



## Community Development Award Committee

### AGENDA

Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm  
Biggings Room, Level 3, Civic Centre

Live Stream: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SaultSteMarieOntario>

#### 1. Land Acknowledgement

I acknowledge, with respect, that we are in Robinson-Huron Treaty territory, that the land on which we are gathered is the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe and known as Bawating. Bawating is the home of Garden River First Nation, Batchewana First Nation, and the Historic Sault Ste. Marie Metis Council.

#### 2. Welcome and Introductions

#### 3. Elect Chair and Vice Chair

#### 4. Carry-over Nominations from 2023-2025

Nominees from 2023 and onwards (year nominated in parentheses):

- A. The Art Hub at Spring – 504 Queen Street East (2023)
- B. Windsor Place Retirement Residence – 617 Queen Street East (2023)
- C. Vicary Fremlin – Lock City Dairies – 938 McNabb Street (2024)
- D. Nicole Dyle - Mutual Aid Hub, Dryer Fire/Piecing it Together Shows –  
Now located at 331 Wellington Street West (2024)
- E. One Ten Pim Apartments – 110 Pim Street (2025)
- F. Café 4 Good – 326 Queen Street (2025)
- G. Soo Market – 73 Brock Street (2025)
- H. Northway Wellness Centre – 145 Old Garden River Road (2025)

Note: Several nominations from 2022 were removed from the Carry-over list, but can be added again if the Committee sees fit.

**5. New Nominees for 2026**

Nomination deadline is April 30th, 2026

**6. Closed Session**

Mover \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder \_\_\_\_\_

Resolved that this Committee move into closed session to discuss the merits of the current nominations and roll-over nominations from the previous year.

Municipal Act section 239(2)(b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees.

**7. Other Business**

**8. Next Meeting(s)**

To be determined

**9. Adjournment**

Mover \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder \_\_\_\_\_

Resolved that this Committee meeting now adjourn.

## Carry Over Nominee List and Details

Nominees from 2022-24 (year nominated in parentheses):

- A. The Art Hub at Spring – 504 Queen Street East (2023)
- B. Windsor Place Retirement Residence – 617 Queen Street East (2023)
- C. Vicary Fremlin – Lock City Dairies – 938 McNabb Street (2024)
- D. Nicole Dyble - Mutual Aid Hub, Dryer Fire/Piecing it Together Shows – Now located at 331 Wellington Street West (2024)
- E. One Ten Pim Apartments – 110 Pim Street (2025)
- F. Café 4 Good – 326 Queen Street (2025)
- G. Soo Market – 73 Brock Street (2025)
- H. Northway Wellness Centre – 145 Old Garden River Road (2025)

## Nomination Details:

- A. The Art Hub at Spring – 504 Queen Street East (2023)
  - see file “Nominations for Art Hubb”
- B. Windsor Place Retirement Residence – 617 Queen Street East (2023)
  - Nomination of the Community Development Award Committee.
  - Nomination focused on the façade improvements and the redevelopment of a prominent building in downtown Sault Ste. Marie.
  - Article: <https://www.sootoday.com/rooted/were-really-proud-of-it-a-new-era-for-iconic-windsor-park-landmark-7001784>
- C. Vicary Fremlin – Lock City Dairies (2024)
  - See file “Community Development Award – Vicary Fremlin”
- D. Nicole Dyble - Mutual Aid Hub, Dryer Fire/Piecing it Together Shows (2024)
  - See files “Mutual Aid Hub, Dryer Fire/Piecing it Together Shows” and “Community-Development-Award-Nomination-Form - Nicole Dyble”
- E. 110 Pim Apartments – 110 Pim Street
  - Article: <https://www.sootoday.com/spotlight/redefining-modern-living-at-one-ten-pim-a-historic-property-reimagined-in-downtown-sault-ste-marie-10502655>
- F. Café 4 Good – 326 Queen Street
  - Article: <https://www.sootoday.com/lets-eat/cafe-4-good-the-eatery-with-an-important-difference-9785497>

G. Soo Market – 73 Brock Street

- Article: <https://www.sootoday.com/spotlight/a-new-home-for-local-vendors-mill-market-reinvents-itself-to-soo-market-for-move-downtown-7464260>

H. Northway Wellness Centre – 145 Old Garden River Road

- Article: <https://www.sootoday.com/local-news/northway-wellness-centre-averaging-17-clients-in-care-per-day-7725665>

## New Nominations in 2026 as of April 28, 2026

*\*nominations close on April 30, 2026*

### 1. Robin Walker - Open Minds

444 Albert Street East

#### Submitted

07/04/2026 by Christie Currie

#### Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.

