

The Governor General's Caring Canadian Award



Marina and Herman Harris

Harbour Grace, Newfoundland and Labrador

Marina and Herman Harris bring the gift of music to the communities they serve. For over 55 years, they have been entertaining audiences at a wide variety of events and venues throughout Newfoundland, including community festivals and seniors' homes, at anniversary and birthday parties, and for local television.



Known across their province, Mr. and Mrs. Harris are famous not only for their music but for their kindness and generosity, going above and beyond the call of duty to serve the community. Both are talented singers; Mr. Harris plays guitar as well. Whenever asked, they have gladly played for the ill and elderly. Mr. Harris, along with their daughter Christine, performs regularly on the Cable 9 Community Channel from St. John's. The 'Good Night' segment, where they bid good night to viewers by name, is a popular part of the "Harris and Harris" program. In 1982 and 1989, Mr. Harris received the Exceptional Service Award from the channel for his service to the community.

He has also volunteered for 20 years with the Trinity Health Foundation, and in 1981, he won the Heart of Gold Award from the local paper and Air Canada for making the community a better place to live. These are just a few of the awards he has won over the years, including the Harbour Grace Citizen of the Year award, and the International Year of the Volunteer Award in 2001.

Despite working hard all their lives and raising five children, these two residents of Harbour Grace have committed a major part of their lives to volunteering, bringing songs and joy to the people of Newfoundland. "It is a lot to give up your time, energy and kindness," offers Bernice Clarke, who recommended them for the Caring Canadian Award. "If someone

calls for a request they drop everything and fill up their little red truck with their guitars and mikes and off they go to fulfill another wish. They never get tired and they never say no. It is very rare to meet people who have given up so much for others and in return only received a heartfelt handshake and a 'thank you.'"

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Bernice Clarke, nominator

Or, as Wayne Osmond of Eastern Health puts it, "Herman and Marina could be considered ambassadors for Harbour Grace. Their volunteerism is exceptional."



The Caring Canadian Award was presented to Marina and Herman Harris on April 17, 2012, at Rideau Hall. Sgt Ronald Duchesne 2012 © Rideau Hall