

Mike Collin Named 2024 “Spirit of Ianelli” Award Honoree



Plattsburgh, New York (June 14, 2024) – The Sunrise Rotary Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival Committee is pleased to announce that Mike Collin has been selected as the 2024 “Spirit of Ianelli” Award honoree. Mike will receive the award at the beginning of the Regatta Awards ceremony taking place at the Plattsburgh City Marina on Saturday, July 6, 2024, at 6:00pm.

What is the “Spirit of Ianelli” Award?

The "Spirit of Ianelli" Award was established in 2010 in honor of the late Mayor John Ianelli, former Mayor of the City of Plattsburgh and co-founder of the Mayor’s Cup Regatta in 1978. This honor is bestowed upon one individual or individuals – sailor or landlubber – who exemplifies the same “community does matter” spirit that inspired Mayor Ianelli over 45 years ago, empowering our lake community to thrive, not only on race day, but every day.

Mike is Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Beartown Ski Area and a long-time volunteer. Mike’s father Malcolm was one of the co-founders of the local family-friendly ski area, located in West Chazy, NY, which opened on February 9, 1958. For those familiar with Beartown, it is truly part of the fabric of the community with second and third generations of families learning to ski there and building lasting memories of being on the slopes together.

“Having known Mike most of my life, Beartown has been his passion as long as I can remember, from the days of the rope tows to the many improvements of the area over many years,” remarked Tim Howley, President of the Board of Directors of the Beartown Ski Area. “Retiring after 30 years as a Construction Superintendent with Luck Bros., Mike has taken his talents up the hill and has been a major reason Beartown is what it is today. From new building construction, to repair and maintenance of older buildings, equipment, ski lifts, snowmaking upgrades, Mike has been the lead on most projects. He is our chief snowmaker, groomer operator, maintenance mechanic and all-around advocate of our mission to provide low-cost winter sports opportunities to our local community. And in his spare time, he manages the Beartown Ski Team, a program that teaches youngsters the art of Alpine ski racing. Mike will be the first to tell you it takes many hands to get things done, and he is correct. However, his total commitment inspires so many to follow and offer help as needed and to continue to grow. Without him and his 'community does matter' spirit, Beartown would not be what it is today. On behalf of the entire Beartown community, Congratulations on a well-deserved award.”

Kirsten Pope had this to say about Mike in her nomination letter of support, “Mike's selfless gifts of time, heart, brain and brawn have also made this one of the few ski opportunities that is accessible for families, young and old, that could not afford to participate otherwise. Mike is loved and respected by so many, and he inspires so many of us to follow his lead. His giving is viral. For example, he creates community clean up days in the off season inviting us (including the children) to invest a little sweat equity in Beartown, making us feel this is all of ours to share.”

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“Each year, this award celebrates and acknowledges the selflessness of an outstanding resident in our community.,” said Plattsburgh Mayor Christopher Rosenquest. “Congratulations to Mike and thank you for all of your effort and dedication to our community.”

When Joanne Dahlen, a member of the Sunrise Rotary Mayor’s Cup Regatta & Festival Committee, contacted Mike about being named this year’s ‘Spirit of lanelli’ Award honoree he said he was honored and humbled but said, “I don’t do what I do to be recognized, I do it for the kids.” Joanne Dahlen could not help but immediately reply, “We know Mike, and we are pretty sure that is why you are so deserving of this award!”

Past Honorees

The past honorees of the "Spirit of lanelli" Award include:

- 2023 – Mia Taylor
- 2022- Julia Devine and Amy Guglielmo
- 2021 - Thom and Betty Loreman
- 2020 - Local Frontline Essential Workers
- 2019 - The Plattsburgh Air Park Restoration Group of Volunteers
- 2018 - Leigh and Stephens Mundy
- 2017 - Janet Duprey
- 2016 - Gordie Little
- 2015 - Local Law Enforcement of Clinton County, NY
- 2014 - Kit and Sally Booth
- 2013 - Bob Wallet
- 2012 - Roger Harwood
- 2011 - Matt Spiegel
- 2010 - Bob Pooler

About Sunrise Rotary and the Mayor’s Cup Regatta & Festival

The Sunrise Rotary Club is proud to host the 47th annual Mayor's Cup Regatta & Festival, Plattsburgh's most time-honored and highly anticipated summer tradition on Lake Champlain, on July 6, 2024. Sunrise Rotary hosts the Mayor’s Cup Regatta & Festival as a way for our community to come together and celebrate summer in the North Country and to enjoy the beauty of the Champlain Valley and the majestic Lake Champlain. Sponsor donations and proceeds from the sales of the highly popular Mayor’s Cup T-shirts help Sunrise Rotary support community-based projects, such as the Sunrise Rotary Pavilion at Wilcox Dock, the Sunrise Rotary Gazebo at the Samuel D. Champlain monument, the Max Moore Tree House at the SRT Trailhead and providing wheelchair accessibility to areas such as the Plattsburgh City Beach, Camp Tapawingo and the LaPierre Lane Park. Go to www.mayorscup.com for an up-to-date calendar of events for this year’s Mayor’s Cup Festival and to order Mayor’s Cup t-shirts (when available).

To learn more about the Sunrise Rotary Club, the community projects the club has helped to develop, the organizations we support locally and around the world, and how to become a member please visit www.plattsburghsunriserotary.org or contact the club at rotaryclub1982@gmail.com.

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