



CANADA 150 

**SESQUICENTENNIAL
AWARDS of RECOGNITION**

Presented by
RAJ SAINI, MP
KITCHENER CENTRE

Saturday, December 9, 2017
10:00 am - 12 noon
Kitchener Public Library



Welcome

Raj Saini, MP Kitchener Centre

Drumming

Women from Healing of the 7 Generations

O Canada

Yvonne Jarsch

Canada 150 Sesquicentennial Awards

Raj Saini, MP Kitchener Centre

Presentation of Awards

Ethan McCready-Branch—Introduction of recipients

Raj Saini, MP—Presentation of pins and coins

Closing Remarks

Raj Saini, MP Kitchener Centre

We would like to acknowledge that today's celebrations took place on the traditional lands of the Haudenosaunee, Anishnabe, and Neutral peoples. We acknowledge our past, learn from our history and move forward together for a brighter future for all Canadians.



O Canada

O Canada!
Our home and native land!
True patriot love in all thy sons command.

With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North strong and free!

From far and wide,
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada!
Terre de nos aïeux,
Ton front est ceint de fleurons glorieux!

Car ton bras sait porter l'épée,
Il sait porter la croix!

Ton histoire est une épopée
Des plus brillants exploits.

Et ta valeur, de foi trempée,
Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.

Protégera nos foyers et nos droits.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

Asma Al-wahsh

David Marskell

Debora Ritchie

Diane Bonfonte

Donna Dubie

Engin Sezen & Selda Sezen

Fitzroy (Fitz the Whip) Vanderpool

Gebrehiwot (Gebre) Berihun

Haile Kiflai

John Neufeld

Kathryn Bender

Laura Hamilton

Sarah Shafiq

Tarique Plummer

Tracey Weiler

Anishnabeg Outreach

I am Rohingya (Theatre production group)

Mennonite Central Committee

OK2BME, KW Counselling

YWCA, Kitchener Waterloo Emergency Shelter
(formerly Mary's Place)



The pin incorporates the original copper which covered the roofs of Canada's Parliament buildings from 1918 to 1996.



Challenge Coins have long been a tradition to mark outstanding service





Challenge Coins

Beginning as a military tradition, with a history thought to date back to the Roman Era, challenge coins are a symbol of hard work and a job well done. These coins are awarded by Government officials, military officials, and organizations to mark outstanding service.

Challenge coins are awarded by passing the coin to the recipient in a handshake. In addition to being a special token of appreciation which recognizes outstanding commitment to service, the coins form the foundation of a number of "challenge" games, in which individuals can challenge others to produce their coins.



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Canada 150
Sesquicentennial
Award Recipient
Biographies



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Asma Al-Wahsh

Asma is a passionate advocate for others and has served the community in many capacities. Due to her own experiences of adjusting to her new life in Canada after coming from Jordan in 2012, she founded the Canadian Arab Women's Association. CAWA provides opportunities for Arab immigrant women to develop their skills and improve their sense of belonging by making connections with others, and with the broader community.

David Marskell

David has aspired to engage and empower youth and give back to the community through his talent for bringing people together. He has been Chief Executive Officer of THEMUSEUM in Downtown Kitchener for eleven years, and worked hard to rebrand THEMUSEUM into a thriving, vibrant art and culture. In addition to his CEO duties, David is a Board Member of the Canadian Museums Association and Kitchener Panthers Baseball.

Debora Ritchie

Debb thrives on building community through mentoring, supporting, and connecting. Among her many achievements, she is best known as the creator of both the Inspiring Women Event and Random Act of Kindness Day - a day that encourages people in our community and now across the country, to join together and lead by example. Debb also made a personal commitment to raise \$1 million for local charities and over the last 17 years, she has totalled more than \$2 million for non-profits and local families.





Diane Bonfonte

Diane's contributions to our community come from an enduring passion to foster Canadian pride, speak about historical facts, and cultivate personal stories connected to Canada's cherished symbols, most notably Canada's flag. Her dedication began while on the Canada Day Committee for Canada 125 and she continued to inspire and champion Canada Day affiliated events since then. For the 50th Anniversary of Canada's flag in 2015, Diane founded the Flag Wavers of Waterloo Region, which among other things, was invited to present their documentary, *Let's Celebrate Canada's Flag*, for a diverse range of groups, schools, and events.

