

## Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement Annual Awards 2012

The Atlantic Women in Law Enforcement (AWLE) presented its annual awards on November 30, 2012, at Government House in Halifax. Each year the AWLE recognizes the contributions of women (and in some cases their male coworkers) through the presentation of awards and this year it was an honour for the AWLE to have these awards presented at Government House of Nova Scotia at a ceremony hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia, His Honour Brigadier - General the Honourable J.J. Grant, CMM, ONS, CD (Ret'd). Nova Scotia Minister of Justice, Honourable Ross Landry, attended and addressed the attendees. The ceremony was also attended by Assistant Commissioner Alphonse MacNeil, the Commanding Officer of Nova Scotia RCMP, Chief Jean-Michel Blais of Halifax Regional Police, Acting Chief Leanne Fitch of Fredericton Police Force, and Superintendent Marlene Snowman, representing New Brunswick RCMP, as well as coworkers, friends, and family of award recipients.

The following awards were presented:

Officer of the Year - Constable Patricia Kennedy, Halifax Regional Police

*To be awarded to any female officer who has a history in excellence in all four areas of leadership, community service, mentoring and excellence in performance.*

Constable Patricia Kennedy has been a police officer for six years and is currently in her fifth year as a Community Response Officer for the Greystone Drive public housing neighbourhood. Constable Kennedy epitomizes what we hope to get from our police officers. She is a driven individual in both her professional and personal life. She brings a passion to succeed and make the area she is assigned to a safer place for its residents. She displays a remarkable work ethic, and has shown experience beyond her years in policing in her work.

### Leadership

As a Community Response Officer, Constable Kennedy's duties include: enforcement, crime solving, prevention, education, referral for the Greystone Drive public housing area, being actively involved within the community, developing community relationships, and assisting in establishing or identifying programming which will provide long term solutions. For the past five years, Constable Kennedy and her Community Response Officer partner have worked tirelessly to build a trust within the community which they have achieved through injecting themselves completely into the neighbourhood and local school. Constable Kennedy quickly recognizes emerging problems and trends within the community and develops actions plans to address them. She is proactive and anticipates and tackles problems as soon as she is aware of them.

### Community Service

Constable Kennedy provides 24/7 accessibility to the Greystone community. She co-created the Greystone stakeholder group in which police, school, Housing Authority, Salvation Army and other stakeholder groups meet to collectively work towards improving the community. Constable Kennedy sits on the Spryfield Addiction Awareness Committee, participates in Restorative Justice sessions and regularly attends Community Coffee houses.

### Mentoring

Constable Kennedy is a role model to both officers and the community she serves. Many of the Greystone residents are single females with children. Constable Kennedy is an excellent role model due to her professional success and work ethic. She provides guidance to the residents by identifying other government or non-government agencies for support or assistance to their problems.

### Excellence in Performance

Constable Kennedy displays a keen knowledge of the criminal element and is a resource to other police officers. She forges valuable relationships with residents and stakeholders in the community.

Constable Kennedy provides a balance of services for this community from enforcement and crime solving to crime prevention, education, and referral.

### Community Service – Cst. Janet Smith, Fredericton Police Force

*To be awarded to any female officer who distinguishes herself by superior accomplishment through developing, designing, implementing, and participating in programs involving communities that include neighborhoods, schools, community meetings or businesses.*

Constable Janet Smith is the Fredericton Police Force Youth at Risk Coordinator. This position was created during the Force's 2007-2011 five year strategic plan as part of the newly implemented Neighborhood Action Team. In 2009, Cst. Smith was selected as the Youth at Risk coordinator and was provided only with a conceptual framework that outlined the objectives in terms of identifying, intervening and processing youth at most risk of coming into, and remaining in contact with the police over long periods of time. The goal was to establish strong community partnerships, police force wide buy-in, and engage in proactive and strategic work to reduce crime, disorder and harm in the community.

Cst. Smith successfully populated the conceptual framework, she developed and sustained and nurtured external working committees, worked collaboratively with civilian staff, and established in-roads with her peer police officers to positively influence a new way of thinking about Youth Crime and Crime Reduction.

Cst. Smith is creative, dedicated and very passionate about making a difference in the lives of our youth and fully understands that this proactive approach is valuable and will continue to yield good results for the community for many years ahead.

Excellence in Performance – Corporal Denise Roussel, 'J' Division Federal Operations West, St-Leonard Detachment, NB

*To be awarded to any female officer who distinguishes herself thorough superior attention to duty or outstanding investigative effort that leads to the identification, location, or arrest of a major criminal or criminal activity.*

In the fall of 2011, Corporal Denise Roussel was the primary investigator on a major organized crime investigation in North-West New Brunswick, involving a sophisticated group of criminals who were conspiring with individuals from the Montreal area in the sale and distribution of cocaine and synthetic drugs. Those criminally involved had been operating a very lucrative drug network for over five years and had garnered a reputation for being untouchable. This was a complex organized crime investigation which included judicial authorizations and partnerships with supporting police agencies.

