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NEWS

Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal given to 60 Canadians

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Queen Elizabeth II visits an Infant and Nursery School in Dersingham, Norfolk, on February 6, 2012, the same day 60 Canadians were given The Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. ARTHUR EDWARDS/AFP/Getty Images

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OTTAWA — The last time Darryl Fox visited Rideau Hall he was with his brother, Terry Fox, when they were partway through the Marathon of Hope.

On Monday morning, the legendary Canadian's brother stepped inside Rideau Hall for the second time, just over 30 years later, this time to accept an inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for keeping Terry's legacy alive.

"If Terry was here, he'd be accepting it. And if mom was here — Betty — she'd be accepting it," Fox, who is from Vancouver, said in an interview.

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"I can just see Terry perhaps walking up the aisleway in his Marathon of Hope T-shirt and I think he'd be very honoured and proud and touched. He was a true Canadian and he loved his country. This would have significant meaning for him."

The Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal — one of a series of national celebratory gestures to mark the 60th anniversary of the Queen's ascent to the throne — was awarded to 60 Canadians Monday at Rideau Hall, 60 years to the day after the Queen began her reign. The medals were awarded to Canadians who have devoted themselves to the well-being of family, community and country.

The medal presentation and other events will kick-start a year of celebrations in Canada and around the world to honour the Queen's six decades on the throne, with a planned Thames River pageant in London in June — involving up to 1,000 elaborately decorated ships in a regal flotilla — expected to be the main jubilee show-stopper.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper and Gov. Gen. David Johnston presented the medals to the 60 recipients.

"Today, we once again affirm our bond with the Crown, which helps us to define our country and what it means to be Canadian," Johnston said at the beginning of the ceremony.

Harper, in a speech following Johnston's, thanked the Queen for a lifetime of devotion. The Diamond Jubilee Medal is meant to recognize thousands of Canadians for selfless devotion to their citizens and country, Harper said. A total of 60,000 medals will be given to Canadians throughout the year.

"In this grand room, we see the good heart of a great nation," Harper said.

Ottawa's Leslie Natynczyk, wife of the chief of defence staff, Gen. Walter Natynczyk, was honoured for her dedication to military families and for her Segways for Wounded Warriors initiative. The initiative presents Segway personal transportation devices to wounded Canadian Forces members.

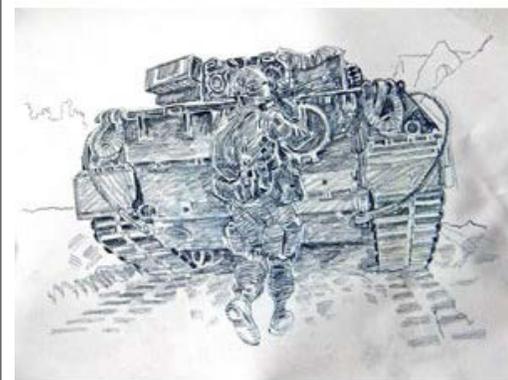
Natynczyk was one of seven Ottawans who received a medal, including Clement Chartier, president of the Metis National Council, and Bryna Monson of Languages of Life.

Olympic champion Alexandre Bilodeau, of Montreal, was another of the 60 recipients. He was recognized for his contributions to sports and for inspiring others to follow their dreams.

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Bilodeau won a gold medal in men's moguls at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. He was surprised to be chosen as a recipient, he said after the ceremony.

"I feel like an ambassador for all the medallists and all the Olympians," he said.

"It's an honour for me to be here."

The youngest recipient was nine-year-old Bryden Hutt of Yarmouth, N.S., who was recognized for his dedication and support of the Children's Wish Foundation. He's raised about \$35,000 for the foundation so far.

Hutt, who has a rare disorder called Omenn Syndrome, made his way up to get his medal leaning on a set of small crutches.

"I felt so good . . . that I thought maybe my heart was going to explode," Hutt said with a grin after the ceremony.

The Queen, the former Princess Elizabeth, was vacationing in Kenya with Prince Philip when she learned that her father, King George VI, had died and that she had become the symbolic head of Britain and other Commonwealth countries.

The Queen began her reign on Feb. 6, 1952.

The federal government revealed in December that it has set a \$7.5-million budget to celebrate the royal anniversary. Most of that amount is earmarked for the jubilee medal presentations.

Earlier Monday, the official jubilee flag was raised on Parliament Hill, and other showcase ceremonies this week will include the dedication of a stained-glass artwork at the Parliament Buildings.

Though the Queen is not scheduled to come to Canada during her jubilee year, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles and his wife, Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, are to visit New Brunswick, Ontario and Saskatchewan in May.

The recipients include:

Tomas Avendano – Vancouver, British Columbia

For his commitment to helping new immigrants on Canada's West Coast to integrate into Canadian society.

