

June 14, 2023

## Mayor's Recognition Awards 2023

### Athletics

Recognizes individuals or teams placing first in a national event or competition; or placing first, second or third in an international event or competition sanctioned by the respective national or international governing body; or placing first at the highest possible level that can be achieved in their sport.

Grace Anne Campbell  
Molly Simpson

### Red Deer Catalina Swim Club

Tristan Cote (Head Coach)  
Tejas Nayar (Assistant Coach)  
Evan Kafara (Coach)  
Abbi Bahler  
Ben Bahler  
Annika Erickson  
Ryan Falk  
Kaymin Graham  
Myles Grant  
Grace Hitchcock  
Kingston Hitchcock

Jaycob Hoedel  
Anna Horbushko  
Jose Javier Martinez  
Addison Pruden  
Noah Thomas  
Priya Thomas  
Sofia Tokar  
Parks Tweedale  
Cooper Waddle  
Maddie Wiens

### Red Deer Tennis Club Members

Darrell Nichols  
Jean Anne Nichols

Ferdie Soriano  
Barb Young

### Distinguished Voluntary Service

Recognizing outstanding volunteers who have made a significant impact, enhanced the quality of life and/or implemented a significant positive change in Red Deer.

Wayne Blenkhorn  
Benny Borgman  
Lorraine Cooper  
Stephen Cooper  
Cody Howitt  
Jaanvi Lal  
Fern Lenihan

Janessa McCormack  
Bob Pelletier  
Linda Rowe  
Myrna Schmidt  
Denise Sorensen  
Jack Swainson

### Fine and Performing Arts

Recognizing individuals and groups who have gained national or international acceptance or recognition of outstanding specific achievement and/or a series of accomplishments over time in one or more of the arts.

Lacey Oake

### Community Builder

Recognizing outstanding individuals or groups who have demonstrated special or unique qualities and who have made a difference in our community through leadership, dedication, innovation and creativity, with long term benefits.

Lena Drok  
Zainab Mohamoud  
Nancy Paish  
Marie Payne

**Central Alberta Crime Prevention Centre Board**

Jeffrey Dawson	Debb Mann
Christa Elliot	Shane Pahara
April Furness	Lorraine Pitts
Melissa Jacobson	Doug Redmond
Dawn Lundquist	Debbie Romkes

**Parkland Regional Safety Committee's Fallen Worker Legacy Park Sub-Committee**

Sally Brown	Doug Kereliuk
Tanya Cuffe	Tara Leis
Treena Dixon	Brad Vonkeman

**The Ukrainian Displaced Persons Planning Committee**

Father Jim Nakonechny, Chair	Alla Mysko-Henke
Burton Bailey	Craig Nykyforuk
Emily Berg	Oksana Oliinyk
Cheryl Deagle	Vasyl Oliinyk
Gerda Groothuizen	Daria Savchuk
Audrey Gross	Maria Serrano
Olena Karachentseva	Vitalii Varvaruk
Oksana McIntyre	

**Mayor's Special Award 2023**

The highest honour given by The City of Red Deer, the Mayor's Special Award recognizes individuals and groups for humanitarianism, exceptional achievement, or an act of heroism or bravery.

**Halima Ali**

Halima Ali has dedicated her career and life to supporting immigrant and refugee women and their families. As the Executive Director of the Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association, her passion for empowering immigrant communities is easy to see. Originally from Somalia, Halima has introduced several new programs in Red Deer aimed at helping integrate immigrants into their new community.

Halima's contributions to the community have been widely recognized. She was previously honored as one of Red Deer's Women of Excellence, acknowledging her outstanding commitment and leadership. In addition to her role as Executive Director, Halima has actively volunteered as a board member for various organizations, including the Alberta Network of Immigrant Women, Central Alberta Diversity Association, Alberta Health Advisory Council, and Community Capital. Her dedication and impact have been further acknowledged through the receipt of the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal in 2022.

Halima's work ethic, perseverance, resilience, leadership and inspiration have made her an invaluable force in supporting hundreds of immigrant women and their families. Through her unwavering commitment and dedication, she continues to make a positive difference in the lives of those seeking to build a new life in central Alberta.

**Maggie Loney** (posthumous)

Maggie Loney, also known as Turtle Woman, was a remarkable Indigenous Elder and humanitarian whose accomplishments and contributions left a lasting impact on the community. As a Cree woman and Sixties Scoop survivor, Maggie's experiences shaped her into a compassionate and caring individual.

Maggie dedicated herself to educating others about Indigenous knowledge and fostering understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. She generously shared her wisdom at local schools, community events and through her involvement with various organizations. From her role on The City of Red Deer's Systems Leadership Team to her contributions to the Urban Aboriginal Voices Society and the Remembering the Children Society, Maggie played an instrumental role in promoting reconciliation and creating positive change.

Maggie's approach to fostering change was rooted in non-judgmental practices, open sharing of Indigenous culture and history, and consistent actions of kindness and generosity. She embraced people from all walks of life and served as a grandmother, auntie, and friend to those who needed encouragement and support.

Sadly, Maggie's passing in December 2022 marked the end of a life dedicated to making a difference and promoting understanding and respect within the community. Her legacy will continue to inspire and influence us all for years to come.

**Irene Tomlinson**

Irene Tomlinson may soon become known as the Guardian of the Golden West Industrial Area.

She has been an integral part of Border Paving for 11 years, serving as the company's security officer for the past seven. With a keen eye and unwavering dedication, Irene diligently monitors properties and keeps a watchful eye on the entire neighborhood. Her presence and commitment have earned her the trust and respect of neighboring business owners who rely on her vigilance to maintain a safe and secure environment.

Irene's contributions extend far beyond her role as a security officer. Her actions have directly impacted and saved lives. In times of crisis, she has stepped forward without hesitation. Whether it was responding to a motorcycle accident and providing life-saving CPR until paramedics arrived, tipping off the police about the location of a long sought-after vehicle, assisting someone in a mental health crisis, helping a person struck by a car, or thwarting a significant theft of valuable copper wiring, Irene's humility shines through.

Despite her remarkable achievements, Irene does not seek recognition but rather finds fulfillment in making a difference in the lives of both individuals who may be heading down the wrong path and the hardworking businesspeople who have invested their blood, sweat and tears into their businesses. Irene's selfless dedication truly speaks volumes about her character and the profound impact she has on the community.