OCTOBER 2026

SPECIAL EDITION

# HOUSEKEEPING PROFESSIONAL TODAY

The Official Publication of the Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers Association (CHHA)

## EVS Appreciation Award Prize Winners Announced!

The Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers' Association (CHHA) is pleased to announce the prize winners from the 2026 EVS Appreciation Award program, recognizing the dedicated environmental services (EVS) professionals and teams who help maintain clean, safe, and welcoming healthcare environments

continued on page 14 »







The Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers' Association (CHHA) is proud to recognize the outstanding individuals and teams selected as recipients of the 2026 CHHA Appreciation Awards, honouring their dedication, professionalism, and contributions to healthcare environmental services (EVS).

Nominations were accepted leading up to and throughout International Housekeeping and Environmental Services Appreciation Week, September 13–19, 2026. The initiative provided an opportunity to recognize the people who work behind the scenes every day to help maintain clean, safe, and supportive healthcare environments for patients, residents, families, and healthcare teams.

This year's nominations highlighted the many ways EVS professionals make a difference. From exceptional teamwork and dependability to compassion, accountability, and a willingness to go above and beyond, each nomination offered a glimpse into the meaningful contributions these professionals make within their facilities and communities.

CHHA thanks everyone who took the time to nominate an individual or a team. Your submissions help shine a light on the people whose work is essential to infection prevention, quality care, and the overall patient and resident experience.

The 2026 recipients exemplify the qualities that make EVS professionals such valued members of healthcare organizations. Their contributions extend beyond cleaning and disinfection. They demonstrate reliability, compassion, teamwork, attention to detail, and a commitment to maintaining high standards.

Whether supporting patients through challenging moments, stepping in to assist colleagues or helping foster a positive workplace, these individuals and teams demonstrate the essential role EVS plays in healthcare.

Their stories remind us that behind every clean and safe healthcare environment are dedicated professionals whose efforts have a lasting impact.

CHHA congratulates all of this year's Appreciation Award recipients on this well-deserved recognition. Their achievements reflect the skill, commitment, and pride that define healthcare housekeeping and environmental services professionals across Canada.

As the national association supporting healthcare housekeeping and EVS professionals, CHHA is honoured to share their stories and celebrate the people who help keep healthcare environments clean, disinfected and safe.

Join CHHA in congratulating our 2026 Appreciation Award recipients and celebrating the difference they make every day!

## AgeCare Pinegrove Environmental Services Team

The **environmental services (EVS) team** at **AgeCare Pinegrove** is celebrated for their teamwork, professionalism, and commitment to creating a clean, safe, and comfortable home for residents.

The CHHA Appreciation Award recognition highlights the contributions of a team whose members bring valuable experience, compassion, and a strong work ethic to their roles every day.

Maintenance Aide **Jomar Maravilla** consistently goes above and beyond in supporting the needs of AgeCare Pinegrove. His willingness to assist other AgeCare homes during challenging times demonstrates his flexibility, generosity, and commitment to supporting residents and colleagues across the organization.

**Natherlyn Griffiths** has faithfully served the AgeCare laundry department for more than 30 years. Her years of service reflect an exceptional commitment to her work and the important role laundry services play in ensuring residents have the clean linens and clothing they need for their comfort and well-being.

The housekeeping team, consisting of **Eddie Sanchez, Susana Leon, Sandra Do Monte**, and **Berta Vieira**, works tirelessly to maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for residents. Their attention to detail and consistent efforts help support quality care and contribute to the overall comfort of everyone who calls AgeCare Pinegrove home. Their work has also earned repeated positive feedback from the home's infection prevention and control (IPAC) lead, reflecting the high standards they maintain.

Together, these team members demonstrate how environmental services professionals make a meaningful difference in long-term care. Their combined efforts support resident well-being, help maintain important cleanliness and infection prevention standards, and contribute to a positive environment for residents, families, and staff.






CHHA congratulates the entire EVS team at AgeCare Pinegrove on this well-deserved Appreciation Award and thanks Jomar, Natherlyn, Eddie, Susana, Sandra, and Berta for the valuable contributions they make to their home and the residents they serve.

## AgeCare Aurora Long-Term Care Environmental Services Team

The **EVS team** at **AgeCare Aurora** has been recognized for their teamwork, compassion, and unwavering commitment to supporting residents and one another.

Despite reduced hours and the ongoing challenges of staff shortages and outbreaks, the AgeCare Aurora EVS team continues to demonstrate what it means to work together. Team members consistently step up to support their colleagues, share responsibilities, and ensure the needs of residents remain a priority.

Their dedication extends beyond their regular duties. Whether lending a hand to a co-worker or staying late to assist a resident, these team members demonstrate a willingness to go the extra mile. When circumstances become challenging, they pull together to find solutions and help ensure the needs of the community are met.

This spirit of collaboration and compassion makes a meaningful difference in the daily lives of residents and contributes to a supportive environment for everyone who lives and works at AgeCare Aurora. Their flexibility, reliability, and willingness to help reflect the important role EVS professionals play in maintaining a clean, safe, and caring long-term care environment.

CHHA congratulates the AgeCare Aurora EVS team on this well-deserved recognition and extends sincere thanks to **Sheila Tipton**, **Donna Petrie**, **Skye Vandzandt**, **Christine Landry**, **Simon Bennett**, **Aniceta Valdrez**, **Denim Gammon**, **Melissa Atkinson**, **Delroy Dobson**, **Elizabeth McCavitt**, **Courtney Lee**, **Aimee Miller**, **Noneth Storesbergen**, **Rowena Cerezo**, **Arlene Cabanas**, **Trizha Cerezo**, **Simon Fletcher**, and **Richard Joseph**.

## Alexander Malesevic — Dartmouth General Hospital

**Alexander Malesevic** of **Dartmouth General Hospital** is being recognized for his strong work ethic, leadership, and commitment to supporting patient care.

Working in the Emergency Department requires efficiency, teamwork, and attention to detail. Alexander takes great pride in his work and plays an important role in keeping the department running smoothly by ensuring stretchers are cleaned promptly and ready for use. His efforts help support patient flow and allow healthcare teams to provide timely care to those who need it.

Alexander also demonstrates strength and determination when challenges arise. He readily supports his colleagues, takes charge in difficult circumstances, and displays leadership qualities that make him a valued member of the environmental services team.

His dedication extends beyond his daily responsibilities. Through his reliability, willingness to help others, and commitment to maintaining a clean and safe environment, Alexander contributes to a better experience for patients, staff, and visitors alike.

CHHA congratulates Alexander on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his valuable contributions to Dartmouth General Hospital. His hard work and commitment demonstrate the essential role environmental services professionals play in supporting healthcare teams and delivering quality patient care.

## Antonio Carreiro — Queensway Health Centre



**Antonio (Tony) Carreiro** is being recognized for his work ethic, professionalism, and commitment to maintaining a clean and safe healthcare environment.

Tony approaches his work with

... continued on page 3 »

« continued from page 2

## Antonio Carreiro — Queensway Health Centre

dedication and a positive attitude, remaining dependable and supportive of his colleagues even when challenges arise. His calm, professional manner earns the respect of his peers, while his willingness to step in and help wherever needed strengthens teamwork throughout the department.

Tony also demonstrates leadership through his actions. He takes initiative in difficult situations, supports those around him, and sets a positive example for his colleagues. His commitment to high standards helps ensure the healthcare environment remains clean, safe, and comforting for patients and staff.

Through his consistent efforts and collaborative approach, Tony makes a meaningful contribution to the daily operations of the department. His work reflects the important role environmental services professionals play in supporting patient care and creating a positive healthcare experience.

CHHA congratulates Tony on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his dedication, leadership, and ongoing contributions to the healthcare team.

