

# Island paramedics receive exemplary service medals

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The Recorder

MANITOULIN—Two Manitoulin paramedics with the Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board (DSB) have been awarded with Governor General's Exemplary Service Medals for Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

“Two of the DSB paramedics have been recognized under the EMS sector for their exemplary service,” said Fern Dominelli, CAO of the DSB, last Friday. “Both paramedics are from Manitoulin Island,” he pointed out.

Michael MacIsaac, chief of EMS Manitoulin-Sudbury EMS, explained in an email to the Recorder, “two Manitoulin-Sudbury District Services Board paramedics were recently honoured in London at the annual Ontario Association of Paramedic Chiefs conference with the Governor General's Exemplary Service Medal Award for EMS. On September 25 a gala took place where these medals were handed out. As part of the Canadian Honours

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# ...exemplary service medals

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Programme, the Governor General makes available Exemplary Service Medals for EMS professionals. These Exemplary Service Medals recognize those persons in high-risk professions who have dedicated themselves to preserving Canada's public safety in an exemplary manner, characterized by the highest standards of good conduct, industry and efficiency."

"The EMS Award was created in 1994 and is available to eligible members of the pre-hospital emergency medical service who have served at least 20 years in a meritorious manner," explained Mr. MacIsaac. "To qualify, at least 10 of those years of service must have been at street level duty involving potential risk to the individual. While there is a substantial length of service associated with this award, it is more than just a long service award. Each individual must be nominated by their service and there must be demonstrative evidence of meritorious service to the communities they serve. The nomination is then put forth to the provincial nominating committee who then review the nomination and make their decision. The Emergency Medical

Services medal is one in the Exemplary Services Medal family, along with other public safety professions: police, corrections, fire services, Canadian Coast Guard and Peace Officer."

"At this year's conference, paramedics Rudy Corbiere (who works in Little Current) and Bonnie Smeltzer (who works in Mindemoay) each received their medal from the Governor General's representative; Canada's most decorated civilian, retired Major-General Richard Rohmer," continued Mr. MacIsaac. "Manitoulin-Sudbury DSB is extremely proud and pleased to have such a dedicated group of paramedics working for our organization. It is hard to work in often the most adverse of conditions when people are at their greatest time of need; however, these paramedics have been able to do so at the highest of standard over at least 20 years."