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## 2928 RCACC wins Strathcona Cup

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The 2928 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps in Truro was thrilled to receive the Lord Strathcona Cup Wednesday. Accepting the award that recognizes the group as the best army cadet corps in the province, were, from left, warrant officers Amanda Parker, Mitchell Ellsworth and Brittanee Steeves. On top with the cup is chief warrant officer Francis Castein.

TRURO – If Amanda Parker had not seen the massive cup for herself, she would have doubted its existence.

“My heart picked up its pace,” she said when she and fellow cadets with the 2928 Royal Canadian Army Cadet Corps heard they were recipients of the Lord Strathcona Cup Wednesday.

“I am really excited just knowing we won because as a group we try really, really hard. It makes me feel good about myself and it’s a big award not many get,” said Parker.

Bob Baxter, president of the Army Cadet League of Nova Scotia, made the presentation.

The prestigious cup is awarded annually by the Nova Scotia branch of the Army Cadet League of Canada to the most outstanding army cadet corps of the year. The corps is chosen based on a number of factors including cadet training, leadership, citizenship, physical fitness and promoting an interest in Canada’s army. This is the first time the local corps has received it since the corps began 36 years ago.

There are 29 army corps in Nova Scotia.

Warrant officer Mitchell Ellsworth said the honour was important to the corps.

“It’s a big deal that out of all of Nova Scotia we got it,” said Ellsworth.

“I never expected it and it’s pretty exciting,” added Warrant officer Brittanee Steeves.

Chief warrant officer Francis Castein couldn't stop smiling during the presentation.

"To receive something like this for all our hard work, wow! It motivates cadets to keep going."

Community involvement was also a vital reason for the corps' success. Cadets have helped with the Relay for life, Children's Wish Parade, Battle of Britain, Battle of Atlantic, Remembrance Day parade, legion Poppy Campaign, Salvation Army Kettle Campaign, Christmas Index, Colchester Food Bank and with Truro police special projects.

"You were good at everything you did,"

Baxter told the cadets. "You were what Lord Strathcona wanted youth of this country to become."

Lord Strathcona was Sir Donald Smith, a Canadian who in 1910 donated \$500,000 to army cadets to further their training.

The corps' deputy commanding officer, Keri Winkelaar, was thrilled the efforts of the young men and women were acknowledged with the award.

"They have been developing in the community for years and they are finally being recognized for it," said Winkelaar. "This is a very prestigious award, all the cadets, staff, their family and friends should be proud of this accomplishment."

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