



VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

2025

Volunteers Make Waves

Together, we create an unstoppable wave of positive change that touches every corner of our community.

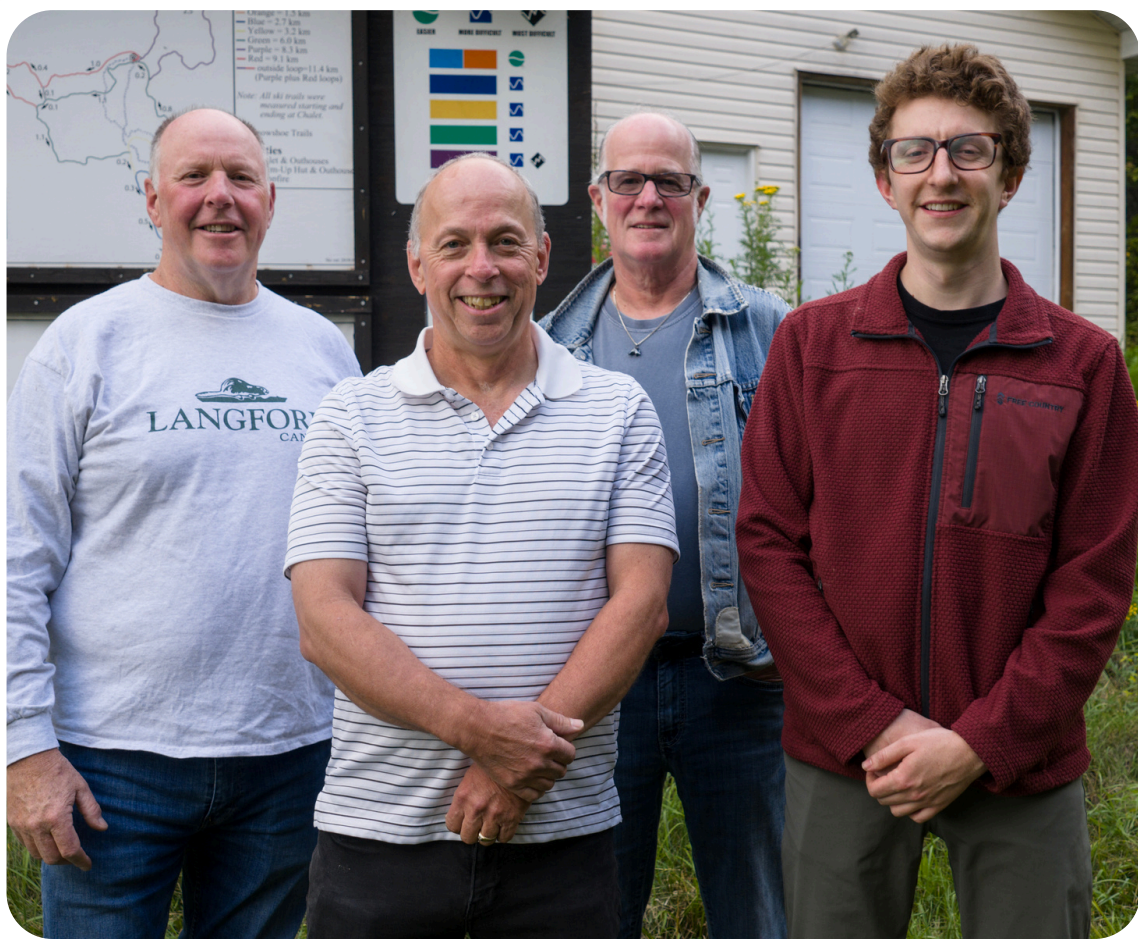
Let's celebrate all the incredible volunteers who are making waves to shape a community that is more just, connected, and hopeful for everyone.