Donna Dubie

Donna is the Founder and Executive Director of The Healing of The Seven Generations. She works with Indigenous persons and community members to assist those suffering from the legacy of the Residential School System. Her outreach work also provides ongoing public education regarding the Residential School system, and provides opportunities for learning about Indigenous traditions, culture, and spirituality.

Engin Sezen & Selda Sezen

Selda and Engin are individuals of extraordinary capacity and each work diligently to connect people, build communities, and foster dialogue. Among her other work, Selda leads the Muslim Women Empowerment Circle through the Delton Glebe Counselling Centre, which invites women to discuss topics in a respectful, open space to empower each woman individually while supporting each other as a community. Engin is continuously bringing diverse people together whether in the classroom or as director of the Intercultural Dialogue Institute where he regularly organizes events to foster discussion, religious or otherwise, between people of all faith backgrounds.





Fitzroy (Fitz the Whip) Vanderpool

Fitz "The Whip" is a passionate advocate for underprivileged and at-risk youth. The former World Boxing Champion engages and empowers youth by providing support and mentorship while teaching boxing and fitness at schools throughout Waterloo Region. He gives youth a space to build personal skills and set and achieve goals all while being active and fostering relationships with other youth.

Gebrehiwot (Gebre) Berihun

Gebre dedicates his time to promoting inclusion and understanding between different ethno-cultural groups while providing advocacy and support to ease the challenges newcomers face. His outreach is varied, whether as a founding member of African Canadian Association of Waterloo Region and Area that educates and celebrates culture through events like Bring on the Sunshine, or as the health staff with Community Coalition on Refugee and Immigrant Concerns, he has touched everyone in our community.

Haile Kiflai

Haile is a passionate advocate and civil society organizer, who is Vice Chair of the Qalna Eritrean Human Rights Group. Haile is not only a champion of human rights, but also works extensively with refugees and new Canadians in our community. He assists with smooth transitions for new members of our community, facilitates informal peer support groups, volunteered in financial auditing for the Eritrean Canadian Community Centre, and is one of the founders of Meftih newspaper.





John Neufeld

John's dedicates himself to improving people's lives as he finds innovative and sustainable ways to provide comfort and the basic needs in our community. As Executive Director of House of Friendship, he leads programs and facilities focusing on housing and shelter, food, addictions treatment, and community resources. John is a leader in our community and sets an example for us all by caring for our community and working to ensure that all people thrive and feel a sense of belonging.

Kathryn Bender

Kathryn leads by example and commits herself to cultivating an environment that respects and values everyone's experiences and contributions in both the greater community and the community at Trinity Village Care Centre. She runs the Opening Minds through Art (OMA) program that is a partnership between older adults with dementia and high school students, with a mission of "Building Bridges across age and cognitive barriers through Art."

Laura Hamilton

Laura is a local champion for climate action, environmental sustainability, community development, and adult literacy. She is an active member of Kitchener Food Not Bombs, a collective that recovers food that would otherwise be discarded and shares it as a way of protesting war, waste and poverty. She is a founding member of Divest Waterloo which is committed to climate justice and works in solidarity with local and national Indigenous land defenders, and often in partnership with other environmental and justice groups, to build capacity and create the political will for bold action to address the climate crisis.





Sarah Shafiq

Sarah is passionate about social justice and protecting the environment and inspires our community with her courage and advocacy for others. She is a member of the Coalition of Muslim Women and coordinated its Hate Crimes Project to increase awareness and provide support for victims. Sarah is also part of Interfaith Grand Rivers steering committee, and a member of Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council.

Tarique Plummer

Tarique inspires and guides youth through never ending his leadership, community engagement, and mentorship. He leads by example by pushing himself to find and invest in his community in new ways. He engages with youth of all backgrounds through his involvement with school and camp programs, including Discover Sports and Project Breakthrough, and while building relationships and promoting positive change with organizations like Life Change Adventures.