In the role as lead investigator, Cpl. Roussel was responsible for ensuring the speed, flow and direction of the project. She was the surveillance captain for a five person team that was routinely deployed to cover events of significance to the investigation and was responsible for overseeing strategic disruptions during the course of the investigation.

Cpl. Roussel worked closely with intercept monitors over a period of four months to make important and timely decisions. Her judgment and experience led to some very critical disruptions which led to the proving of conspiracy against the accused. Cpl. Roussel planned and oversaw the surveillance efforts, arrest and search of the accused.

Cpl. Roussel and her team were responsible for the seizure of over one kilogram of cocaine and 10,000 methamphetamine pills. This investigation which started in the fall of 2010 was brought to a very successful conclusion in May of 2012. Multiple individuals were charged, including a prolific drug trafficker.

Leadership - Corporal Patricia Levesque, 'J' Division RCMP District 4

*To be awarded to any female officer who distinguishes herself by superior accomplishments or continuing long-term involvement using leadership skills that encompass, but are not limited to, problem solving, planning, organizational skills, communication, being a positive role model, and/or administration, which make a significant contribution within the agency or the law enforcement mission.*

Corporal Patricia Levesque has provided exceptional leadership to the Mayor and Council of Sackville, NB, as well as the community in general. At a time of difficulty, the expectations were much higher in terms of service delivery and presence. Cpl. Levesque was able to develop good working relationships within the community by keeping all stakeholders informed, making suggestions to improve services in the community and also dealing effectively with all of their concerns, notably noise complaints and issues with Mount Alison University. Cpl. Levesque built a solid bridge between the Town and the RCMP through her positive interventions. Cpl. Levesque helped establish a shared office between the RCMP and Mount Alison Campus Security which increased police presence and facilitated increased communication with the university students.

Cpl. Levesque re-organized the Auxiliary Constable Program for District 4, ensuring the program continued to run according to established standards. Through her interactions and close supervision, Cpl. Levesque assisted a fellow police officer in returning to work at full capacity.

In October 2011, Cpl Levesque was asked to take on a temporary leadership role as Acting Sergeant of a unit which had been experiencing unhealthy workplace issues for some time. Cpl. Levesque quickly grasped the issues at hand. Cpl. Levesque's style of supervision and management enabled her to make quick decisions and build good labour relations with the teams to ensure a healthy work climate in the future.

AWLE Award for Medal of Valour – Constables Samantha McInnis, Jeff Smiley and Shawn Fraser, and Corporal Dwight Doyle, Fredericton Police Force

*To be awarded to any female officer who distinguishes herself through acts of bravery above and beyond the call of duty, which would also include exemplary performance during extremely dangerous situations. This award is not limited to one recipient. In circumstances where a male counterpart is involved in the situation, the male may also be issued the award.*

On January 8, 2012, at approximately 0752 hrs, Fredericton Police Force Communications received a 911 call from a woman who reported she was trapped in her car in the Saint John River in Maugerville and that her car was sinking.

Cst. Jeff Smiley and Cst. Samantha McInnis were the first officers to arrive on scene within minutes of the 911 call. They very quickly saw that the vehicle had driven off the road and travelled about 30 meters across the ice before plunging into the open, frigid waters of the Saint John River with the front end of the vehicle completely submerged. Cst. Smiley, tethered to Cst. McInnis with a rope, rescue disk and life jacket, moved across the ice to the vehicle. As he neared, the ice gave way and he fell into the icy water where he broke out the car window and extracted the unconscious victim from her vehicle.

Cst. Smiley, succumbing slowly to hypothermia, attempted to pass the victim over to Cst. Shawn Fraser who was trying to grab a hold of her from the water but he repeatedly fell through the ice up to his waist. Cpl. Dwight Doyle arrived on scene and took over the rope from Cst. McInnis. When relieved from the rope, Cst. McInnis moved to assist Cst. Fraser. In her efforts to assist Cst. Fraser, Cst. McInnis fell forward through the ice, submerging her head and upper body. Cst. McInnis recovered herself and together with Cst. Fraser, were both able to secure themselves and retrieve the unconscious victim from the water.

Cst. McInnis administered CPR until the victim gained a pulse and was able to turn the victim over to the EMTs. Constables McInnis, Smiley, and Fraser were treated for hypothermia and later released from the hospital. The victim, a 73 year old local woman, spent weeks in critical care, before recovering at home.