Robin Walker has made the Open Minds clinic into much more than clinical services - creating a welcoming, relationship-based hub, hosting free community workshops & inclusive programming. It's a place where neurodivergent people are understood, respected & included; where educators & community partners are equipped to create more accessible environments

EXAMPLES INCLUDE: Connections Parent Group - free monthly meeting of parents that focuses on peer-to-peer support and shared advocacy; Free and Low-cost Workshops - for youth & caregivers, educators & community partners; Book Studies - for parents & educators; Open Minds Community Library - resources shared for free Connections Annual Conference

### 2. Natasha Ralph - K9 Mobile Nails & Grooming Inc

539 Trunk Road

#### Submitted

15/04/2026 by Natasha Ralph

#### Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.

K9 Mobile Nails & Grooming Inc. supports community development by improving access to pet care and giving back to local animal welfare. Monthly nail trimming clinics provide affordable services while raising funds for the Humane Society, contributing thousands annually. The business also organizes seasonal initiatives such as toy drives and pet photography fundraisers, encouraging community involvement and support. Through partnerships with local businesses and organizations, these efforts strengthen community connections, promote responsible pet ownership, and provide accessible, low stress services, especially for seniors and those with limited mobility.

### 3. Blaster Power House (formerly Soo Blaster) – 9 nominations

345 Queen Street East

#### Date Submitted

21/04/2026 by Thomas Stephenson

#### Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.

Blaster Power House, previously known as Soo Blaster provides a great family experience in the downtown core. They recently invested over \$700,000 to expand the operation to include a laser tag arena, bowling lanes, a lighted dance floor, and a play arena. They have modern high tech arcade games, and VR Simulators as well. Popular concerts are hosted often, there is a sports bar with a large projection screen and multiple big screen tv's, a restaurant operation, pool tables, darts, and more. There is something there for the whole family in approximately 50,000 square feet of floor space, all built by local entrepreneurs. This is the largest operation of its kind in Northern Ontario.

#### Date Submitted

22/04/2026 by Sharmila

#### Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.

Blaster Powerhouse, formerly Soo Blaster, is a \$2M+ redevelopment in Sault Ste. Marie led by local entrepreneurs Dasa Kumar and Sharmila. The 25,000-sq-ft facility is the largest indoor entertainment complex in Northern Ontario, featuring laser tag, bowling, arcade, LED Game, simulators, playground, sports bar, and restaurant. It drives economic growth, job creation, and downtown revitalization by attracting residents and tourists, increasing foot traffic for local businesses. Hosting events and community activities, it boosts tourism, extends visitor stays, and enhances quality of life—making it a key driver of regional development. Its a complete community recreation and entertainment hub

**Date Submitted**

24/04/2026 by Sault Lock Tours c/o Jeffrey DiCorpo

**Nominee**

Days Inn / Soo Blasters

**Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.**

The combination of an excellent, welcoming hotel and a unique entertainment venue deserves recognition within our community. Tourists visiting our city, as well as local residents, are able to enjoy fun and games not found anywhere else in town. Over the past few years, there have been many improvements to both the exterior and interior of this establishment, enhancing the overall look and feel of the downtown area.

**Date Submitted**

24/04/2026 by Shawn Casey

**Address**

345 Queen St. E, Sault Ste Marie, Ontario

**Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.**

Blaster Powerhouse, formerly SooBlaster, is a key part of downtown Sault Ste. Marie's entertainment scene. It has grown into a true community hub where people of all ages come together to have fun and create lasting memories. I enjoyed the concerts and comedy shows, every visit feels was enjoyable, with new bowling lanes, arcade games, and a great atmosphere. Their vision of an inclusive and welcoming space has made it a place for families, youth, and adults alike. Over the years, their dedication has built more than a venue—it has brought the community together in a meaningful way.

**Date Submitted**

24/04/2026 by Sault Blues Society c/o Johnnie Tibbles

**Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.**

Soo Blaster continually participates on fundraising events. They have given major support to the Sault Blues Society's Annual Blues for Food for the past 3 years, including paying the house bands for each of the 2 night fundraisers.

They are currently renovating to become the Soo's largest arcade/concert venue.

The Sault Blues Society has our next Blues presentation already booked for May 21 2026 and Blues for Food a 2 night fundraiser in November.

**Date Submitted**

24/04/2026 by Michael

**Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.**

Blaster Powerhouse is a family friendly entertainment destination in Sault Ste. Marie, offering activities for all ages and bringing more energy to the downtown area. The venue features exciting attractions like laser tag, bowling, and a dedicated indoor playground, making it suitable for both younger children and older kids. By hosting a variety of all ages events and activities, it has become a popular gathering place for families and the community. It provides a fun, safe, and engaging environment while adding more things to do locally and encouraging people to spend time in the downtown core.