## Colin Fraser — Nova Scotia Hospital

**Colin Fraser** of **Nova Scotia Hospital** is being recognized for his leadership, dedication, and positive impact on those around him.

Colin consistently demonstrates strength and resilience when challenges arise. He supports his colleagues, steps up in difficult situations, and brings a dependable, team-focused approach to his work. His willingness to take the lead when needed makes him a valued member of the environmental services team.

One of Colin's most appreciated qualities is his positive attitude. Even during stressful shifts, he continues to smile and approaches his responsibilities with a level of optimism that helps lift the spirits of those around him. His friendly demeanour and willingness to support others contribute to a more welcoming and supportive workplace.

Through his dedication and com-

... continued on page 4 »

## Credit Valley Hospital Environmental Services Team



IN PHOTO (from left): Tamden Wangmo, Deidre Quinn, Anna Avila, Nyima Dhondup, Raziel Bulaon, Lee-Anne Campbell, and Katarzyna (Kasia) Pitula.

The outstanding **environmental services (EVS) team** at **Credit Valley Hospital**, part of Trillium Health Partners, is being recognized for their professionalism, compassion, teamwork, and dedication. These nominees demonstrate the essential role EVS professionals play in creating clean, safe, and welcoming healthcare environments.

Each nominee brings unique strengths to their work, making a meaningful difference in the experiences of patients, families, colleagues, and clinical teams. Their individual contributions reflect a shared commitment to excellence, patient-centred care, and a supportive workplace.

### Deidre Quinn — Leadership Through Compassion

**Deidre Quinn** is recognized for her exceptional dedication to the Birthing Suites, where she is known as the heart and soul of the unit. She takes great pride in ensuring every space is clean, safe, and supportive for families experiencing some of life's most meaningful moments.

Her leadership was especially evident during the transition of the Women and Children's program from Mississauga Hospital to Credit Valley Hospital. By postponing planned vacation time to help welcome colleagues and prepare the team for success, Deidre demonstrated her commitment to both her coworkers and the patients they serve. Her initiative, compassion, and dedication make her a valued member of the EVS team.

### Anna Avila — Pride in Every Detail

**Anna Avila** stands out for her resilience, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to high standards. She approaches every patient room and bathroom as though it were her own home, taking pride in the details that help create a clean and safe environment.

Even when facing personal challenges, Anna maintains a positive attitude and remains dependable and supportive of those around her. Her willingness to lend a hand, calm approach under pressure, and genuine care for others have earned the respect of colleagues and clinical teams alike.

### Nyima Dhondup — Bringing Warmth to Patient Care

**Nyima Dhondup** plays an important role in maintaining clean and safe environments across busy areas of Trillium Health Partners, including Mother Baby, Pediatrics, and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

Known for his friendly personality, kindness, and collaborative approach, Nyima helps patients, families, and colleagues feel welcomed and respected. He readily steps in when support is needed and takes pride in maintaining high cleaning standards. His combination of reliability, professionalism, and warmth demonstrates how EVS professionals contribute not only to infection prevention and patient safety, but also to a positive healthcare experience.

### Raziel Bulaon — A Trusted Leader and Teammate

**Raziel Bulaon** is recognized for her resilience, sound judgment, and ability to remain calm under pressure. A trusted leader and role model, Raziel readily supports colleagues, offers guidance, and helps maintain a respectful, collaborative workplace.

Her proactive approach and attention to detail allow her to identify potential concerns before they become larger issues, helping keep daily operations running smoothly. Consistent praise from frontline staff highlights Raziel's responsiveness, strong working relationships, and commitment to service excellence. Her leadership and teamwork make a meaningful difference to both colleagues and the wider healthcare team.

... continued on page 4 »

« ... continued from page 3

## Credit Valley Hospital Environmental Services Team

### Lee-Anne Campbell — Mentorship, Vesatility, and Compassion

Lee-Anne Campbell exemplifies leadership and service excellence through her dedication to colleagues and patients. Selected as a *Champion Trainer* for new recruits, she shares her knowledge and experience to help new team members build the skills and confidence needed to succeed.

Working in the Oncology unit, Lee-Anne brings compassion and respect to her interactions with patients, families, and coworkers. Her commitment extends across the hospital. Cross-trained in specialty areas, including the NICU, Operating Room, and Birthing Suites, Lee-Anne readily steps in wherever additional support is required. Her versatility, mentoring skills, and willingness to help strengthen the entire EVS team.

### Katarzyna (Kasia) Pitula — Compassion in Every Interaction

Katarzyna (Kasia) Pitula brings extraordinary compassion to her work in the Oncology unit. Recognizing that patients and families may be navigating some of the most difficult moments of their lives, she goes beyond her daily responsibilities to offer comfort and reassurance.

Whether providing an extra blanket, sharing an encouraging word or simply taking time to connect with someone who is struggling, Kasia understands the impact of small acts of kindness. Her thoughtful approach helps create a welcoming and dignified environment where patients feel valued and families feel supported. She also strengthens team morale through her dependability, generosity and willingness to help others.

### Tamden Wangmo — Strengthening Teamwork and Workplace Culture

Tamden Wangmo is recognized for her strength, resilience, and consistently positive approach to challenges. Always willing to support colleagues and share guidance, Tamden helps foster a respectful and collaborative workplace.

Her dedication has earned regular praise from the frontline staff in the unit they support, particularly for their responsiveness, teamwork, and commitment to exceptional service. By stepping up when needed and maintaining a strong focus on quality, Tamden contributes to a positive workplace culture and helps ensure the needs of patients and staff remain a priority.

The CHHA Appreciation Award nominees at Credit Valley Hospital demonstrate that exceptional EVS work is about much more than maintaining clean spaces. It takes leadership, technical skill, reliability, adaptability, and compassion to support the people who depend on healthcare services every day.

From mentoring new colleagues and stepping up during major transitions to offering comfort to patients and families, each nominee brings something valuable to the team.

CHHA congratulates Deidre Quinn, Anna Avila, Nyima Dhondup, Raziel Bulaon, Lee-Anne Campbell, Katarzyna (Kasia) Pitula and Tamden Wangmo on their well-deserved recognition. Their contributions reflect the dedication of EVS professionals across Canadian healthcare and the vital role they play in delivering safe, supportive and patient-centred care.

## Crystal Borden — Dartmouth General Hospital

**Crystal Borden** of **Dartmouth General Hospital** is being recognized for her leadership, attention to detail, and commitment to creating a clean, comforting healthcare environment.

Crystal consistently demonstrates strength and determination when challenges arise. She supports her colleagues, steps up in difficult circumstances, and brings a positive, team-focused approach to her work. Her leadership qualities and willingness to help others make her a valued member of the environmental services team.

Taking pride in her work and the appearance of the entire facility, Crystal pays close attention to detail and strives to maintain high standards. Whether supporting her co-workers or helping ensure the hospital remains a welcoming space for patients, staff, and visitors, she approaches her responsibilities with care and dedication — always with a smile.

Crystal's contributions extend beyond her daily duties. Her positive attitude, dependability, and commitment to teamwork help create a supportive workplace and contribute to the overall well-being of Dartmouth General Hospital.

CHHA congratulates Crystal on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for the meaningful difference she makes through her dedication, leadership, and care for others.

« continued from page 3

## Colin Fraser — Nova Scotia Hospital

mitment, Colin helps make Nova Scotia Hospital a better place for patients, staff, and visitors. His contributions extend beyond his daily duties, demonstrating how professionalism, teamwork, and a positive outlook can make a meaningful difference in a healthcare environment.

CHHA congratulates Colin on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his ongoing commitment to his colleagues and the hospital community.

## Fatima Freitas — Runnymede Health Care Centre

**Fatima Freitas**, **Runnymede Health Care Centre**, is being recognized for her dedication to cleanliness, infection prevention, and the delivery of exceptional environmental services.

