

# COMMUNITY CARE Volunteer of year is invaluable

**MATT JAMES**  
Staff Reporter

Community Care volunteer coordinator Brigitte Gebauer was proud to present this year's volunteer of the year award to Ian Comrie on July 6.

Gebauer says the Carnarvon resident helped out in a number of ways throughout the year but his commitment really stood out with one project in particular — the agency's van.

"In fact, had it not been for Ian it is quite possible the van would still be sitting in its storage unit," said Gebauer.

The staff didn't even have to ask him to help with the van. As soon as he found out they'd received it he offered his time. His experience with fleet vehicles was invaluable and Gebauer says he even came up with ideas and suggestions that they probably never would have come up with themselves.

Community Care's transportation coordinator, Judy Cumming, said Comrie took care of the van as if it were his own. Cummings said, "He made sure the van was well equipped with everything it needed to make it safe and accessible for our seniors and the drivers."

Comrie was also credited for playing an integral role in the overall success of the Scotty Morrison Charity Hockey Tournament. Hilary Elia, Community Care's resource development co-ordinator, said Comrie's "commitment to selling raffle tickets, guarding 'Stanley' and sharing knowledge about Community Care speaks to the kindness of Ian and his ability to make those around him enthused about the cause."

For his commitment Comrie's received a scroll from MPP Rick Johnson and a soapstone loon carved by local artist Kim Warne.



MATT JAMES/ECHO

Ian Comrie, left, received this year's Community Care volunteer of the year award for his work with the senior services organization. Donna McDonald, right, the executive director of Community Care Haliburton County, also received an award for her 25 years of service.

Comrie's acceptance speech was short, sweet, and sincere.

"It's been a pleasure working with everyone," he said.

The 130 volunteers at Community Care Haliburton County, who help more than 1,000 clients, are essential to the agency's operation. Putting in more than 21,000 hours of time they help provide multiple services such as meals on wheels, home help and maintenance, social recreation, visitations, and transportation.

## 25 years and counting

Also recognized on July 6 was Com-

munity Care executive director Donna McDonald for her 25 years (and counting) of service. She started with the volunteer agency when it was known as Haliburton County Home Support Services.

McDonald was presented with a plaque and a gift in the form of a beautiful silver leaf necklace. On behalf of the board, staff, volunteers, and the community, the newly elected president Ray Brassard outlined the agency's many

services and accomplishments and gave thanks to McDonald's hard work and dedication.

"Donna fought the day-to-day battles with the government," said Brassard of the executive director's sometimes difficult job.

"This is my home," said McDonald in her equally short and sincere acceptance speech. "And it is a pleasure to serve you."