



**The Corporation of the
City of Sault Ste. Marie**

C O U N C I L R E P O R T

September 2, 2025

TO: Mayor Matthew Shoemaker and Members of City Council
AUTHOR: Madison Zuppa, Deputy City Clerk
DEPARTMENT: Corporate Services
RE: City Awards 2025

Purpose

The purpose of the report is to recommend recipients of the Community Development Award, Community Recognition Award, Sports Hall of Fame Award, and Walk of Fame to Council.

Background

The City of Sault Ste. Marie has five active community awards outlined below:

Community Development Award

The Community Development Award was initiated by City Council in 1998. The purpose of this program is to recognize significant achievement in community development, highlight successful development ideas, and inspire other projects to meet the standards set by successful practices.

Community development is an all-encompassing term. Eligible projects may positively benefit the community in one or more of the following ways:

- Enhance the visual quality of the built environment;
- Pursue sustainable development and protect the natural environment;
- Promote equity and accessibility to a variety of people, income groups, and abilities;
- Maximize employment and earning opportunities; or
- Facilitate heritage protection.

Community Recognition Award

The Community Recognition Award is presented annually for contribution and commitment in the field of culture as defined in the Cultural Policy for Sault Ste. Marie.

Municipal Heritage Award

The Municipal Heritage Award is presented annually to recognize contributions to the preservation, restoration, and enhancement of the City's Heritage Resources as defined in the City's Cultural Policy.

Sports Hall of Fame Award

The Sault Ste. Marie Sports Hall of Fame recognizes exceptional achievements in the athletic community. Athletes, coaches, builders, and teams are honoured for their accomplishments and the recognition they have brought to Sault Ste. Marie through sport.

Walk of Fame Award

The Walk of Fame Award recognizes individuals or groups for outstanding athletic, cultural, academic, or humanitarian achievement who individually or as a member of a group achieved provincial, national, or international accolades in an athletic or other competitive endeavour; a standard of excellence in a cultural, academic or humanitarian field; and has lived in the City of Sault Ste. Marie or surrounding area of Algoma for a minimum of 12 months at any point during their lifetime.

On January 9, 2023 Council approved that one awards ceremony be held on a go-forward basis to honour recipients annually. An awards ceremony is planned for mid-September.

Analysis

Community Development Award

On May 21, 2025 the Community Development Award Committee considered 23 nominations. The Committee recommends that the 2025 Community Development Award be presented to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25 and SalDan Construction Group, for the new Legion building located at 96 Great Northern Road.

Since the mid-1960s, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25 has been a cornerstone of the community, offering a welcoming space for veterans and residents alike. In partnership with local developer SalDan Construction Group, the aging Legion building has been reimaged into a vibrant, multi-use facility. The redevelopment includes a modern bar, a dedicated museum, and 107 residential units, 35 of which are affordable apartments prioritized for Veterans. This ensures the Legion's legacy continues to serve and support the community for generations to come.

Community Recognition Award

On June 18, 2025 the Cultural Vitality Committee considered four nominations. The Committee recommends that the 2025 Community Recognition Award be presented to two recipients

Doug Bradford, Indigenous Watercolour Artist

Doug Bradford is an Ojibwa watercolour artist from Sault Ste. Marie, known for his vibrant depictions of people, landscapes, and animals. His work has been exhibited across Canada and internationally, including the Canadian War Museum and the *A Brush with War* exhibit. A Canadian Forces Artist Program participant, Doug also led a Navy centennial commission and donates art to community causes

like the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25. Through free workshops, he fosters creativity and encourages artists of all levels to explore and share their artistic voice.

Senior Singers Choir

The Senior Singers Choir, founded in 1978, is a volunteer group of 50 men and women, ages 55 to 98, dedicated to spreading joy through music. Based at the Bay Street Active Living Centre, they perform uplifting songs at local nursing and retirement homes during the Christmas and Spring seasons. The Choir also supports community causes, including an annual benefit concert for St. Vincent's Place. This year, they were honored to perform the National Anthem at the Canadian Masters Curling Championships.

Municipal Heritage Award

Not being awarded in 2025.

Sports Hall of Fame

On May 6, 2025 the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee reviewed 11 nominations. The Committee is recommending the induction of the three athletes into the Sports Hall of Fame for 2025:

Carter Simpson – Special Olympics Alpine Skier

Carter Simpson is one of Canada's top Special Olympics alpine skiers. Beginning his skiing journey at age five, Carter quickly rose through the ranks, earning a silver medal at just 13 in the 2011 Special Olympics Ontario Winter Games. His accomplishments include gold, silver, and bronze at the 2024 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games and two bronze medals at the 2025 World Winter Games in Turin, Italy. Beyond the slopes, Carter has completed over 1,000 km in the Great Canadian Running Challenge, carried the torch for the 2022 Canada Summer Games, and actively volunteers in his community. A Sault College graduate and Premier's Award nominee, Carter continues to inspire through his passion, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

Trisha Westman and Lawrence Foster – Adventure Racing Champions

Trisha Westman and Lawrence Foster of Sault Ste. Marie are legendary figures in Canadian adventure racing. Fierce international competitors from 1999 to 2005, they ranked among the world's top 10 and held the #1 and #2 spots in Canada. Their friendly rivalry grew into a partnership, culminating in a shared win at the 2005 Canadian National Adventure Racing Sprint Championships. Trisha is a multi-sport athlete known for her leadership, resilience, and titles in skiing, mountain biking, and adventure racing. Lawrence gained global recognition with top finishes in elite expedition races, including 9th at the 2000 Eco-Challenge in Borneo. He later appeared on the hit television show Mantracker and taught at Sault College. Married since 2006, they continue to mentor young athletes through coaching and co-founding the Hiawatha Hell Hounds youth mountain bike team.

Their journey from competitors to community leaders highlights their lasting impact on endurance sport and their hometown.

Walk of Fame

On May 15, 2025 the Walk of Fame Selection Committee reviewed three nominations. The Committee is recommending the induction of Doug Hook, Northern Ontario landscape artist, into the Walk of Fame for 2025.

Born in Toronto in 1943, Doug Hook began painting at the age of six and developed a deep love for the northern landscape during summers spent in Muskoka. In the early 1970s, he made his home at Sailors Encampment on St. Joseph Island, where the natural beauty and passing ships became central themes in his work. Inspired by fellow artist John Keast, Hook became known for his evocative watercolours of Northern Ontario, which capture landscapes, wildlife, historic buildings, and nautical scenes. A generous supporter of the arts and conservation, he donated original works and prints to causes such as Ducks Unlimited Canada. Hook's legacy lives on in his vivid depictions of the North and his commitment to the community.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications related to this report.

Strategic Plan / Policy Impact / Climate Impact

This is an operational matter not articulated in the Corporate Strategic Plan. There are no impacts on climate mitigation / adaptation.

Recommendation

It is therefore recommended that Council take the following action:

Resolved that the report of the Deputy City Clerk dated September 2, 2025 concerning City Awards 2025 be received and that:

1. The Community Development Award be awarded to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 25 and SalDan Construction Group;
2. The Community Recognition Award be awarded to Doug Bradford and Senior Singers Choir;
3. The Sports Hall of Fame be awarded to Carter Simpson, Trisha Westman, and Lawrence Foster; and
4. The Walk of Fame Award be awarded to Doug Hook (posthumously).

Respectfully submitted,

Madison Zuppa
Deputy City Clerk
705.759.5392
m.zuppa@cityssm.on.ca