Michael Ball – Montreal, Quebec

For his leadership within the Canadian Hero Fund, which helps the children of fallen soldiers pursue post-secondary education.

Maureen Basnicki – Thornbury, Ontario

For advocating on behalf of victims of terror, and for her enduring dialogue on terrorism.

Wanda Bedard – Montreal, Quebec

For her dedicated support for girls' education around the world, through the 60 million girls foundation.

Teresa Berezowski – Toronto, Ontario

For her dedication to Canada's Polish community, and to its rich history and culture.

Michel G. Bergeron, C.M., O.Q. – Quebec, Quebec

For his important contributions to medical research and for sharing his passion with a new generation of researchers.

Alexandre Bilodeau – Montreal, Quebec

For his contributions to sports and for inspiring others to follow their golden dreams.

Lieutenant-Colonel John R. Bishop, C.D. (Ret'd) – Cobble Hill, British Columbia

For his dedicated support for Korean War veterans and their family members.

Pierre Boileau – Montreal, Quebec

For his contributions to the arts and for promoting our rich cultural heritage.

Major-General Lionel Bourgeois, C.M.M., C.D. (Ret'd) – Trenton, Ontario

For his contributions to the Royal Canadian Humane Association, which recognizes Canadians for their heroic actions.

Melvin James Boutilier, C.M., O.N.S. – Halifax, Nova Scotia

For his leadership at the helm of the Halifax Community Care Network Society, and for providing resources and support to those in need.

David A. Chalack – Balzac, Alberta

For his contributions to the field of animal care and to the success of the Calgary Stampede.

Clement Chartier – Ottawa, Ontario

For his leadership as president of the Me'tis National Council, and for advocating for Metis and Indigenous rights.

Joel Cheruet – Gatineau, Quebec

For his contributions to policing in Canada, and for his 25 years of volunteer work to see meritorious police officers honoured.

Lieutenant(N) James W. Clute, C.D. – Ottawa, Ontario

For his contributions to youth development programs, particularly for navy cadets, as a member of the Canadian Forces Cadet Instructors Cadre.

Gail Cyr – Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

For her innovative contributions towards establishing an Advanced Medical First Responder program in isolated Northwest Territories communities.

Priscilla de Villiers, M.S.M. – Burlington, Ontario

For her ongoing perseverance and leadership in helping victims of crime, and for her research on restorative justice in Ontario.

Corporal Ryan Doherty – Denwood, Alberta

For his continued leadership within and dedication to the Canadian Forces, and for his outstanding technical knowledge.

Budhendranauth Doobay, O. Ont. – Toronto, Ontario

For his leadership as a founding member of the Voice of Vedas Cultural Sabha, and for his active involvement with various international aid organizations.

Barney Ellis-Perry – North Vancouver, British Columbia

For his social engagement and community service, notably with Volunteer Canada.

Alex Forrest – Winnipeg, Manitoba

For his contributions to firefighting, notably to have certain cancers identified as occupational hazards.

Darrell Fox – Vancouver, British Columbia

For his dedication to finding a cure for cancer and for raising the public's awareness of Terry Fox's legacy.

Bruce Gitelman – Toronto, Ontario

For his dedicated efforts towards improving and expanding the public's understanding of science.

Bryden Hutt – Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

For his dedication to and efforts in support of the Children's Wish Foundation.

Master Corporal Keven Thomas Iles – The Pas, Manitoba

For providing significant support for his local emergency medical services and fire department.

Johnny Issaluk – Iqaluit, Nunavut

For his contributions towards improving the health and community well-being among Nunavutmiut.

Roberta L. Jamieson, C.M. – Ohsweken, Ontario

For her leadership as president of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, and for her expertise in non-adversarial methods of conflict resolution.

Major Gordon Jenkins, C.D. (Ret'd) – Stittsville, Ontario

For his military service and for his support of NATO veterans across the country.

William Matthew Raistlen Jones – Whitehorse, Yukon

For his leadership as an Aboriginal role model and for his dedication to the arts.

Melba Kamateros – Mount Royal, Quebec

For her ongoing support for victims of family violence, and for leading community outreach initiatives.

Chil-Yong Kang – London, Ontario

For advancing scientific research, and for his dedication to finding a preventative vaccine for HIV.

Captain Ray Kokkonen, C.D. (Ret'd) – Trout Brook, New Brunswick

For his contributions to the Canadian Forces and to the Canadian Peacekeeping Veterans Association.

Veronica (Vonnie) Lavers – Kelowna, British Columbia

For her commitment to providing healthy food to families in need.

Huguette Lepine – Quebec, Quebec

For her dedication to helping young people cope with life's challenges, and for providing them with the support they need.

Captain Simon J. Mailloux – Ottawa, Ontario

For his leadership within the Canadian Forces and for his efforts to help soldiers injured during the war in Afghanistan.