PRESENTING OUR 2025

**VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION
RECIPIENTS**



Board of Directors

Wasi Ski Club

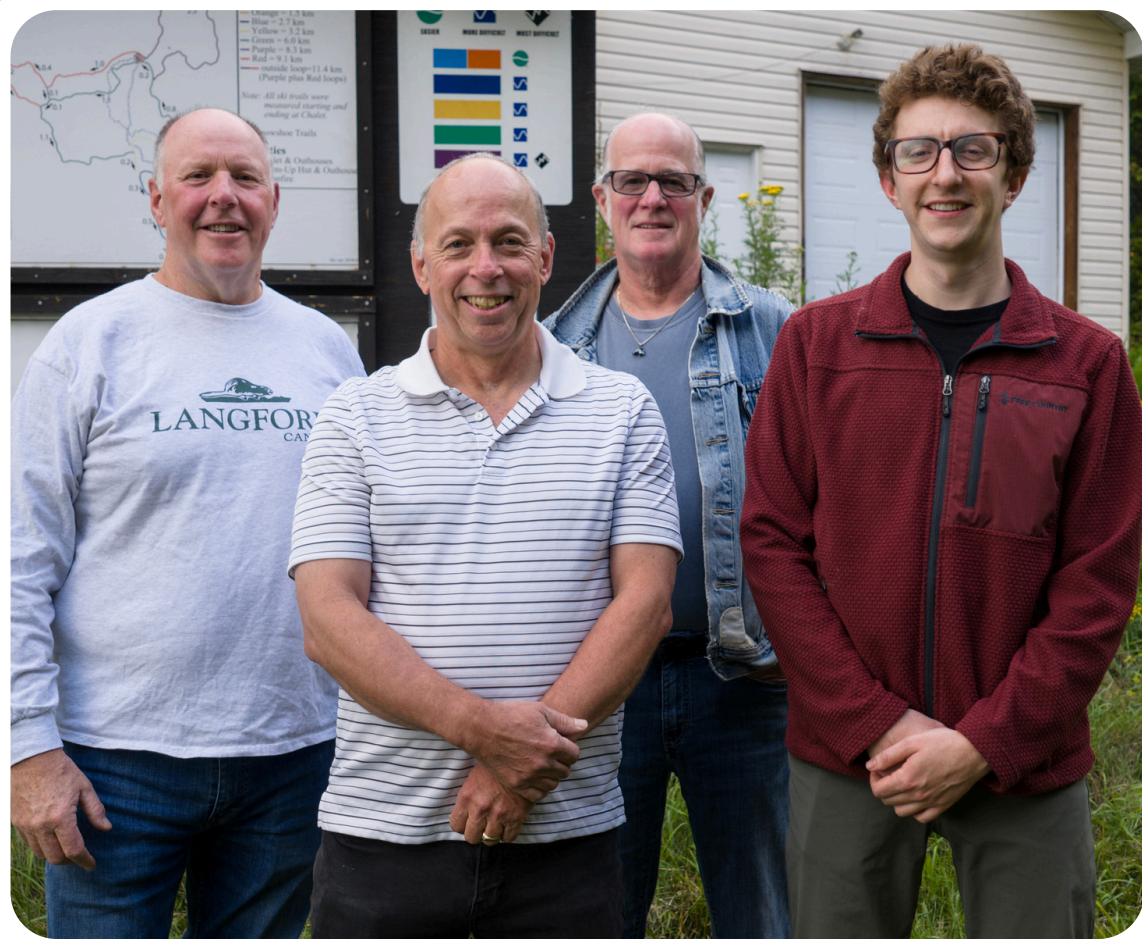
The Wasi Ski Club is a treasured resource in East Ferris, and it thrives today thanks entirely to the dedication of its volunteers. The Board of Directors has worked diligently to keep the club sustainable—managing finances, applying for grants, maintaining trails, and caring for the chalet and warming huts. Their efforts ensure that community members and visitors alike can enjoy a warm, welcoming space to ski, snowshoe, or simply gather by the fire.

