**MEDIA RELEASE **

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**TITLE: PETROLIA MAYOR CELEBRATES VOLUNTEERISM**

Mayor John McCharles and Town of Petrolia staff were pleased to honour all Town volunteers on February 17 at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. More than one hundred people attended the event at the Petrolia Legion and were treated to dinner and an evening of celebration of their efforts for the Town. The value of these volunteers was outlined by the value for every one hundred volunteers being just over the equivalent of $350,000.00 in man hours.

Service Club Presidents, Town Committees, Victoria Playhouse Petrolia volunteers, and many other groups were recognized at the event. The evening culminated with Mayor McCharles awarding the Volunteer of the Year Awards in four categories, and one special recognition. The four categories have been designed to cover as many of the volunteer categories as possible, with a criteria set for each one to assist the selection committee in making the final decision.

The ‘Volunteer of the Year 2015 – Sports and Recreation’ was presented to Nick Salaris. Nick was presented his award at the start of the dinner so that he may attend to volunteer duties. Nick is the President of the Petrolia Minor Hockey Association, where he is also a coach. He is involved with Petrolia Minor Soccer, and he has been instrumental in the Petrolia bid for Kraft Hockeyville 2016. He also works tirelessly with the Silver Stick committee, and through his job with L.C.D.S., he is a driving force behind the Annual Pork BBQ, and many other events.