Tracey Weiler

Among other titles and roles, Tracey is currently the Director the Special Sports Association, Chair of Waterloo's Winter Family Festival, a member of the KW Chamber of Commerce Women's Leadership Committee, and an executive member of Rotary Waterloo. Above all, what sets Tracey apart is her commitment to grassroots efforts to improve our community. She has fundraised to build an outdoor learning Centre, led neighbourhood efforts to improve a community park, ran leadership and professional development series, and has worked in support of children with disabilities.





Anishnabeg Outreach

Anishnabeg Outreach provides culturally appropriate services and assistance to support Indigenous people in Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph in overcoming barriers to employment and training. The Centre provides Employment, Education and Training programs; justice programming; youth-based programs, cultural-based programs, and outreach programs throughout the region.

I am Rohingya

Refugee youth came together to create and produce *I Am Rohingya* to show the world the reality of the Rohingya refugee crisis and preserve their people's legacy. Their courage and commitment to chronicling their difficult stories, from escaping their homes, to refugee camps, to transitioning to their new lives in Canada, shows their individual strength while also symbolizing hope and resilience.

Mennonite Central Committee

Mennonite Central Committee (MCC) is a worldwide ministry reaching its centennial in 2020 that is committed to compassion for all by responding to basic human needs and working for peace and justice. MCC in Kitchener provides opportunities for youth to participate in local and global humanitarian efforts. In Circle of Friends, individuals and families in transition build a network of support with activities tailored to their needs. While in the 1970s, MCC Kitchener was an early contributor growing environmental awareness and began a recycling program, in the very city that established the first curbside blue box program.





OK2BME, KW Counselling

The OK2BME program began in 2005 through KW Counselling Services, which is a multi-service agency offering counselling supports, parenting education workshops, leadership training for members of the multicultural community, and outreach support for newcomers to Canada and the LGBTQ+ community. OK2BME is a set of supportive services for LGBTQ+ identified individuals and their families in Waterloo Region. The OK2BME program consists of three unique areas including confidential counselling services, an OK2BME Youth Group for individuals 13-18 as well as public education, consulting and training around LGBTQ+ issues.

YWCA, Kitchener Waterloo Emergency Shelter

The YW began as people caring about one another working together to provide services and support as a community. The local staff and volunteers work tirelessly to maintain the same care and resources while adapting to our community's needs. Today the YW's 66-bed shelter serves women, transgender men and women, and families who are experiencing homelessness and the program provides basic necessities, crisis support, housing help, advocacy, information, and referral to longer-term community supports and services.



CANADA 150 

Thank You!

Kitchener Public Library
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www.kpl.org/

Canada 150 Award's Nomination Committee

Ethan McCready-Branch
Master of Ceremonies

Drummers
Healing of the Seven Generations
7generations@bellnet.ca

Singer
Yvonne Jarsch

Photographer
Tomasz Admanski
www.AdamskiTom.com

Maurita's Bakery
519-743-1151 ext. 244
catering@theworkingcentre.org

Norris Bakery
519-742-0564
www.norrisbakery.com



CANADA 150



Anniversary of Confederation

2017 marks a significant moment in the History of Canada. 150 years ago, Québec, Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia united to create the *Canadian Confederation*, called the *Dominion of Canada*. The *British North America Act* became law July 1st, 1867, recognizing these British colonies as an independent nation. In the years that followed, the other provinces and territories joined the Dominion, making today's Canada *a mari usque ad mare* ("from sea to sea").

The 150th anniversary of Confederation gives Canadians the opportunity to get involved in their communities and to celebrate together our shared values, our achievements, our majestic environment and our country's place in the world. The major themes of the 150th anniversary of Confederation are diversity and inclusion, reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, environment and youth.

Logo & Designer

The logo is composed of a series of diamonds, or 'celebratory gems', arranged in the shape of the iconic maple leaf. The four diamonds at the base represent the four original provinces that formed Confederation in 1867: Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Additional diamonds extend out from the base to create nine more points – in total representing the 13 provinces and territories.

Created by Ariana Cuvin from Toronto Ontario, the logo was the winning design in a nationwide competition. Canadian students were invited to create the official logo for the 150th anniversary of Confederation through a national design contest. Ariana was chosen from a field of over 300 eligible entries. By participating in the contest, young Canadians had the opportunity to participate and contribute in an original way to this important milestone in Canadian history.



CANADA 150



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