

The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



Alice Lorraine Forrester

Edmonton, Alberta

Despite being confined to a wheelchair all her life, Alice Forrester has used her own experience to enrich the lives of others.



Alice has spent many years volunteering in institutions such as the Alberta Cancer Foundation, Screen Test and Chrysalis, but she has dedicated most of that time to Edmonton's Cross Cancer Institute, where she has become a compassionate and important member of the healing team.

"When she first arrived at the Institute, Alice was unsure how much help she could provide," says Eugene Malo, who nominated her for the Caring Canadian Award. "However, through dedication, determination and courage, she has become an exceptional volunteer. Now, twenty-two years later, cancer patients and staff encounter Alice daily as she wheels along the corridors delivering in-house mail or surprising a patient with a birthday cake." In the course of performing these services, Alice has contributed an amazing 23,000 hours of service to the Institute.

In recognition of her contributions to enhancing patient care and comfort, Alice was awarded an Alberta Centennial Media in 2005 and a 20,000 hour pin by the Volunteer Resources Department at the Institute. In 1990, she was given an award that recognized her contribution for donating the most volunteer hours in one year, a feat that she went on to repeat in subsequent years.

Alice's reliable and caring presence has touched the lives of many. Her gentleness, unassuming presence and ability to be an empathetic listener have won the hearts of all who have met her. What is most remarkable about Alice is that she has achieved this reputation by overcoming both medical and personal challenges, showing intense

dedication as she commutes by bus to the Institute five days a week.

In the words of Eugene Malo, past President of the Cross Cancer Institute Volunteer Association, Alice Forrester is a truly worthy recipient of the

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Eugene Malo, nominator

Caring Canadian Award. "It is not a stretch to say Alice is loved by all. It is her commitment, resolve and sense of duty to helping people who she considers worse off than herself that carry her forward. She is an inspiration to all the volunteers contributing their services at the Cross Cancer Institute, whose work is a reflection of Alice's own commitment."



The Caring Canadian Award was presented to Alice Lorraine Forrester on April 17, 2012, at Rideau Hall. Sgt Ronald Duchesne 2012 © Rideau Hall