

Citizen of the Year Recipients 1964-2024

1964 William G. Dandy
1965 Everett M. M Duckworth
1966 Walter A. Kennedy
1967 Norman P. Ordway
1968 Barbara & Harold Howe
1969 Roy W. Peaslee
1970 Richard D. Hanson
1971 Duncan Pearson
1972 Franklin Gregory
1973 Richard G. Rice
1974 Arthur O. Johnson
1975 Andrew M. Nicoll
1976 Muriel Howard & Halstead Colby
1977 Carl Smith
1978 Arthur Sinclair
1979 Stanley A. Flagg
1980 James E. Gergler
1981 Richard Bellerose
1982 William Hilton
1983 Robert O. Gosling
1984 Robert & Mary Lougee
1985 Carroll French
1986 Asa Morgan—A Selectman for 15 years; overseer of Public welfare for 20 years;
District Moderator for 29 years—and still active at the time of the award.
1987 Al Ward
1988 Frank D. Hirsh
1989 John Sheridan
1990 James Bucknam
1991 Leon Tucker
1992 Reginald Scott



The Citizen of the Year Bowl

Typical of the one above awarded to Jim Dimick– 2022

This Booklet is prepared and formatted
by

Jim Dimick and Eric Anderson

Bow Heritage Commission

February 17 2025



Sara H. Swenson—1993

For many years the Bow Men's Club has recognized members of the community who have extended themselves to serve the town and its citizens. This year is no exception. The person to be recognized has been a lifelong resident of Bow, educated in local schools and, with the exception of a few months, has continually been a presence in our community.

In due course she married and started a family that grew to four boys. When they started school, she began her involvement with community service. In succession she was an active member of the Bow Parent Teachers Organization, the Concord High School PTO and she was one of the founders of the Music Boosters, an organization that has contributed greatly to the music programs in the schools.

The person we are honoring tonight began her service to government in 1978 as a Supervisor of the Checklist. The following year she was elected to the Board of Selectmen and served in the capacity for 12 years. Along the way she has contributed to the work of the Sewer Commission, the Highway Safety Commission, the Planning Board, the Budget Committee and the Historical Commission where she continues to serve. In the years the town was seeking to gain a post office she was a volunteer postal clerk and provided much of the momentum to keep that project alive. She has served as ballot clerk and tonight is on duty as a Supervisor of the Checklist.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am very pleased, on behalf of the Bow Men's Club to present the 1994 Citizen of the Year Award to a person who selflessly served this community and its citizens with effectiveness and good humor. A woman who is truly a friend and good neighbor---SARA SWENSON.

Dave Colantuoni—1994

Dave Colantuoni—1994

Eleanor Still—1995

Eleanor Still, who founded Friends of Forgotten children and has dedicated her life and efforts to assisting families in need.

Eleanor Still—1995

Raymond Helgemoe—1996

Raymond Helgemoe and recognized his service to his country, state and community

Ray Helgemoe—1996

Horace Chip Bailey - 1997

Horace Chip Bailey was recognized for his many years and variety of service to the Town of Bow especially his assistance with the renovation of the Old Town Hall.



Evelyn Bechtel—1998

Evelyn Bechtel for her outstanding commitment to the town and for her wonderful community service.



Margaret Francour—1999

Margaret Francour for her many years of service to the Town of Bow, especially for her work on the Bow Haunted House and the Rescue Squad.





Peter Cheney—2000

Police Chief Peter Cheney and Deputy Chief Robert Graves—2000

Retired Police Chief Peter Cheney and to Retired Deputy Chief Robert Graves. Peter was not in attendance but was thanked for 25 years of service to the town, and Bob Graves was thanked for 21 years of service on the Police force.



Robert Graves—2000

Jonathan Hanson –2001



Jonathan Hanson—2001

H. Dana Abbott—2002

H. Dana Abbott of the Bow Fire Department was awarded the 2002 Citizen of the Year Award.



Pansy Bloomfield—2003

Pansy Bloomfield, a diligent community volunteer, and School Board Member was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award.



Linda Bucknam—2004

Linda Bucknam was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award for her community service and her involvement with Bow athletics, PTO, and many other contributions over the years.



Deborah Bourbeau—2005

Deborah Bourbeau was selected as the Citizen of the Year Award for her commitment to the community and her spirit of volunteerism is a major factor of why the Town Bow is a great place to live.



Marilyn Graf—2006

Marilyn Graf was posthumously awarded the Citizen of the Year Award for her many years of devoted service to our town.