Shawnee Main, Fredericton – New Brunswick

For her social engagement, notably with the Atlantic Burn Camp and Muscular Dystrophy Canada.

Captain E. Maria Mangnall-Schonert, C.D. – Ottawa, Ontario

For promoting and delivering the Canadian Cadet Program to young people in her community.

Patricia McDermott – Halifax, Nova Scotia

For her dedication to engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action to help communities, notably through United Way Canada.

Peter P. M. Meincke – Manotick, Ontario

For his commitment and expertise in promoting the technological innovations necessary for sustainable development worldwide.

Bryna Monson – Ottawa, Ontario

For her ongoing work with Languages of Life, and for providing Canadians with the means to communicate with each other in different languages.

Leslie Natynczyk – Ottawa, Ontario

For her dedication to and support of military families, and for her innovative Segways for Wounded Warriors initiative.

Paul Nguyen – Toronto, Ontario

For fighting stereotypes and acting as a role model and mentor for at-risk youth in his community.

Constable Anne O'Shaughnessy – Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

For her dedication to the health, safety and physical well-being of the Aboriginal youth of Prince Edward Island.

Master Warrant Officer Jean-Claude Parent, C.D. – Ottawa, Ontario

For his contributions to the Canadian Red Cross and the Military Family Resource Centre of his community.

Linda Patterson, Oromocto – New Brunswick

For her involvement in creating safe neighbourhoods for children and seniors across the country, notably through the Block Parent Program.

Tom Quinn – Beaconsfield, Quebec

For his dedication to sports, notably as an accomplished athlete and as chair of the Canada Games Council.

Brigadier-General Bob Robert, C.D. (Ret'd) – Brooklin, Ontario

For his distinguished military career, and for his leadership within the Air Cadet League of Canada.

Ronald Schlegel – Kitchener, Ontario

For pursuing better living standards for all through his leadership within the business community.

Rachel Scott-Mignon – Gatineau, Quebec

For raising awareness of mental health issues, particularly bipolar disorder.

Maureen Shaw – Victoria, British Columbia

For her leadership in occupational health and safety, corporate social responsibility and education for manufacturing workers.

Master Seaman Christopher Mark Switzer – Victoria, British Columbia

For his contributions to the Royal Canadian Navy and to numerous local charities.

Hannah Catherine Taylor – Winnipeg, Manitoba

For her contributions to her community, and for raising awareness in support of the homeless.

Travis Toews – Beaverlodge, Alberta

For his dedication to the field of agriculture, and for his support for farmers and cattlemen.

Patricia (Pat) Varga – Unity, Saskatchewan

For the ongoing support and services she provides to our veterans, as Dominion president of the Royal Canadian Legion.

Kathryn Laura Whitfield – Toronto, Ontario

For her dedication to teaching and for inspiring Canadian youth to build a better world.

W. Brett Wilson, C.M. – Calgary, Alberta

For his many contributions as an entrepreneur, community leader and mentor.

Sergeant Angela Wintonyk, C.D. – Petawawa, Ontario

For her military service and for volunteering her time and resources to the Petawawa Military Families Resource Centre.

Pauline Wong – Montreal, Quebec

For her service to the Chinese community, and for encouraging other Chinese-Canadians to take pride in their heritage.

Lauren Woolstencroft – North Vancouver, British Columbia

For her contributions to alpine skiing, and for inspiring others to overcome obstacles.

Xinsheng (Simon) Zhong – Toronto, Ontario

For offering services to new immigrants and for promoting Chinese culture in Toronto.

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 **William**

Interesting to see that out of the first 60 medals to be awarded, the selection committee did not see fit to acknowledge someone from every province and territory, Newfoundland and Labrador being left out once again. When will the Harper Government remember that my Canada includes Newfoundland and Labrador?

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 **valedictorian16**

Well done everyone, I hope it has been a wonderful experience today, that you will treasure always.

3 weeks ago 4 Likes

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 **Ninetonite**

Monarchists all.

3 weeks ago 1 Like

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 **valedictorian16**

I don't think you have to prove yourself a monarchist to get one of these - just do an awful lot of good work for Canada and Canadians.

3 weeks ago in reply to Ninetonite 4 Likes

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 **Free Bird**

I congratulate them as well. I do notice that 15 of the 60 are being recognized as members of the military, or in one case for providing services to the military. Given that approx. 70,000 people are in the military, (approx. 3 in one thousand of our adult population), it does seem that you are over 1500x more likely to be rewarded by the Queen if your efforts are on behalf of the military than dedicating your life to something else such as promoting marijuana legalization on behalf of millions of Canadians like Marc Emery does! ;) That's okay though, this is a monarchist view of the world and no matter what, every single one of them deserves the credit they are receiving.

3 weeks ago in reply to valedictorian16 1 Like

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