

Meet the women recognized with She Shines Awards

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The 2018 recipients of the She Shines Awards were: Cpl. Paula Hanson; Dani Crandelmire Kelly; Catherine Davies; Anna Andow; and Michelle Partington.

Photo: Rebecca Howland/Bugle-Observer

Five women were recognized for their contribution to their communities, families and friends Friday as part of the International Women's Day She Shines Awards celebration in Woodstock.

A winter storm forced the delay of the awards ceremony at Ayr Motor Centre to the day after International Women's Day.

The recipients included Cpl. Paula Hanson of the Woodstock Police Force, retired business woman Anna Andow, registered nurse Catherine Davies and businesswomen Michelle Albright and Dani Crandelmire Kelly.

Michelle Partington

She Shines committee member Brittney Toner told the audience about Partington, who was nominated for her work at the Living Strong Healing Centre and her contribution to the community.

"Woodstock is incredibly lucky she opened her business in our little town," Toner read. "Living Strong Healing Centre offers a variety of alternative and holistic health services such as massage therapy, acupuncture and naturopathy.

Toner said the centre also offers wellness classes ranging from meditation to stretching.

"Without her vision and passion, our community wouldn't have local access to these wellness services. She has a beautiful smile and a big heart. She shines."

Dani Crandelmire Kelly

Kelly was nominated because of her caring nature and the work she does through her essential oils business.

Toner also read the nomination for Kelly, saying even though the nominator had only known Kelly for a few months, she was instantly drawn to her.

"She's passionate about health and wellness," said Toner. "She empowers women to take control of their own health and the health of their families by offering educational opportunities for people interested in learning how therapeutic grade essential oils can be used as a self-care wellness alternative.

Toner described Kelly as "someone who cares about the wellness of her friends, her family and Woodstock in general."

Cpl. Paula Hanson

Cpl. Paula Hanson was nominated for the She Shines award by Leah Toner, a lawyer with legal aid in Woodstock.

Leah Toner told the audience she nominated Hanson because of her 20 years of service as a police officer.

"I nominated Cpl. Hanson for the She Shines award today because I think that it's important to let her know how inspiring she is and how much we appreciate her," said Leah Toner.

She said it's especially important on International Women's Day to note that Hanson is the town force's only female officer.

"She does look out for the ones who have fallen through the cracks, and she does become the family support to those who have none," said Toner.

Anna Andow

Retired business woman Anna Andow was nominated for her contribution to the business community and the general community.

"When you think of Woodstock and community, Anna Andow comes to mind," Brittney Toner read from the nomination.

She said the longtime entrepreneur ran successful businesses, including the Pantry Shop and Andow's Jewelry and has been a landlord for other business owners.

Catherine Davies

Registered nurse Cathy Davies was nominated by owner of Ageless Magazine and Woodstock councillor Theresa Blackburn.

Blackburn spoke of Davies's work as an emergency room nurse at Upper River Valley Hospital and her volunteer medical work in Haiti.

In the nomination letter, Blackburn quoted another person who nominated Davies, Dr. Heather Dow.

"When you see Cathy at work or in Haiti, she is the model of efficiency," Blackburn read. "She's always professional, but always has a way of showing her patients how much she cares, especially children and seniors."

Bursary winner

In addition to each of this year's nominees, the winner of the 2017 She Shines bursary was also on hand. The proceeds from the She Shines Awards event go toward the bursary, which will be given to a graduating female at Woodstock High School.

Drew Hallet, last year's bursary winner, attended Friday's event.

"Being recognized was such an honour," she said. "I know as I finish my education and continue my career, I will continue to shine like the five ladies who received awards here today."

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