Dick Welch—2007

Dick Welch was named Citizen of the Year for his many years of service to the town and for his years of quiet leadership of any number of projects in addition to the annual parade.



Bryan Westover—2008

Bryan Westover was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award for his many contributions to the Town of Bow and the community.



Raymond DeCourse—2009

Raymond DeCourse was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award for his service to the Country as a World War II Marine Corp veteran; for his service in the medical field by running the flu shot clinic and raising donations for the Trauma Center at Concord Hospital; his love of music and the young people which motivated him to help the youth find low or no cost musical instruments.



Lenny Virgin—2010

Lenny Virgin was awarded the Citizen of the Year Award. Lenny retired from the Bow Highway Department as a heavy equipment operator in October 11, 2011 after 44 years of service. While the Town honored him for his many years of exemplary service, the Bow Men's Club honored him for his quiet help to folks less fortunate and his devotion to family and friends.



Bruce Marshall—2011

Bruce Marshall was awarded Citizen of the Year. While Bruce has served the Town for several years on the Planning Board, the Bow Men's Club recognizes Bruce for his dedication to the youth of our town and for the outstanding job he did in rebuilding the Bow Youth Football into the strong organization it has become.



Bruce Marshall—2011

Charlie Griswold—2012

.Charles Griswold was awarded the Citizen of the Year.



Charlie Griswold—2012

Faye Johnson—2013

Faye Johnson was awarded the Citizen of the Year. Ms. Johnson became a member of the Bow Heritage Commission several years ago and currently serves as Secretary. Her love of history had made her a valued member helping with the restoration of the Old Bow School House. Ms. Johnson had attended many town events disseminating information and selling notecards and other materials. Recently, she had been a project leader for the Bow Bog Meeting House revitalization and renewal project. Through her dedication, the Town had received thousands of dollars from state grants for this project and Bow Bog Meeting House was designated a State historic site. Ms. Johnson also started the "100" club that takes donations for future restoration of that facility.



Faye Johnson—2013

Sherri Cheney—2014

Sherri Cheney was awarded the Citizen of the Year.



Sherri Cheney—2014

Paula Bourassa—2015

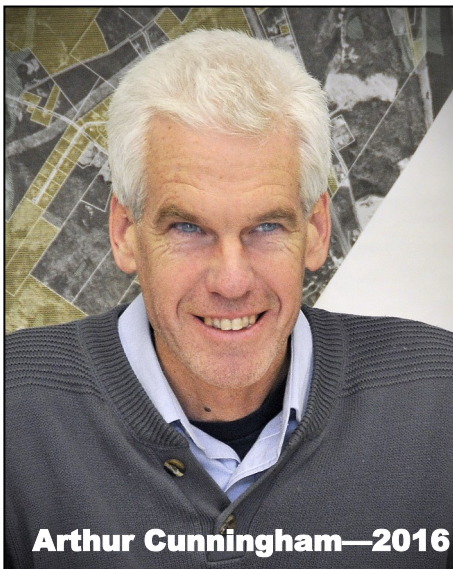
.Paula Bourassa was awarded the Citizen of the Year. Paula is a member of Parents of Performing Arts and has served as Treasurer of that organization. She has held many fundraisers, organized many trips and a key supporter of any child in the performing arts. She also played a large part in Destination Imagination experience of hundreds of students. She is the organizer of the after-school program, Bow Extracurricular Activities. Bow children benefit from her generosity.



Paula Bourassa—2015

Arthur Cunningham—2016

Arthur Cunningham was awarded the Citizen of the Year. Mr. Cunningham personifies commitment to volunteerism. He was a volunteer coach of T-ball, volleyball, basketball and soccer. He has been very active in the community and many youth organizations and has given his expertise to the Planning Board since 1997.



Arthur Cunningham—2016

David Rolla—2017

Dave Roland was awarded the Citizen of the Year. Dave has been very active in the community and many youth programs over the years. Among his many accomplishments are: volunteering with Habitat for Humanity; member of the Granite State Airport Managers Association and the Bow Men's Club; coach of youth football, lacrosse, chess and math club(s), and cross country trails and bridge making at Bow High School.

David Roland—2017

Glenn Dugas—2019

.Glen Dugas was awarded the Citizen of the Year. Glen is a longtime resident of Bow, coaching soccer for 20 years and baseball and softball for 7 years. He gave freely of his expertise as a contractor by serving on the Public Safety Building Committee and was one of three members who reviewed all proposals, interviewed bidders and recommended the finalist. Glenn has also served on the Capital Improvements Committee.

