these names will be recorded," he said. "It's a great honour."

See [photo slideshow](#) of the ceremony.

The awards presentation, which Welland riding MP Malcolm Allen and Niagara West-Glanbrook MP Dean Allison also attended, was part of the Niagara Regional Police Association member recognition luncheon.

Nicholson said the award winners were recognized for their commitment to their communities, to charities, and to the policing profession in Canada.

"I am so pleased to join with all those today in recognizing those who have dedicated themselves to the public good of this area and this country," he said.

Sgt. Paul DiSimoni, president and CEO of the police association who himself received a Diamond Jubilee medal from Nicholson, thanked the recipients' family members who were among the more than 160 people at the event. It is only through their support,

understanding and commitment that the uniformed and civilian members of the police service are able to do what they do, he said.

DiSimoni also saluted retired NRP members at the awards presentation for their contributions to policing over the years. "These are men and women who dedicated their lives to policing in their community," he said. "They served with honour and dignity."

Recipients of the Diamond Jubilee medals were:

- Special Const. Harold Arp (retired), Sgt. Harry Artinian (retired), Nola Brown, Special Const. Richard Gordon, Sgt. Mike McAllister, Special Const. George Morris, Sgt. Cliff Priest, Bernadette Rendall, Sgt. Steve Scriven, Staff Sgt. Joseph Starrs, Const. James Taylor, Const. Michel Thibodeau, Sgt. James Williams of St. Catharines.
- Const. Karsten Askeland (retired), Const. Michael Bickell (retired), Sgt. Paul DiSimoni, Lynn Dowding (retired), Jennifer Hunt, Staff Sgt. Joseph Maggiolo (retired), Const. Tracy Lee McCabe, Catherine Portolesi of Niagara Falls.
- Barbara Abraham of Pelham, Const. Edward Johnson (retired) of Fonthill, and Paula Martin, Sharon Miller and Staff Sgt. Steve McLeod (retired) of Welland.
- Const. Erville Amos (retired) of Grimsby, Sgt. Neal Orlando of Beamsville and Nancy Speck of Jordan Station.
- Auxiliary Insp. Brian Bevan of Port Colborne.
- Staff Sgt. David Hunter and Shirley Valstar of St. Davids.
- Patricia Thompson of Ridgeway.

Also honoured at the luncheon were Const. Larry Richard of St. Catharines, who was named winner of the Jeffrey Paolozzi Memorial Award for Police Officer of the Year, and Monica Chitty of St. Catharines, winner of the Peter Gallant Memorial Award Civilian of the Year.

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