

Community-minded Retiree

Norval McConnell



Community minded? Yes, indeed! That is **Norval McConnell**, a member of GMART Branch of the NBSRT and a 2018 inductee into the **Order of Moncton**. To capture fully all of the volunteer activities of this retiree has proven to be somewhat daunting.

Norval has been a long-time volunteer with the **YMCA** in Moncton. He was involved with the **Capital Campaign** for the new Y in the late 90s, then he chaired the **Community Campaign** as part of the Capital Campaign for the new North End YMCA. He finds the Y to

be a strong advocate and support for new families, struggling youth and seniors.

Volunteering for the **United Way** began when he served as the Educational Liaison for their annual campaign. He says that the United Way helps support one out of three people in Southeast New Brunswick, a remarkable work.

Another local event that Norval has been involved with for eleven years and has chaired for the past six years is the Greater Moncton **Dragonboat Festival**. The event raises money for the Lions Sick Children Fund, a local charity that assists families with expenses when they have a sick child whose expenses are not covered by Medicare or other sources.



The high school portion of the Dragonboat Festival is a highlight for Norval as there are up to thirty teams representing local high school students from Anglophone East. He remarks, "The energy and emotion on the afternoon of the Festival is a true joy."

Norval chaired the **2018 CCAA National Women's Basketball Championship** at Mt. Allison for which he had all general tournament planning responsibilities. Eight teams from across Canada participated in the successful March event, a lasting memory for him.

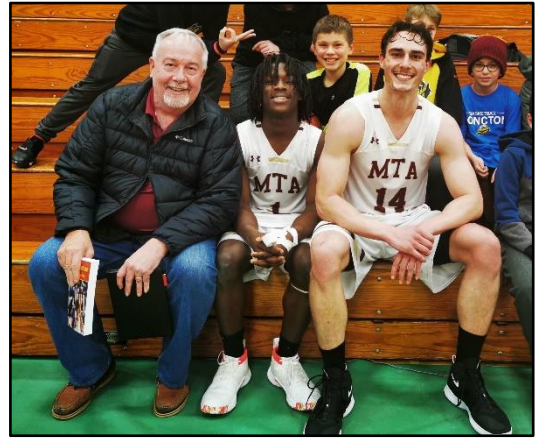


He is also a member of a group called **100 Men Who Care**. At an annual meeting of the group, Isthmus (Blessings in a Backpack) Food Support for Students in Greater Moncton presented and as a result, a volunteer group of around twenty-five including Norval and his wife prepares bags of food that they deliver to schools to give to students over the weekend when food sources at school are unavailable.

Another organization of which Norval is a member is the **Lion's Senior Club**. He has been its Board Vice President since 2019. Moncton has a Centre that provides programs for seniors such as personal wellness, finances, cooking, etc.

Norval has been on the **District Education Council** since 2016 which gives him the opportunity to use his experiences in education to support the work of Anglophone East teachers and students.

Other areas where Norval has volunteered are the **Multi Sport Camp** (20 years as Director), the **DNA SWAG Men's High School Hoop Classic**, the **2013 Under 18 National Football Championship** and **Community Outreach for the Moncton Miracles** (NBL Basketball League of Canada). He continues to **coach basketball** (almost 40 years now).



This GMART member enjoys assisting with activities for the Branch members as well as for his community. He is a committed and selfless volunteer! And a new golfer! This is **Norval McConnell!**

If you have an idea for a **SPOTLIGHT Feature**, contact Larry Farrell: farell@rogers.com