Fatima consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to maintaining high standards of cleanliness and safety. Taking great pride in her work, she understands the essential role environmental services professionals play in creating clean, comfortable, and safe environments for patients, residents, visitors, and staff.

Her attention to detail, reliability, and commitment to established cleaning and infection prevention protocols consistently exceed expectations. Through her diligence and professionalism, Fatima helps support a safe healthcare environment and contributes to the quality of care provided throughout the organization.

Beyond her technical skills, Fatima is a positive and supportive team member who readily assists colleagues and responds to unexpected challenges with professionalism and compassion. She approaches every task with a strong work ethic, a positive attitude, and a genuine commitment to quality service.

Fatima's contributions extend beyond daily cleaning responsibilities. Her consistent efforts help protect the well-being of those who depend on a clean and safe healthcare environment, while her supportive approach strengthens

... continued on page 5 »

## Dylan Ford — Cape Breton Regional Hospital

**Dylan Ford** of **Cape Breton Regional Hospital** is being recognized for his dedication, reliability, and commitment to maintaining a clean environment in one of the hospital's busiest areas.

Working in the Emergency Department requires teamwork, consistency, and attention to detail. Dylan takes pride in his work and is committed to ensuring the area remains clean and ready to support patient care.

Dylan also maintains positive relationships with clinical staff and is valued as a dependable team player. His consistent attendance and willingness to contribute to the department's daily operations are greatly appreciated by colleagues.

CHHA congratulates Dylan on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his ongoing commitment to supporting patients, staff, and the Cape Breton Regional Hospital community.

## Gail Waye — Northside General Hospital

**Gail Waye** of **Northside General Hospital** is being honoured for her longstanding service, reliability, and important contributions to the environmental services team.

Following in her mother's footsteps, Gail is the housekeeper responsible for the Operating Room (OR), continuing a family tradition of service to the community where they live, work, and raise their families. Her years of consistent service reflect the important role environmental services professionals play in supporting quality healthcare.

Gail is known for her excellent attendance and strong work ethic. Often the first to arrive and the last to leave, she can be counted on regardless of the weather or the challenges the day may bring. She takes pride in her responsibilities and communicates departmental needs effectively, helping ensure the OR receives the attention required to maintain a clean and safe environment.

Gail also demonstrates strength and conviction when facing difficult circumstances. She supports her

... continued on page 6 »

## Fisherman's Memorial Hospital Housekeeping Team



The **housekeeping team** at **Fisherman's Memorial Hospital** in Lunenburg, NS, is being celebrated its teamwork, resilience, and commitment to creating a respectful and supportive workplace.

Over the past year, the team has faced significant challenges, including staffing changes, employee turnover, and workplace tensions that affected team cohesion. Recognizing the need for positive change, hospital leadership worked closely with Human Resources to meet individually with team members, listen to their concerns, and invite their ideas for moving forward.

Together, the team developed a plan focused on fostering a respectful workplace, establishing a shared code of conduct, and strengthening communication and collaboration for the benefit of the organization and its patients.

The results have been encouraging. In recent months, particularly leading up to International Housekeeping & Environmental Services Appreciation Week, the team has demonstrated a renewed commitment to working together. Team members have stepped up to ensure shifts are covered, supported one another, and approached their responsibilities with a greater sense of unity and shared purpose.

Hospital leadership is proud of the progress the team has made and the positive cultural change taking place within the department. Their journey is a powerful reminder that meaningful change happens when people are willing to listen, work through challenges, and commit to a common goal.

Congratulations to the housekeeping team at Fisherman's Memorial Hospital on receiving a CHHA Appreciation Award. This recognition celebrates not only the important work you do every day to maintain a clean and safe healthcare environment, but also the collective effort, resilience, and dedication you have demonstrated in building a stronger team. Your progress is something to be proud of!

## Ira Leschenko — South Shore Regional Hospital



**Ira Leschenko**, **South Shore Regional Hospital**, is being celebrated for her attention to detail, commitment to cleanliness, and dedication to maintaining a safe healthcare environment.

Ira takes great pride in her work and consistently demonstrates a keen eye for detail throughout the hospital. Her efforts are particularly important in the Operating Room (OR), where maintaining a clean and safe environment is essential to supporting patient care and safety. Through her careful approach and high standards, Ira helps ensure that the facility meets the needs of patients and healthcare professionals alike.

Beyond her daily responsibilities, Ira is known for her willingness to step in when the team needs help. She frequently picks up extra shifts to support staffing needs and keep operations running smoothly, demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility and a team-first attitude.

Ira also brings a positive approach to professional growth. She welcomes opportunities to learn new skills, applies what she learns to her work, and continually looks for ways to improve her performance. Her openness to learning and commitment to doing her best make her a valued member of the team.

CHHA congratulates Ira on this well-deserved Appreciation Award and thanks her for her outstanding contributions to environmental services. Her professionalism, flexibility, and commitment to maintaining a clean and safe hospital environment make a meaningful difference to patients, staff, and the entire healthcare team.

« ... continued from page 4

## Fatima Freitas — Runnymede Health Care Centre

teamwork and contributes to a positive workplace culture.

CHHA congratulates Fatima on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for her ongoing dedication to the environmental services department. Her commitment to excellence, infection prevention and compassionate service exemplifies the important difference frontline EVS professionals make every day.

## Gena Castro — Musquodoboit Valley Memorial Hospital

Gena Castro is being recognized for her dedication, reliability, and commitment to supporting her healthcare team.

Gena consistently demonstrates a strong work ethic and a willingness to go the extra mile. When staffing challenges arise, she is always prepared to come in early before her scheduled shift to help ensure the team has the support it needs. Her flexibility and dependability make her a valued colleague and an important part of the facility's environmental services team.

Every shift, Gena approaches her responsibilities with care and dedication, striving to maintain a clean, safe, and welcoming environment for patients, staff, and visitors. Her willingness to step up when needed reflects her commitment not only to her work but also to the well-being of the entire facility.

Gena's contributions demonstrate the important role environmental services professionals play in supporting healthcare operations and creating positive experiences for everyone who enters the facility.

CHHA congratulates Gena on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for her ongoing dedication, teamwork and willingness to go above and beyond.

## Grazyna — Credit Valley Hospital

**Credit Valley Hospital's Grazyna** is being recognized for her exceptional attention to detail, commitment to quality, and dedication to maintaining safe healthcare environments.

Responsible for end-of-day cleaning and disinfection in the Endoscopy and Medical Device Reprocessing departments, Grazyna plays a vital role in ensuring these critical areas are clean, organized and ready for the next day's operations. Her consistency and high standards are reflected in the department's successful audit outcomes, with no audit failures during her tenure. This achievement highlights her thoroughness, reliability, and commitment to following established standards and procedures that support infection prevention and patient safety.

Beyond her technical expertise, Grazyna is a personable and approachable colleague who communicates effectively and works collaboratively with others. She leads by example through her professionalism, positive attitude, and strong work ethic, serving as a role model for her peers. Her willingness to offer support and contribute to a positive team environment makes her a valued member of the department.

Although much of her work takes place at the end of the day, its impact carries into every morning. Through her diligence and commitment, Grazyna helps ensure these essential healthcare departments are prepared to operate safely and efficiently, supporting both staff and patients.

CHHA congratulates Grazyna on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for her outstanding contributions to environmental services. Her dedication demonstrates how consistency, attention to detail, and pride in one's work can make a meaningful difference in healthcare.

## John Power — South Shore Regional Hospital

**John Power** of **South Shore Regional Hospital** is being honoured for his reliability, teamwork, and positive contribution to Environmental Services.