Glenn Dugas—2018

Eric Anderson –2019

Eric Anderson was awarded the Citizen of the Year. Eric is a veteran, and a longtime resident of Bow. He is a true dedicated booster of the Town, and served as a longtime public representative at both the state and local level.

Eric Anderson—2019

Dik Dagavarian—2020

Dik Dagavarian was awarded the Citizen of the Year. Dik has supported numerous town activities and is a member of multiple organizations. His fund-raising activity helped fund a lot of the essential activities during Covid.



Bryce Larabee—2021

Bryce Larabee was awarded the Citizen of the Year in 2021. Bryce provided over a decade of service to the Town of Bow supporting many boards and organizations. He has been a coach for numerous sports; organized multiple events; fundraised; and emceed other events. He is one of the towns biggest supporters of youth.



Jim Dimick—2022

Jim Dimick was awarded the Citizen of the Year 2022. Jim has been an active member of the Bow Heritage Commission since 2016. He was instrumental in establishing the Baker Heritage Room at the Baker Free Library. He helped photograph and inventory the Henry Baker Book Collection, and he set up and arranged an exhibit of Bow's Historic farm equipment and tools at the Library. He helped in the Bow Bog Meeting House shutter renovation project, which saved taxpayers thousands of dollars. He led the effort to re-roof the Historic Bow Center signage and is responsible for maintaining the Bow Heritage Commission website with its abundance of photos and historic information.



**Citizen of the Year Award
Sandy Crystall –2023**



This year's Citizen of the Year, Sandy Crystall, was chosen for her devotion to the conservation of Bow.

Protecting all creatures' great and small, Sandy has been instrumental in protecting wetlands, conserving land for recreational use and protecting wildlife habitat in Bow for the last 23 years. She has served on the Conservation Commission for the last 15 years and has served for extended periods on the Planning Board, on the Drinking Water Protection Committee, and Bow Open Spaces.

Sandy's approach to problem solving has been exemplary. She uses data driven approaches to explore issues and bring together multiple stakeholders to find the best solutions. Her outward passion for the natural resources of Bow is contagious. Sandy's knowledge is critical to the commercial and residential development of Bow while keeping in mind the land and its natural inhabitants.

Bow residents should take pride in the abundance of natural resources in our town. It is very apparent that Sandy's numerous contributions over many years will help preserve these resources for future generations.

With great pleasure the 2024 Citizen of the Year award is presented to Sandy Crystall.



Bow Community Men's Club President Gregory Cordier presented Sandy Crystall with the Citizen of the Year Award at Bow's Annual Town Meeting on March 13, 2024 in the Bow High School Auditorium.
(Photo by Eric Anderson)

**Citizen of the Year Award
Richard Oberman – 2025**

Citizen of the Year: Richard Oberman



Bow Community Men's Club President Gregory Cordier presented Richard Oberman with the Citizen of the Year Award at Bow's Annual Town Meeting on March 12, 2025 in the Bow High School Auditorium. *(Photo by Jim Dimick)*

This year's Citizen of the Year was chosen for his devotion and selflessness in serving the people of Bow.

As a coach for youth sports Rich has impacted the children of Bow by teaching them not only the athletic skills to succeed in their sport, but also sportsmanship and humility.

As a former president and board member of the Bow Community Men's club, Rich has helped to raise thousands of dollars that have been donated directly to youth clubs, charities, town organizations, and Troop 75, the local Scouts of America troop in Bow. Through his leadership, more than \$10,000 in scholarships has been donated to graduating seniors of Bow High School to continue their education.

As the State Surgeon, Wellness Director, and a Colonel in the New Hampshire Army National Guard, Rich has served not only his community, but also his country. He worked tirelessly to improve medical readiness for the NH Army National Guard, and advocate for New Hampshire veterans suffering from PTSD, depression, anxiety, and substance misuse by helping to establish programs to combat behavioral and mental health issues.

Perhaps Rich's most significant contribution to the community of Bow is his dedication and expertise in his role as a Paramedic and Lieutenant with the Bow Fire Department. Seemingly always on-call, he regularly puts aside his personal life to respond to medical emergencies in Bow and the surrounding communities. He has provided emergency medical care and saved the lives of hundreds of Bow residents, some of whom are likely in this room tonight.

People who know him will tell you that he is one of the most selfless people they know. It gives me great pleasure to present Rich Oberman the 2025 Citizen of the Year Award.