

Frontline workers recognized by Rotary Club



PHOTOS BY KIRA PATERSON

Pictured above, from left: Neepawa Rotarian Wayne Jacobsen; Country Meadows Personal Care Home staff- Rochelle Unico (Client Care Coordinator), Kendra Wark (Care Team Manager), Danielle Barilla (nutrition services supervisor), Pam Gulay (director health care services for long term care PMH), Marsha Forgue (activity supervisor), Reynaldo Sadiamona (housekeeping staff), Donavan Chambers (maintenance staff) and Dana Menzies (program assist).

By Kira Paterson
NEEPAWA BANNER & PRESS

One of the Rotary Club's most prestigious awards has been presented to several frontline workers in Neepawa. Every year, local Rotary Clubs will present the Paul Harris Fellow award to individuals who have made significant contributions to their community. This year, however, the criteria changed slightly, to recognize those who have been helping to keep the community safe amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Neepawa Rotary Club selected two recipients for the Paul Harris Fellow award in the community this year. Heather Todoruk, owner and operator of Harris Pharmacy, and the entire staff at Country Meadows Personal Care Home were presented with the award, which includes a certificate, a pin and \$1,000 US donated in the recipients' names to Rotary International programming.

Above and beyond the call of duty

Neepawa Rotary member Wayne Jacobsen presented the award to both Todoruk and the Country Meadows staff. "Heather and her team here at Harris Pharmacy have gone above and beyond the call of duty in order to keep all of us safe," Jacobsen stated. "On behalf of the Rotary Club, Heather, thank you very much for your service and for keeping us all safe."

Todoruk noted that she was very grateful to receive this recognition, but was quick to share the credit with other frontline workers. "I'd really like to thank the Rotary Club for recognizing myself, but it's not just myself that is involved in this pandemic and this year, as frontline workers," she expressed, listing off workers from grocery, to hospital, to truck drivers and more who have been working throughout this pandemic. "It's an endless list of people who have done things that they never thought they would ever do

in their lifetime, but they have and they've stepped up and they've accomplished things that kept us safe," Todoruk stated. "I'm honoured that I have been recognized, but I think that there are so many people in our community and all over the country that deserve recognition."

Keeping the vulnerable safe

When making the presentation at the care home, Jacobsen stated, "It became quite apparent that the people here at Country Meadows have done an absolutely outstanding job in keeping probably the most vulnerable sector of our community safe." He added, "There has not been one case of COVID-19 here at the facility and I think that is absolutely outstanding and it's a testament to the effort that every one of you have put in to keep our elderly population safe."

Kendra Wark, the care team manager at Country Meadows, stated that a



Neepawa Rotary Club member Wayne Jacobsen and Heather Todoruk of Harris Pharmacy in Neepawa.

member of every department in the care home was invited to come and accept the award on the whole staff's behalf, because it has been a team effort by everyone at the facility, from maintenance, to housekeeping, to dietary, to activities, to the nurses and healthcare aids and everyone in between. "To be honest, this place would not have been so successful without the leadership that we've had here and all the dedicated staff. [We've had] many challenges, but we have overcome them so far. So thank you so much, it's nice to be recognized,"

Wark expressed. "And thank you to the community and all the families and caregivers, too, that come and have supported us last year."



Daylight Saving Time Begins

Don't forget to change your clocks ahead and enjoy an extra hour of sunshine!

Sunday, March 14, 2020