

Craig Thurston
Truro, Nova Scotia

Winner DIVISION AWARD OF MERIT, NON- MEMBER – 2009

The Division Award of Merit, Non-Member, recognizes an outstanding contribution by a non-member of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, in furthering the work of the MS Society on a provincial or regional basis.

This year's winner is Craig Thurston. As a teacher in Truro, Mr. Thurston is well known. But in addition to shaping the minds of future citizens, Craig is also working to create a future without multiple sclerosis through his continued leadership of the Truro MS Walk.

For 13 years, Craig Thurston's name has been synonymous with the MS Walk in his community. Craig chairs the local MS Walk planning committee, which means he organizes, promotes, and builds relationships to ensure a successful event. In his role as Chair, Craig has recruited Subway Restaurant as a sponsor to provide sub sandwiches for the MS Walk. He has also recruited the "person power" of the Kin Club of Truro to provide volunteers for the event.

Craig's work to support the Walk also includes proactive promotion including local newspapers and radio stations. Craig also makes promotion personal as he recruits members for the team he captains. Craig has mobilized his family and friends for Team Hummers. The Hummers carry the title of the Top Fundraising Team each year at the Truro MS Walk, including last year where they raised a team total of more than \$4,000.

In addition to providing leadership to one of the MS Society's signature events and the Truro MS Walk's top team, Craig is also a perennial individual top fundraiser. His personal total raised exceeds \$35,000!

In a volunteer landscape where volunteers can sometimes be hard to find, we're grateful for Craig's leadership, enthusiasm and fundraising efforts to end MS. For all these reasons, we are pleased to announce that Craig Thurston is this year's winner of the Atlantic Division Award of Merit, Non-Member.