



October 2019 – Florence Graham, long-time volunteer with Abbeyfield Houses Society of Saskatoon and Abbeyfield Canada, was recently selected as the 2019 winner of the International Volunteer Award at the Abbeyfield Royal Patron’s Awards.

The Abbeyfield Royal Patron’s Awards are presented annually to distinguish individuals who have, through their commitment and service to Abbeyfield, made an outstanding contribution towards improving and enhancing the lives of older people. These prestigious awards are endorsed and signed by Abbeyfield’s Royal Patron, HRH The Prince of Wales, signifying that those who receive them, and the difference they have made, is recognised by the highest authority.

This year, Florence was the worthy recipient of a Royal Patron’s Award in the category of International Volunteer. She was singled out from all the volunteers in the six countries (outside the United Kingdom) where Abbeyfield is established and who help support over 7,500 residents.

Florence was selected for her ‘infectious positive attitude’ towards her role on the Board of Abbeyfield Saskatoon, having served as President, Trustee and (currently) Treasurer since its formation in 2005. She is well-loved by the residents and their families and has been instrumental in particular in bringing more volunteers to the organisation.

Florence’s Royal Patron’s Award was presented at Abbeyfield UK’s annual conference in October at The Slate, University of Warwick, Coventry. Unfortunately, Florence wasn’t able to attend in-person to receive her award, but Abbeyfield Canada president Denis Laframboise, accepted the award on her behalf.

“It is an honour and a privilege for me and the Abbeyfield family to congratulate Florence on having received this prestigious award. This accolade is awarded to only one international

volunteer a year and recognises those who have made a distinctive contribution to the mission and work of Abbeyfield,” said Laframboise. “Florence is very deserving of the award.”

For more information, contact Abbeyfield Canada board member and communications committee chair Andrea Geary at ageary@mymts.net.