The Board also creates opportunities for connection through community outreach. Events like free ski days, hot dog lunches, and moonlight skis bring people together throughout the winter. This year, the Board partnered with Ferris Glen Public School, introducing students and families to the trails through a snowshoe day filled with outdoor exploration, campfires, and guided activities.

By promoting the club through its website and social media, the Board strengthens membership, supports long-term sustainability, and proudly showcases the natural beauty of East Ferris to the wider region.

Through their leadership and hard work, the Wasi Ski Club Board of Directors has built more than just a recreational facility—they have created a welcoming community hub and ensured this valued resource will be enjoyed for generations to come.





Club Groomers

Wasi Ski Club

The Wasi Ski Club Trail Groomers are the unsung heroes of the winter season. Waking up early, often in freezing temperatures and harsh weather, they dedicate countless hours to maintaining the trails so the community can safely enjoy skiing and snowshoeing. With the challenges of climate change, their work has only grown more demanding—shoveling snow to build a base, monitoring conditions after rain or melting, and making difficult decisions about trail safety and closures when needed.

These volunteers also adapt to unexpected obstacles, from flooded trails caused by broken beaver dams to mischievous otters along the way. Through their resourcefulness and teamwork, they've even created alternate routes to keep the trails open and accessible.

In addition to grooming, they set up warm-up huts and facilities on the outer loops for longer treks, and they are listed as emergency contacts to assist anyone in need on the trails.

Their tireless dedication ensures that the Wasi Ski Club remains a safe, enjoyable, and welcoming place for the entire community. The hard work, persistence, and care of the Trail Groomers are a true asset to East Ferris.





Donna St. Martin

Parks, Recreation, and Culture Committee and the East Ferris Public Library Board

Donna is a tireless volunteer who brings her energy, focus, and infectious personality to every role she takes on. She is an active member of the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Committee and the East Ferris Public Library Board, where she is always well-prepared, asking thoughtful questions, and working to build strong teamwork.

Her leadership extends far beyond these committees. As the former President of the Senior's Villa's Board of Directors, Donna demonstrated a deep commitment to seniors—rolling up her sleeves to understand both the governance and property management needs of the residents. Today, she continues that dedication as First Vice President of Club Action 50+, where she leads the book club, newsletter, line dancing classes, and website development. She also plays a key role in organizing the annual Senior's Games, helping to keep older adults active, connected, and engaged.

In addition to her volunteer work, Donna contributes professionally through the Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario and the Links to Wellness program and has supported our community through her involvement with Elections Ontario.

Donna's passion, humour, and generosity create an open and welcoming environment wherever she goes. Her dedication has reduced isolation, strengthened community spirit, and improved the lives of countless East Ferris residents.



Chantal Dégagne

East Ferris Infant Food & School Snack Cupboard

In January 2024, thanks to the vision and dedication of Chantal Dégagne, the East Ferris Infant Food and School Snack Cupboard opened its doors. This initiative provides local families with nutritious food items for their children, ensuring that no child in the community goes without. Located at the East Ferris Community Centre, the cupboard operates twice weekly, timed to align with the EarlyOn program to make access more convenient for families.

Recently retired after nearly 20 years with Community Living North Bay, Chantal drew inspiration from a similar food pantry she helped support during her career. For over two years, she worked tirelessly to bring this much-needed resource to East Ferris—consulting with the municipality’s Community Safety and Well-Being Advisory Committee, collaborating with local partners, and securing generous support from the East Ferris Knights of Columbus.

Her efforts have created a lasting service that strengthens families and supports the well-being of children in the community. Chantal has shared, “When kids eat better, they do better, and they learn better as well.”

Through her leadership, compassion, and determination, Chantal Dégagne has made a meaningful and lasting impact on East Ferris families.

Congratulations to our 2025 Recipients!



Like our volunteers, each wave is unique and brings something vibrant and new to the community. And, together, we create ripples of change.

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