Although John joined the hospital's EVS team just four months ago, he has already made a strong impression on his colleagues. His exceptional dependability, collaborative spirit, and willingness to go above and beyond have quickly established him as a valued member of the department.



John approaches his work with a team-first attitude and a genuine concern for the well-being of patients and staff. He demonstrates strength and conviction when challenges arise, maintaining a positive outlook and helping ensure that the needs of the hospital community remain a priority. His efforts and professionalism have not gone unnoticed by those who work alongside him.

Environmental services professionals play an essential role in maintaining a clean, safe, and welcoming healthcare environment. Through his strong work ethic and cooperative approach, John is already helping make South Shore Regional Hospital a better place for patients, staff, and visitors.

CHHA congratulates John on this well-deserved Appreciation Award and thanks him for the meaningful contribution he has made in such a short time.

« continued from page 5

## Gail Waye — Northside General Hospital

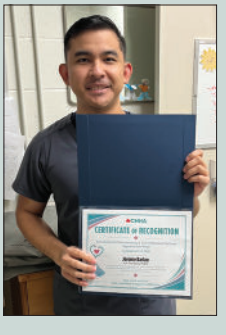
peers, steps forward when challenges arise, and brings valuable leadership qualities to her team. Her dependability and willingness to help others contribute to a positive and supportive workplace.

Through her years of service, Gail has helped make Northside General Hospital a better place for patients, staff, and visitors. Her contributions are an important part of the hospital's overall operations and the care it provides to the community.

CHHA congratulates Gail on this well-deserved recognition and extends its sincere thanks for her years of service, professionalism, and the meaningful difference she makes every day in healthcare environmental services.

## Jerome Barlao — South Shore Regional Hospital

**Jerome Barlao** of **South Shore Regional Hospital**, in Bridgewater, NS, is being celebrated for his dedication, dependability, and outstanding contributions to environmental services (EVS).



As a dedicated member of the hospital's housekeeping team, Jerome has earned recognition for his strong work ethic and willingness to go above and beyond to support his colleagues and department. His dependability has been especially valuable during periods of short staffing on night shifts, when he readily steps up to pick up additional shifts to help ensure the department continues to deliver the high standard of service expected by patients, staff, and visitors.

Jerome approaches his work with professionalism, respect, and a positive attitude. His excellent attendance, approachable nature, and willingness to help others reflect a strong commitment to teamwork and to Nova Scotia Health. When his

... continued on page 7 »

## Jeff Marquez — Queensway Health Centre



**Jeff Marquez**, of **Queensway Health Centre**, is being recognized for his professionalism, reliability, and commitment to supporting his colleagues and the healthcare environment.

Jeff approaches challenges with confidence and a solutions-focused mindset, readily offering assistance and encouragement whenever needed. His positive attitude and collaborative spirit help foster a supportive workplace where colleagues feel respected and valued.

A dependable team member, Jeff leads by example by taking initiative and stepping up during demanding situations. He ensures tasks are completed efficiently and effectively, demonstrating resilience and a strong sense of responsibility in his daily work.

Jeff's contributions help maintain a safe, welcoming, and well-functioning environment for patients, staff, and visitors. Through his strong work ethic and willingness to support others, he makes a meaningful difference to the team and the overall operation of the facility.

CHHA congratulates Jeff on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his ongoing dedication to his colleagues and the organization.

## John M. Parrott Centre Environmental Services Team

The **Environmental Services Team** at **John M. Parrott Centre (JMPC)** is being recognized for its outstanding dedication, teamwork, and commitment to resident well-being.

As one of the many exceptional teams and individuals being celebrated across Canada, JMPC's EVS staff exemplify the vital role environmental services plays in quality resident care. Every day, they help

... continued on page 8 »

« ... continued from page 6

## Jerome Barao — South Shore Regional Hospital

colleagues, and department need support, Jerome can be counted on to lend a hand.

One of Jerome's greatest strengths is his exceptional attention to detail. He takes genuine pride in his work, ensuring that areas are cleaned thoroughly and maintained to a consistently high standard. Rather than simply completing his assigned duties, Jerome takes the extra time and care needed to make sure the job is done properly. This commitment to quality is particularly important in a healthcare environment, where cleanliness plays a vital role in supporting a safe and welcoming space for patients, staff, and visitors.

Jerome's contributions extend beyond his daily responsibilities. His flexibility, reliability, and willingness to step up when the team is short-staffed have made a meaningful difference to the operation of the EVS department. He exemplifies the dedication, teamwork, and professionalism that South Shore Regional Hospital values in its facility support services team.

Congratulations, Jerome, on receiving a CHHA Appreciation Award. Thank you for your hard work, attention to detail, and unwavering commitment to supporting your colleagues and maintaining a clean, safe healthcare environment. Your contributions are valued and appreciated!

## Karankumar Patel — Cape Breton Regional Hospital

**Karankumar Patel** of **Cape Breton Regional Hospital** is being recognized for his exceptional work ethic, leadership, and dedication to maintaining a clean and safe healthcare environment.

A valued member of the housekeeping team, Karankumar takes great pride in his work and ensures all tasks on Unit 4A are completed before leaving. Floor care is a particular area of expertise, reflecting his attention to detail and commitment to maintaining high standards.

Beyond his daily responsibilities, Karankumar is a dependable team member who demonstrates strength and determination when challenges arise. He readily supports colleagues, steps up in difficult circumstances, and demonstrates the leadership qualities that make him an invaluable asset to the department.

Karankumar's dedication extends beyond maintaining a clean environment. Through his consistent efforts and willingness to support others, Karankumar helps create a better workplace for staff and a cleaner, safer environment for patients.

CHHA congratulates Karankumar Patel on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his outstanding contributions to the housekeeping team and the overall well-being of the healthcare facility.

## Kaycee Cipak — Cape Breton Regional Hospital

**Kaycee Cipak** of **Cape Breton Regional Hospital** is being celebrated her professionalism, enthusiasm, and the kindness she brings to the Cancer Centre.

Since starting her full-time position, Kaycee has made an immediate impact. Her pride in her work inspires those around her to strive for the same high standards. She treats every patient, staff member, coworker, and visitor with genuine respect and courtesy, approaching each day as an opportunity to make a positive difference.

Working in a department where patients and families often face difficult circumstances, Kaycee brings warmth and joy through her energy and thoughtful gestures. Each holiday season, she decorates the Cancer Centre at her own expense, creating festive moments that bring people together. From Christmas elves to Easter rabbits and even Cupid on Valentine's Day, her creativity helps brighten the environment for patients and staff alike.

Kaycee's contributions go beyond maintaining a clean and welcoming space. She inspires those around her to lead with kindness and reminds everyone that small acts of compassion can make a meaningful difference.

CHHA congratulates Kaycee on this well-deserved recognition and thanks her for bringing pride, positivity, and a little extra joy to Cape Breton Regional Hospital.

## Lacey McGillivray — South Shore Regional Hospital

**Lacey McGillivray** of **South Shore Regional Hospital** is being celebrated for her outstanding work ethic, dependability, and dedication to environmental services.

Lacey is a valued member of her EVS team who consistently demonstrates accountability and takes pride in the quality of her work. Her strong attention to detail ensures that tasks are completed thoroughly and to a high standard, contributing to a clean, safe, and welcoming

... continued on page 8 »

## Kelly MacRae — Renfrew Victoria Hospital

**Kelly MacRae** of **Renfrew Victoria Hospital** (RVH) is being recognized as she celebrates more than 23 years of dedication, teamwork, and outstanding contributions to environmental services (EVS).

Throughout her years at RVH, Kelly has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her organization, her work, the patients she serves, and her colleagues. Time and time again, she has gone above and beyond, showing up and working tirelessly to ensure that departmental responsibilities are covered and the team has the support it needs to succeed.