### **Date Submitted**

24/04/2026 by Mikhal Muto

### **Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.**

I believe Blaster Power House has created a lot of options for people as a "third space" in the community, by hosting queer and pro feminist events, birthday parties, comedy, and concerts for the community, and anyone is allowed to book the space.

Most recently they have renovated and added mini bowling lanes and laser tag in addition to their arcade which we have had a lack of. This has provided a lot of opportunity for entertainment for people of all ages.

### **Date Submitted**

28/04/2026 by Rahul Sharma

### **Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.**

Soo Blaster is a dynamic community-driven venue that has emerged as a key cultural and social asset, delivering strong alignment with multiple community development recognition criteria.

At a foundational level, Soo Blaster serves as a multi-purpose event space that brings people together through shared experiences. By hosting comedy nights, multicultural DJ events, live band performances, and a wide range of other programming, it creates consistent opportunities for residents to engage, connect, and participate in community life. This directly contributes to enhanced social cohesion—one of the most important indicators of a thriving community.

From a cultural diversity and inclusion stand

### **Date Submitted**

28/04/2026 by Terrance O'Neil

### **Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.**

Went to many shows and events and the atmosphere and staff are amazing. Events for all ages and with the new branding Sault Ste Marie will soon have a one stop place for all your entertainment needs. Great food, drinks, and now Blaster Power House brings Laser Tag. Fun for all ages and now the place to be in our community.

### **4. The Sault Ste. Marie Community Pantry and Household Bartering Items Foundation 281 North Street, Sault Ste. Marie**

### **Date Submitted**

23/04/2026 by Helen Lannigan

### **Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the criteria.**

The Pantry” offered a lot of resources to anyone in need, such as food, clothing, household items and footcare. They were also offered a warm place to come into, to socialize; their concerns were respected. Those without funds could barter, help out at the store, to earn purchases. They kept their dignity, something some had not felt in a long time.

People were allowed to celebrate,holidays, sample party foods and enjoy live music.

There was no stigma attached to "customers" one was not classified as ,homeless , down on your luck or just someone that liked to thrift shop.

The goal was to make people feel that they still belonged to society, that they mattered, and would be taken care of

**Note:** another self-nomination was submitted, however staff determined that this nomination does not qualify because the project did not take place in Sault Ste. Marie.



- 1. Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the above criteria.

The Art Hubb, opened by Marnie Stone, has taken an otherwise vacant building and created a place for artists to create, display, and sell their art. There are no prerequisites to have artwork on display, other than an understanding that if sold there is a very reasonable 20% commission. During open houses that coincide with downtown street closures and events, and for its own events outside of the downtown, the Art Hubb is a welcoming environment to all walks of life. Anyone is able to enter, climb the beautiful staircase, and be transported to a space of calm, creativity, and inspiration. As an artist just opening my eyes to the possibilities, the Art Hubb has made what has been a dream for myself and many other local artists, see that their dream is attainable and quite like could become (or already is), a reality. Marnie's supportive nature for the arts is just what our city needs.

Send to: Community Development Award Committee, c/o  
Planning Division  
99 Foster Drive, P6A 5X6  
[planning@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:planning@cityssm.on.ca)

**Collection of Personal Information Notice**

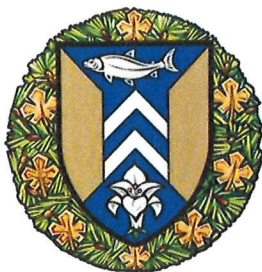
Personal information on this registration form is collected under the authority of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection Act. R.S.O. 1990, Chap. M56 and will be used solely to determine applicable information necessary for application of the Sault Ste. Marie Municipal Heritage Committee – Heritage Award. Questions about this collection should be directed to the above noted address.

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**For Office Use Only**

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Received By: \_\_\_\_\_



**Nomination Form  
Community Development Award**

If additional space is required, please attach and check here ( )

**Nominator**

Name of nominating individual, group or organization:

Rheanna Fremlin

Contact person (if different from above):

Rheanna Fremlin

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominee**

Name of Nominee: VICARY FREMLIN \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: NA \_\_\_\_\_

1. Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the above criteria.

Vicary Fremlin has shown outstanding business skills over the last 50 years. From the beginning, he has used those business skills to invest back into this community. A few recent examples of this are the following:

He recently expanded his operations at Lock City Dairies increasing employment  
Purchased Springer Aerospace saving hundreds of locals jobs  
He is also expanding his fields on his farm, Diamond J Farms furthering his impact in agriculture.  
Is renovating a school in Bruce Mines that he purchased to help aid in the housing crisis.

