

Mary McPhee
Young Alumni Achievement Award 2012

Mary was raised in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia. She graduated from the Nova Scotia Agricultural College with a Diploma in Technology in 2003 and a Bachelor of Technology in 2005.

As a student, Mary was involved in every aspect of student life. She showed a real love of theatre, which led to her involvement in the AC Theatre society.

She was never on stage but was involved in every other aspect of the performance including stage management, costume design, hair and makeup. Kent Loughhead, director of the group remembered Mary as a backseat director, someone who would be watching the rehearsals, and would jump up and shout out ideas. They were always good ideas!

She set a great example as a student, by serving as vice president on the Student Union Executive then president for three years. Many staff still remember Mary as someone who was really actively involved in campus life.

After graduating Mary worked for Agrapoint, the Ships Company Theatre and the Town of Parrsboro planning department. In her role as a community development coordinator her work was instrumental in leading to a Communities in Bloom four-star rating for Parrsboro.

Mary is employed by the Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy, Canada's lead test centre for tidal energy technology. Mary manages FORCE's public facility, which offers educational exhibits and tours, interactive displays, a small theatre, and a direct view of the ocean test site in the Minas Passage, where 14 billion tonnes of water flow past at speeds up to five metres per second.

Mary lives in her hometown of Parrsboro with her partner Rob Fancy. Friends and colleagues describe Mary as dedicated to everything that she does and a person who always gives 110%.

Mary is an exceptionally active volunteer in her local community both at an organizational and hands on level. Mary is a director of Ship's Company Theatre, a member of the local trails committee and is active in the local Historical Society.

Her many activities also include being a regular volunteer for the Eco-Kids project which encourages children to play outdoors after school. She runs in a number of charitable events to raise money for the Age of Sale Centre and other organizations.

Jeff McCallum, a friend and former student who was unable to attend today passed on this message.

"I am so happy to see that Mary has been selected to receive the Young Alumni Achievement award. I am very proud of Mary and all that she did for the school while she was attending the AC and all that she has always contributed to her community at home. She really is an amazing woman and someone that I look up to for inspiration."

It is because of the active role that Mary plays in the community and her contribution to the Agricultural campus that she is a most deserving recipient of Dalhousie Faculty of Agriculture's Young Alumni Achievement Award for 2012.