Kelly is always among the first to offer assistance, share ideas, provide coaching, and lend a helping hand. Her contributions over the years have helped improve departmental workflows, strengthen team morale, and support the smooth day-to-day operation of the EVS department.

Beyond her dedication to her work, Kelly brings something equally valuable to her team: positivity and encouragement. Known for always finding a positive spin on things and offering a kind word to colleagues, she helps create a supportive workplace where team members feel valued. She is also known for keeping a stash of candy on hand to share, adding a little sweetness to the workday!

Kelly has a special talent for bringing people together. Whether organizing a fun game or gathering for Environmental Services Week or Christmas celebrations, she helps build connections and foster the sense of camaraderie that makes a team stronger.

Her commitment, generosity, and ability to lift the spirits of those around her make Kelly a valued member of the RVH team and a deserving recipient of this recognition.

Congratulations, Kelly, on receiving a CHHA Appreciation Award! Thank you for more than 23 years of service, for the countless ways you support your colleagues, and for the positive difference you continue to make in environmental services.

And, as her colleagues would say, let's raise a Pepsi to Kelly and celebrate all she does to keep the EVS department at Renfrew Victoria Hospital running smoothly!

« continued from page 7

## Lacey McGillivray — South Shore Regional Hospital

healthcare environment.

Beyond her daily responsibilities, Lacey is always willing to lend a hand to her coworkers and readily adapts when circumstances or staffing needs change. Her reliability, flexibility, and positive attitude make her a trusted colleague and an important part of the team's success.

Congratulations, Lacey, on receiving a CHHA EVS Appreciation Award! Thank you for your hard work, your commitment to excellence, and the support you provide to your colleagues. Your contributions are valued and deserve to be celebrated!




## Mary Tibert — Victoria General Hospital

**Mary Tibert** of **Victoria General Hospital** is being recognized for her more than 46 years of dedicated service to VG Hospital and the lasting impact she has made on colleagues and the organization.

Throughout her remarkable career as a housekeeper, Mary has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to her work and the people around her. Her contributions extend well beyond her daily responsibilities, having served as a shop steward and as a member of both the Occupational Health and Safety Committee and the Social Committee.

Equally important is the role Mary has played in supporting her colleagues. A trusted friend, mentor and leader, she has generously shared her knowledge, offered guidance, and helped countless co-workers throughout their careers. From assisting with retirement paperwork to organizing memorable farewell celebrations and delivering heartfelt goodbye speeches, Mary has consistently gone above and beyond to make others feel valued and appreciated.

Her kindness, leadership, and genuine care for those around her have earned her the deep respect and affection of colleagues in the Dickson Building. Over more than four decades, Mary has helped build a strong sense of community, leaving a legacy that reaches far beyond her

... continued on page 10 »

« ... continued from page 7

## John M. Parrott Centre Environmental Services Team

create a clean, safe, comfortable, and welcoming home while building meaningful relationships with residents. Their work is regularly recognized through compliments from residents, families, visitors, and inspectors, reflecting both the quality of their service and the compassion they demonstrate.

Their commitment to professional development is equally commendable, with every team member completing the ***CHHA EVS Frontline Course*** to strengthen their knowledge and support the highest standards of service. What makes this team particularly deserving of recognition is the way they support one another, take ownership of challenges, adapt to changing priorities, and consistently step up for residents and colleagues. Although much of their leadership happens quietly behind the scenes, its impact is evident throughout the home—in the environment they maintain, the relationships they build, and the trust they inspire among their colleagues.

The John M. Parrott Centre environmental services team is a wonderful example of the dedication, professionalism, and compassion demonstrated by EVS professionals across Canada. During this special week, we celebrate their contributions and thank them for the meaningful difference they make in the lives of the residents who call JMPC home.

## Lisa Lowe-Dalby — Queens General Hospital




**Lisa Lowe-Dalby** of **Queens General Hospital** is recognized for her dependability, teamwork, and commitment to maintaining a clean and safe healthcare environment.

Lisa is a valued team member who consistently demonstrates her dedication by stepping in to work extra hours whenever additional

... continued on page 9 »

## MD AL Mahmud — Toronto Western Hospital (Trillium Health)

**MD AL Mahmud** of **Toronto Western Hospital (Trillium Health)** is recognized for his compassion, leadership, and outstanding dedication to the healthcare environment.

Mahmud consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting colleagues and contributing to a positive workplace. During challenging circumstances, he provides meaningful support to his peers, and is always willing to step up and take the lead when needed. His reliability, positive attitude, and leadership make a lasting difference to the team.

Beyond his daily responsibilities, Mahmud helps foster a respectful, welcoming, and supportive environment where patients and staff feel valued and cared for. He takes pride in his work and continually looks for opportunities to improve the department and the facility as a whole.

Mahmud's commitment to teamwork, patient care, and supporting fellow healthcare workers reflects the important role frontline professionals play in creating safe, compassionate care environments.

CHHA congratulates Mahmud on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his dedication, leadership, and positive impact on those around him.

## Pasqua Hospital Operating Room EVS Team

The **environmental services team** at **Pasqua Hospital**, in Regina, SK, is being recognized for its exceptional teamwork, dedication, and invaluable contribution to patient care.

Working in a fast-paced operating room environment requires precision, organization, and the ability to work seamlessly under pressure. The Pasqua Hospital EVS team demonstrates these qualities every day, helping keep nine operating room theatres, staff lounges, and change rooms clean, safe, and ready for use.

Operating room changeovers are often completed in under 10 minutes, yet the team never loses sight of the importance of thoroughness. Their well-coordinated approach helps

... continued on page 10 »

## Nina Zadlo — Credit Valley Hospital

**Nina Zadlo** of **Credit Valley Hospital** is being recognized for her exceptional dedication, professionalism, and commitment to supporting her team.




Nina approaches every task with a positive attitude, a strong work ethic, and a genuine willingness to help others. Regardless of the assignment, she consistently performs her responsibilities to the highest standard, demonstrating excellent attention to detail, and a commitment to exceeding expectations.

Always ready to lend a hand, Nina regularly volunteers to take on tasks outside her usual responsibilities and never hesitates to accept challenging assignments that require extra time, effort, and care. Her reliability, proactive communication, and willingness to support her colleagues contribute to a positive and collaborative work environment.

Nina arrives each day prepared, motivated, and eager to contribute to the team's success. Her accountability is evident in her commitment to ensuring that all work is completed before the end of her shift and that every responsibility is handled with care and professionalism.

Through her compassion, dependability, and willingness to go above and beyond, Nina exemplifies the dedication that makes environmental services professionals so valuable to healthcare teams.

Congratulations to Nina Zadlo on this well-deserved CHHA Appreciation Award! Her commitment to excellence and her positive impact on those around her are worthy of recognition and celebration.

## Prince Edward Home Environmental Services Team

The **Prince Edward Home (PEH) environmental services team** is being recognized for its exceptional resilience, teamwork, and unwavering dedication to resident care. Day after day, this team navigates demanding workloads, staffing challenges, outbreak situations, and special projects while maintaining high standards of cleanliness, infection prevention, and resident safety. Their willingness to support one another, take initiative, guide their peers, and step forward when challenges arise reflects a shared commitment to excellence.

Whether responding to emergencies, completing discharge and terminal cleaning, maintaining common areas, or supporting facility-wide initiatives, the team approaches every responsibility with professionalism, a positive attitude, and a focus on ensuring essential work is completed safely and effectively.

The PEH environmental services team makes a meaningful difference in the lives of residents, families, staff, and visitors by creating a clean, safe, and welcoming environment that promotes comfort, dignity, and well-being. Their responsiveness and collaboration provide reassurance to families and make them trusted partners to colleagues across the facility. CHHA is proud to celebrate this dedicated team and recognize the important role they play in healthcare.

