

Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership

Nominee Biographies: November 17, 2023



Susan Alford | Township of Rideau Lakes



For over 40 years, Susan has dedicated her time as an active community volunteer, starting with the Chaffey's Lock and Area Heritage Society (c. 1988), the Chaffey's Lock Women's Institute, the Chaffey's Lock Improvement Committee, followed by the California Community Association (2006), the California Beautification Committee, the Morton and Area Community Enhancement Committee (2019), then the Morton Cemetery Board President last year. She is very active in coordinating events for the Morton Hall. Most recently, Susan founded the Share and Care Group, to inspire and help community members live a healthy and active lifestyle. Susan coordinates guest speakers, chair yoga instructors and gatherings on health-related issues.

Judi Baril | Township of Augusta



Judi brings a wide-range of experience as a long-time volunteer member with groups, committees and associations. Her many affiliations include the South Grenville District High School Alumni Association, the Spirit of Giving Campaign, TD Canada Trust Friends of the Environment and Kinette Club of Prescott. She has served as a board member of the Provincial Board of the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) and was a member of the OTF Grant Review Team. She was a volunteer co-chair of the Prescott Arena Rebuild Project where she helped raise over \$3.5-million for the regional facility. Judi is a member of the Augusta Economic Development Advisory Committee spearheading programs and initiatives to benefit her community. She earned many accolades during her years with the United Way of Leeds and Grenville.

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Shelley Mitchell | Municipality of North Grenville



Shelley's passion for community development is evident in her long-time commitment to bringing fun programming and events to Kemptville's downtown. Shelley is the long-time owner of To Be Continued Consignment Shop and has been on the BIA Board for almost 14 years, this year she took on the position of Chair and hopes to continue to help make advancements for small business. Her commitment to making a difference is also evident in her business model of sustainable fashion, keeping clothing out of the landfill and providing affordable clothing, toys and equipment

to families in the community. Shelley feels it is so important to give back to her community and strives to do so on an ongoing basis.

Terry Wills | Township of Rideau Lakes



Terry has exhibited visionary leadership spearheading initiatives, economic growth and innovation in the region for more than 45 years. His ability to identify opportunities for development and enhancement has played a pivotal role in expanding Leeds Grenville's economic landscape. As President of his family business Wills Transfer with locations in Rideau Lakes and Brockville, Terry has a unique ability to bring together diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration among government agencies, local businesses, and community organizations. His work has resulted in the successful implementation of numerous projects that have benefited the entire region. Terry has been

a champion of sustainable economic development, promoting initiatives that not only drive growth but also prioritize environmental and social sustainability.

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Today we are presenting the award, but the time to start thinking of nominees for next year starts right now! Do you know a leader in your community who is deserving of this esteemed award? There are many volunteers helping improve our Leeds Grenville communities and we would like to honour them for their ongoing efforts. If you know someone who should be nominated, please let us know and we will include you in our contact list when we call for nominations. Connect with us at econdev@uclg.on.ca.

Timeline to plan your nomination:

Starting now ... Let us know if you have someone in mind. We will start a list of potential nominees and provide you with early reminders of the nomination process and deadline.

April/May/June: If you don't already have a person in mind, discuss potential nominees at Economic Development Committee meetings and with business community improvement groups.

Early August: Nominations are open and notification will appear in the *Leeds Grenville Economic Development eNewsletter*, along with a link to an online nomination form.

September: Seek Council endorsement of your nominee at regularly scheduled meetings during the month.

Late September: Deadline to submit your nomination. Letters of reference can accompany the nomination as well as Council endorsement.

November: The winner will be announced at the 2024 Economic Development Summit.

Thank you for taking the time to help us acknowledge volunteers who show outstanding leadership resulting in the growth and vitality of the Leeds Grenville economy.