He does not only invest in the community by providing employment, he also invests by being charitable. Examples of this include:  
Funding the Canada Day fireworks  
Providing free milk to women without partners  
Donating product and delivery to multiple charities including the Soup Kitchen, Bruce Mines Food Bank, Salvation Army and more  
He sponsors many local sports teams such as the Soo Greyhounds, U13AA team and more.

He is also charitable in private. One example of this that I can share is regarding a family who lost their home in a fire and are currently being housed by Vic at his school.

Vic Fremlin does not do what he does for recognition or awards, however I do believe that he has had the greatest impact on our community and recognizing this would validate his efforts and encourage others to follow in his footsteps.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rheanna Fremlin

Send to: Community Development Award Committee, c/o  
Planning Division  
99 Foster Drive, P6A 5X6  
[planning@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:planning@cityssm.on.ca)

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### For Office Use Only

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Received By: \_\_\_\_\_



1. Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the above criteria.

Please see the attached PDF document which has the description of the community development projects worthy of recognition for Nicole Dyble, meeting many of the points of criteria as shown above.

Send to: Community Development Award Committee, c/o  
Planning Division  
99 Foster Drive, P6A 5X6  
[planning@cityssm.on.ca](mailto:planning@cityssm.on.ca)

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### **For Office Use Only**

Date Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Application Received By: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Description of community development projects worthy of recognition. Please address one or more of the above criteria.**

I am thrilled to nominate Nicole Dyble for the Community Development Award with the City of Sault Ste. Marie. Their dedication to community development through the [Mutual Aid Hub](#), Dryer Fire/[Piecing it Together Shows](#) is truly exceptional and embodies the spirit of this prestigious award.

The Mutual Aid Hub, spearheaded by Nicole and their colleague Brenton Ellis since November 2023, is a beacon of hope and support for our community. At the heart of this project lies a Community Fridge and Pantry, providing free food to those in need. Much of this food is donated by many of Nicole's connections within the city such as by local farmers, and other local businesses. This initiative not only addresses food insecurity but also enhances the visual quality of the built environment by fostering a sense of community care and solidarity.

Moreover, the Personal Care Bank within the Mutual Aid Hub offers essential items free of charge, ensuring that individuals facing financial hardship have access to basic necessities, as well as care items for individuals facing addictions. This aspect of the project promotes equity and accessibility by catering to people of diverse backgrounds, income groups, and abilities.

Furthermore, the Mutual Aid Hub goes beyond meeting immediate needs by fostering a sense of empowerment and creativity within the community. The Pay-What-You-Can (PWYC) clothing and weekly art drop-in sessions provide avenues for self-expression, skill-building, and community engagement.

In addition to their work with the Mutual Aid Hub, Nicole has been a driving force behind several other community development initiatives. Their longstanding commitment to organizing shows under the banner of Dryer Fire, now called Piecing It Together Shows, has showcased over 100 local, national, and international acts at small venues across the city. This not only contributes to the cultural vibrancy of our community but also supports local artists and businesses. Nicole has partnered with a large number of local businesses through Dryer Fire/Piecing it Together Shows, including my business, Jiggs & Reels Catering Co. and I would highly recommend working with Nicole in any capacity.

Furthermore, their involvement with the Jane's Walk SSM organizing committee since 2015 is a testament to their dedication to promoting equity, accessibility, and heritage preservation. Jane's Walk SSM is an annual festival of free, community-led walking conversations inspired by Jane Jacobs – a journalist, author, theorist, and activist. By assisting in organizing this annual festival, Nicole actively engages community members in exploring and celebrating our city's rich history and diverse neighborhoods.

Recently, Nicole was hired to manage the kitchen at Cafe 4 Good, further expanding their impact on the local economy and employment opportunities. At Grocer 4 Good, Nicole works under the leadership of the Social Enterprise Manager, the Developmental Evaluators, and their volunteer Board of Directors. As part of the team, Nicole collaborates on creating a communications strategy that includes digital marketing, print marketing, and fundraising projects.

In summary, Nicole's multifaceted contributions and overall passion for seeing the community grow and prosper through community development align perfectly with the criteria set forth for

the Community Development Award. Their efforts enhance the visual quality of our built environment, promote equity and accessibility, maximize employment opportunities, and facilitate heritage preservation. I wholeheartedly believe that their work, past, present, and future deserves recognition and commendation from the City of Sault Ste. Marie/the community she supports, adds to and cares so deeply about on a daily basis.