Congratulations to **Sheila MacIntyre**, **Kara Arsenault**, **Kerry Gallant**, **Pamela MacQuarrie**, **Doug Moreside**, **Lacey Watts**, **Hollie Laverty**, **Cinthia Mapa**, **Tersa Ellis**, **Katie Savidant**, and **Lila MacKinnon** on this well-deserved recognition.

Thank you for your outstanding contributions and for demonstrating the compassion, teamwork, and commitment that make a lasting difference every day.

« ... continued from page 8

## Lisa Lowe-Dalby — Queens General Hospital

coverage is needed. Her willingness to support her colleagues and help ensure the facility's needs are met reflects her strong sense of responsibility and commitment to the team.

Taking pride in her work, Lisa ensures cleaning tasks are completed properly and to a high standard. She is accountable, dependable, and requires very little follow-up, demonstrating the professionalism and initiative that make her a trusted member of the environmental services team.

CHHA is proud to recognize Lisa for her contributions to Queens General Hospital and for exemplifying the dedication and teamwork that are essential to creating a clean, safe, and supportive healthcare environment.

« ... continued from page 9

## Pasqua Hospital Operating Room EVS Team

surgical teams provide timely care to patients from across the province. Through strong communication with nursing staff, a willingness to take on additional tasks, and a commitment to going above and beyond, they help ensure operations run smoothly.

Even during evenings and weekends, team members take advantage of quieter periods to give extra attention to the operating room core and staff lounges. Their professionalism is matched by their friendly, caring nature, with every greeting and smile helping create a positive atmosphere for colleagues working in a demanding environment.

Operating rooms can present significant challenges, from tight timelines and difficult cleanups to the pressures of working alongside busy surgical teams. The Pasqua Hospital EVS team handles these demands with grace, efficiency, and a remarkable sense of teamwork, often making their complex work look effortless.

The team's contributions extend far beyond maintaining a clean environment. They play an essential role in supporting safe patient care while also caring for the healthcare professionals who depend on them. Their dedication, reliability, and positive attitude make them an invaluable part of the operating room team.

CHHA congratulates and thanks **Kulwinder**, **Panna**, **Cyndi**, **Agustin**, **Maribel**, **Mila**, **Angelie**, **Rugiato**, **Rozan**, and **Yeni** for their outstanding work and ongoing commitment to excellence.

Pasqua Hospital is fortunate to have such a dedicated EVS team. Their hard work is a powerful reminder that behind every successful surgical procedure is a team of professionals whose contributions help make quality patient care possible.

## Renfrew Victoria Hospital Environmental Services Team



The **environmental services team** at **Renfrew Victoria Hospital (RVH)** in Renfrew, ON, is being celebrated for its dedication, teamwork, and ongoing commitment to providing a clean, safe, and welcoming healthcare environment.

Every day, the RVH EVS team plays an essential role in supporting patient care by ensuring that hospital spaces remain clean, safe, and well-maintained for patients, visitors, and staff. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. Visitors frequently comment on the cleanliness of the facility, a testament to the team's attention to detail, pride in their work, and commitment to excellence.



Like many healthcare organizations, Renfrew Victoria Hospital has faced challenging years and continues to focus on strengthening its team and building for the future. Throughout this journey, the EVS team has remained dedicated to its responsibilities while working to stay current with evolving best practices and the changing demands of the healthcare environment.

Through collaboration, adaptability, and a shared commitment to high standards, the team consistently demonstrates the importance of teamwork in maintaining a clean and safe healthcare setting. Their work is fundamental to the overall patient experience and contributes to the well-being of everyone who enters the hospital.

"It is with deep admiration and gratitude that the CHHA recognizes the Ren-

... continued on page 12 »

« ... continued from page 8

## Mary Tibert — Victoria General Hospital

work as a housekeeper.

CHHA congratulates Mary on this well-deserved recognition and extends sincere thanks for her extraordinary commitment, generosity and service. Her contributions over the past 46+ years are a testament to the lasting difference one dedicated individual can make in a healthcare environment.

## Samantha Sladek — Owen Hill Community



Samantha Sladek (centre) receives the CHHA EVS Appreciation Award from department teammates Michelle (left) and Lori.

**Samantha Sladek** of **Owen Hill Community Long-Term Care** in Barrie, ON, exemplifies the strength, compassion, and dedication that make exceptional environmental services and housekeeping professionals such an important part of the healthcare team.

Through both everyday responsibilities and challenging circumstances, Samantha consistently demonstrates leadership by supporting her peers, taking initiative, and stepping forward when she is needed most. Her colleagues know they can count on her to lend a helping hand, offer encouragement, and provide support—often putting the needs of others before her own.

Her positive attitude and unwavering commitment to residents and fellow team members have helped make Owen Hill Community a better place to live and work. Samantha's kindness, reliability, and genuine care are evident in everything she does, particularly during the busy and demanding moments when teamwork matters most.

What truly sets Samantha apart

... continued on page 11 »

« ... continued from page 10

## Samantha Sladek — Owen Hill Community

is the pride she takes in creating a clean, safe, comfortable, and welcoming environment for residents. She understands that housekeeping in a long-term care setting is about much more than cleaning. It is about dignity, comfort, safety, and quality of life—and Samantha brings that understanding to her work every day.

She leads by example. When challenges arise, Samantha takes action, approaches them with determination, and inspires those around her through her strong work ethic and commitment to excellence. Her attention to detail and compassionate approach contribute not only to the physical environment of Owen Hill Community, but also to the overall well-being of residents and staff.

The timing of Samantha's recognition made the award even more meaningful. She was both surprised and honoured to receive the CHHA EVS Appreciation Award—particularly as the team was entering the first day of an outbreak.

"It truly made her day," her colleagues shared, noting that the recognition provided an important boost to morale during an especially challenging time.

Her teammates were equally excited and proud to see Samantha recognized. They expressed how deserving she is of the honour, recognizing her hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the residents and the entire team.

Samantha's story is a wonderful reminder of the difference one person can make. Through her compassion, leadership, positivity, and dedication, she demonstrates that every interaction and every task has the potential to contribute to a better experience for those who call Owen Hill Community home.

Congratulations, Samantha Sladek, on being recognized as a 2026 CHHA EVS Appreciation Award recipient. Your dedication, heart, and commitment to the residents and your colleagues are truly appreciated—and your example helps shine a light on the vital role of environmental services and housekeeping professionals in Canadian healthcare.

## Quinte Health Environmental Services/Hospitality Team




The **Quinte Health environmental services/hospitality team**, in Belleville, ON, is a quiet force that helps keep the hospital moving each and every day. Working behind the scenes, these dedicated professionals play an essential role in creating the clean, safe, welcoming environments that patients, families, visitors, and healthcare professionals depend on.

A clean room. A disinfected surface. A spotless hallway. An urgent request answered when it is needed most. Behind each of these is a person a member of the EVS/hospitality team who arrives each day with purpose, pride, and an unwavering commitment to safety and patient care.

Their work is physically demanding and often performed under pressure. At times, they are called upon to work through some of the most challenging moments a hospital can face. Yet, day after day, they continue to give their best, knowing that every room they clean, every area they disinfect, and every request they respond to contributes to protecting patients, supporting healthcare professionals, and creating an environment where healing can take place.

Their work may not always be visible, but its impact reaches every patient, every family, and every member of the hospital community.

... continued on page 12 »

## Rolando Cudiamat — AgeCare Gibson



**Rolando Cudiamat** of **AgeCare Gibson** is being honoured for his 23 years of service, extensive knowledge, and outstanding contributions as a maintenance aide.

Throughout more than two decades with AgeCare Gibson, Rolando has proven himself to be a dependable and valued member of the team. His exceptional familiarity with the building, its systems, and daily operations makes him an important resource in ensuring the facility remains well maintained and operates smoothly.

Rolando takes pride in his work and consistently demonstrates a willingness to go above and beyond to support his colleagues. Whether addressing routine maintenance needs or stepping forward when unexpected challenges arise, he approaches his responsibilities with a strong sense of accountability and professionalism.

His commitment is especially evident in the way he responds to emergencies, including situations that arise when the manager is absent. His willingness to take charge and ensure that issues are addressed demonstrates initiative, sound judgment, and a genuine understanding of the responsibility entrusted to him.

Over his 23-year career, occasional challenges are inevitable, but what distinguishes Rolando is his continued willingness to learn, take responsibility, and remain a reliable source of support for his team. His long record of service, practical knowledge, and consistent contributions speak to the value he brings to AgeCare Gibson.

Maintenance professionals play a vital role in long-term care, helping ensure that buildings remain safe, functional, and comfortable for residents, staff, and visitors. Rolando's experience and commitment make him an integral part of that effort.

CHHA congratulates Rolando on this well-deserved Appreciation Award and thanks him for 23 years of service, hard work, and dedication to maintaining a safe and supportive environment at AgeCare Gibson.

« ... continued from page 10

## Renfrew Victoria Hospital Environmental Services Team

frew Victoria Hospital EVS team with an Appreciation Award. Their dedication, attention to detail and commitment to working together reflect the important role environmental services professionals play in healthcare. Their efforts help ensure that patients, visitors, and staff can feel confident in the cleanliness and safety of their hospital environment."

CHHA congratulates the entire Renfrew Victoria Hospital EVS team on this well-deserved recognition. Their hard work, resilience, and continued pursuit of excellence exemplify the dedication of healthcare environmental services professionals across Canada.




## Runnymede Health Care Centre Environmental Services Team

The **environmental services team** at **Runnymede Health Care Centre** is being recognized for the essential role the group plays in supporting patient care and creating a clean, safe, and welcoming healthcare environment.

Every day, environmental services professionals make a difference in ways that may not always be visible, but are felt throughout a healthcare facility. Their work provides the foundation for safe, dignified care, helping ensure patients, families, and healthcare professionals can feel confident in the environments where care is delivered.

At Runnymede Health Care Centre, the EVS team is being celebrated for the important contribution its members make to the organization and the people it serves. Through their work, EVS professionals help create spaces that support healing, promote well-being, and allow healthcare teams to focus on what matters most: caring for patients.

Behind every clean room, carefully maintained space, and comforting environment is a team of dedicated professionals who understand that their responsibilities extend far beyond cleaning. Their work requires consistency, attention to detail, teamwork and a strong commitment to the health and safety of others. These contributions are an integral part of the overall patient experience.

The recognition also highlights the importance of the people behind the work. Environmental services teams help keep healthcare facilities moving forward, often working behind the scenes to ensure that essential standards are maintained. Their dedication reflects the compassion, professionalism and pride that define exceptional frontline healthcare workers.

CHHA is proud to recognize the Runnymede Health Care Centre EVS team for its valuable contribution to healthcare. This award is an opportunity to celebrate the collective efforts of the professionals who work together every day to support patients, colleagues, and the broader hospital community.

## Sheila MacIntyre — Prince Edward Home

**Sheila MacIntyre** of **Prince Edward Home** (PEH) is recognized for her exceptional dedication, compassion, and professionalism throughout her many years of service.

Sheila exemplifies the very best of environmental services, consistently going above and beyond her daily responsibilities to ensure residents feel safe, valued, and comfortable in their home. Her genuine care for residents and their families, along with her positive attitude and willingness to support colleagues, has made a lasting impact throughout the facility. She takes great pride in her work, maintaining high standards of cleanliness, safety, and infection prevention while readily stepping forward to provide leadership, guidance, and assistance wherever needed. Her reliability, strong work ethic, and collaborative spirit have earned the trust and appreciation of residents, families, and colleagues alike.

As Sheila approaches retirement, this recognition is a meaningful tribute to a career defined by service, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to resident well-being. Her contributions extend far beyond the environment she helps

... continued on page 13 »

« ... continued from page 11

## Quinte Health Environmental Services / Hospitality Team

The EVS/hospitality team deserves this recognition because they demonstrate the very best of teamwork, resilience, compassion, and dedication. They are there when the hospital is at its busiest, when challenges arise, and when their support is needed most. They rarely ask for recognition or praise. Instead, they simply step forward and do what needs to be done, often going above and beyond without hesitation.

Their contribution is about far more than cleaning. It is about dignity, safety, infection prevention, comfort, and caring for people when they are at their most vulnerable.

They are not simply the team working behind the scenes. They are an essential part of the care provided at Quinte Health.

Every clean room represents their effort. Every safe environment reflects their commitment. Every patient who enters a clean and welcoming space benefits from their dedication.

Their commitment also reflects the values that guide Quinte Health: *Imagine It's You. Value Everyone. We All Make a Difference. Stronger Together.*

These values come to life through the everyday actions of the EVS/Hospitality Team through their willingness to support one another, their respect for patients and colleagues, and their understanding that every member of the hospital community has an important role to play.

The CHHA is honoured to shine a light on these professionals and the difference they make every day.

Congratulations to the entire Quinte Health EVS/hospitality team on receiving a 2026 CHHA EVS Appreciation Award.

## Tracy Rogers — South Shore Regional Hospital

**Tracy Rogers** is being recognized for her dedication, positive attitude, and outstanding contributions to her environmental services (EVS) team at **South Shore Regional Hospital**.

Although Tracy is still relatively new to her role, she has already made a lasting impression through her strong

... continued on page 14 »

## Tanya Karkling — Queens General Hospital



**Tanya Karkling** of **Queens General Hospital** in Liverpool, NS, is being celebrated for her dedication, dependability, and commitment to quality service.

Tanya consistently goes above and beyond to support her housekeeping team, particularly during periods of short staffing. She is always willing to travel to other sites to provide assistance when needed, helping ensure that cleaning services continue to meet the high standards expected by patients, staff, and the organization.

Known for her respectful nature, positive attitude, and excellent attendance, Tanya is a valued team member who can be counted on when additional support is needed. She also takes great pride in her work, demonstrating exceptional attention to detail and ensuring that the areas under her care are thoroughly cleaned and maintained to a high standard.

Tanya's willingness to support colleagues across multiple sites reflects her strong sense of teamwork and commitment to providing quality service. Her contributions have made a meaningful difference to the department and exemplify the dedication and professionalism essential to healthcare environmental services.

Congratulations, Tanya, on receiving a CHHA EVS Appreciation Award! Thank you for your outstanding work and for the important role you play in maintaining clean, safe healthcare environments.

« ... continued from page 12

## Sheila MacIntyre — Prince Edward Home

maintain; they are reflected in the relationships she has built, the colleagues she has supported, and the lives she has touched along the way. Congratulations, Sheila, on this well-deserved CHHA Appreciation Award, and thank you for the lasting difference you have made in environmental services and healthcare.

## St. Martha's Regional Hospital Environmental Services Professionals



IN PHOTO (from left): Robert Gillis, David MacInnis, Mary Dort, Janine Martinez, Laarni Gonzales, and Andrew Draper.

**Robert Gillis**, **David MacInnis**, **Mary Dort**, **Janine Martinez**, **Laarni Gonzales**, and **Andrew Draper** of **St. Martha's Regional Hospital** in Antigonish, NS, were nominated for their outstanding commitment, reliability, teamwork, and the pride they take in maintaining a clean, welcoming, and safe healthcare environment for patients, families, visitors, and staff.

Known affectionately as the hospital's "floor person," **Robert Gillis** consistently demonstrates exceptional attention to detail and pride in his work. His efforts have earned frequent compliments from both visitors and staff regarding the cleanliness of the hospital's floors. Robert also provides support to his colleagues and demonstrates leadership and confidence when challenges arise, helping make his department a stronger place to work.

**David MacInnis** is another valued floor expert whose dedication is reflected in the consistently high standard of cleanliness throughout his areas. He is dependable, supportive of his peers, and willing to step up when circumstances require it. His positive approach and commitment contribute to the well-being of both his team and the healthcare environment.

**Mary Dort** brings an exceptional sense of responsibility and care to everything she does. Her dedication is evident in the consistently high standards maintained in her unit, where complaints are virtually unheard of when she is working. Mary makes sure the work gets done, pays close attention to the needs of those around her, and readily steps in to help. She is dependable, caring, and quietly committed to doing her very best.

**Janine Martinez** is recognized for her positive attitude, dedication, and willingness to help others. She is a dependable member of the team who consistently contributes wherever she is needed. Her commitment and enthusiasm make her a valued colleague and an important part of the St. Martha's Regional Hospital team.

**Laarni Gonzales** is described as a hard-working, efficient, and reliable employee who takes great pride in her work. She approaches her responsibilities without complaint and is always attentive to what needs to be done. When she identifies an issue or requires assistance, Laarni communicates with her supervisors to ensure it is addressed appropriately. Her professionalism and dependability make her an invaluable team member.

**Andrew Draper** is recognized as a reliable and dedicated worker who consistently demonstrates commitment to his responsibilities. His strong work ethic and willingness to support the team contribute to the smooth operation of environmental services and to the high standards expected at St. Martha's Regional Hospital.

Together, Robert, David, Mary, Janine, Laarni, and Andrew represent the dedication and professionalism that are at the heart of environmental services.

Their work often happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt throughout the hospital. From spotless floors and well-maintained patient care areas to their willingness to support colleagues and respond to challenges, these individuals help create an environment where patients, families, visitors, and healthcare professionals can feel comfortable and confident.

St. Martha's Regional Hospital sincerely appreciates their hard work, dedication, reliability, and consistent commitment to excellence. Their attention to detail and pride in their work play an important role in maintaining a clean, safe, welcoming, and comfortable healthcare environment for everyone.

The CHHA is honoured to shine a light on these exceptional members of the environmental services profession and to celebrate the meaningful difference they make every day.

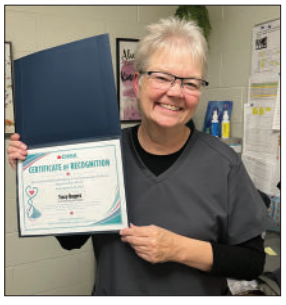
« ... continued from page 12

## Tracy Rogers — South Shore Regional Hospital

work ethic and commitment to excellence. She consistently goes above and beyond her responsibilities, takes pride in her work, and demonstrates a genuine desire to do her job well.

Tracy is known for being dependable, respectful, and friendly, always willing to lend a hand and support her fellow team members. Rather than getting caught up in negativity, she maintains a positive outlook and focuses on doing her best while contributing to a supportive team environment.

Her commitment to learning is equally commendable. Tracy is not afraid to ask questions when she is unsure, demonstrating her determination to learn, follow proper procedures, and ensure that tasks are completed correctly. This willingness to grow and improve reflects the professionalism and dedication that are so important in healthcare housekeeping.




In a short time, Tracy has demonstrated the qualities of an exceptional team member. Her positive attitude, reliability, and readiness to help others have made her a valued addition to the housekeeping team at South Shore Regional Hospital.

Congratulations to Tracy Rogers on receiving a CHHA Appreciation Award! Her dedication and enthusiasm are a wonderful reminder that making a difference in environmental services is not measured by years of service alone, but by the pride, care, and commitment brought to the role every day.

## Vitas Dzemionas and Maimuna Djalo Freitas — Runnymede Health Care Centre

**Vitas Dzemionas** and **Maimuna Djalo Freitas** of **Runnymede Health Care Centre** are being celebrated for their dedication, professionalism, and commitment to maintaining clean and safe healthcare environments.

Through their attention to detail and pride in their work, Vitas and Maimuna help ensure patient rooms, common areas, and clinical spaces are maintained to high standards of cleanliness and infection prevention. Their consistent efforts support a safe, comfortable and welcoming environment for patients, families, staff and visitors.

Both team members demonstrate reliability, strong teamwork, and a willingness to go above and beyond their daily responsibilities. Much of their work happens behind the scenes, but its impact is felt throughout the hospital. Their commitment helps support patient safety, effective healthcare operations and a positive experience for everyone who enters the facility.

CHHA congratulates Vitas and Maimuna on this well-deserved recognition and thanks them for their valuable contributions to the environmental services team.

## Wayne Best — Cape Breton Regional Hospital

**Wayne Best** of **Cape Breton Regional Hospital** is being celebrated for his 25 years of dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence in environmental services.

Throughout his 25 years of service, Wayne has consistently demonstrated an exceptional sense of pride and ownership in his unit. His dedication is evident in the care he takes with his work, his positive relationships with colleagues, and even the remarkable shine of his floors. His attention to detail and commitment to maintaining a high standard reflect the important role environmental services plays in creating a clean, safe, and welcoming healthcare environment.

Beyond his own responsibilities, Wayne is always eager to lend a helping hand to others, particularly when colleagues face challenges or unfamiliar situations. He shares his knowledge, supports his peers, and approaches difficult circumstances with strength, conviction, and a willingness to take the lead when needed. His calm, supportive presence and natural leadership qualities make him a valued member of the team.

Wayne's contributions extend beyond the day-to-day operations of his department. Through his professionalism, dependability, and dedication to those around him, he helps make Cape Breton Regional Hospital a better place for patients, staff, and visitors alike.

And, as those who work alongside him might agree, his name says it all — Wayne Best truly is the *"Best."*

CHHA congratulates Wayne on this well-deserved recognition and thanks him for his outstanding service, leadership, and commitment to making a meaningful difference in healthcare EVS.

« continued from page 1

## EVS Appreciation Award Prize Winners Announced!

across Canada.

As part of the celebration, a special draw was held for individuals and teams nominated for their outstanding contributions. Congratulations to the four individual winners, each receiving a $50 Amazon gift card:

- **Samantha Sladek** — Owen Hill Community Long-Term Care Centre;
- **Rolando Cudiamat** — Agecare Gibson;
- **Jeff Marquez** — Queensway Health Centre; and,
- **Mary Tibert** — Victoria General Hospital.

CHHA is also delighted to announce the **EVS Team** at **Fisherman's Memorial Hospital,** in Lunenburg, NS, as the winner of a $400 lunch party! This special prize offers an opportunity for the team to come together, enjoy a well-deserved celebration, and recognize the important work they do every day.

The prize draw was part of CHHA's efforts to celebrate the individuals and teams whose dedication, professionalism, and hard work make a meaningful difference in healthcare facilities and long-term care communities. EVS professionals play a vital role in supporting infection prevention, patient safety, and the overall care experience.

***Congratulations to all our prize winners!***

CHHA extends its sincere thanks to everyone who submitted a nomination and took the time to recognize the contributions of their colleagues. Every nomination helps shine a light on the essential work of EVS professionals and reinforces the importance of celebrating the people who help keep healthcare environments clean, safe, and ready for care.

CHHA
A DIVISION OF ISSA
**Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers' Association**
910 Dundas St. W., P.O. Box 10009
Whitby, ON Canada L1P 1P7
Phone: **(905) 665-8001**
Toll Free: **1-866-684-8273**
info@healthcarehousekeeper.org
https://healthcarehousekeeper.org/