



23rd ANNUAL SALUTE TO
Laudable Londoners

Celebrating Emma Donoghue

On May 25, 2022, the 23rd Annual Salute to the Laudable Londoners was held at the London Hunt Club, and raised over \$41,200!

Even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, almost 90 people gathered to celebrate Emma Donoghue, a truly global citizen and this year's honouree. Emma is the internationally bestselling author of *Room*, as well as numerous other best-selling novels, award-winning screenplays, and the children's series, *The Lottery*.

Emma has used her phenomenal literary achievement to effect positive change throughout the world. She has generously contributed both the prize money and royalties from her children's books to help alter lives in indigenous communities, refugees, and girls in Asia and Africa.

Emma is a strong supporter of the Grand Theatre, and values libraries for providing equitable access to reading materials, information and technology for everyone in the community, and as avid readers, she and her family have spent many hours at London Public Library locations.



Left to right: Phil Serrien, Brian Dunne, Erin Rankin-Nash, and Kathy Longo

Marian Strom, Chair of the PHSS Foundation, welcomed the audience by highlighting PHSS and its successes, as well as new projects such as "Love the World, Experience the World" (LWEW). She introduced this year's recipient and spoke about her achievements and generosity.

Councilor Maureen Cassidy mentioned that "for Emma, the reach has been global, profound and life-changing". Dorothy Downs, Executive Director of Forest City Film Festival, said that Emma is the most deserving person to be named as a Laudable Londoner, as she is a generous and giving person who cares deeply about the community.

"Arts and storytelling, in particular, have an ability of their own to touch people deeply and have lasting effects on our points of view and perspectives."

- Dorothy Downs, Forest City Film Festival

"The combination of openness and faithfulness that makes Emma a great writer and the best of friends is both exceedingly rare and well suited to the philanthropy that we are here to recognize."

- Dr. Anne Schuurman

"Emma's writing reflects who she is as a person - she cares about the world and she's one of the most engaging and generous people I know."

- Dr. Chris Roulston



Left to right: Perry Clouston, John Clouston, Mary Aziz, Victor Aziz, and Larry Myny

Dr. Anne Schuurman, Emma's long-time friend and professor, addressed the audience to thank Emma for being a good friend and kind-hearted person whose consideration is unparalleled regardless of the circumstances.

She spoke highly about Emma's fidelity to her work, history, and community, and commented that Emma works hard to be faithful in all of her positions in life, including writer, mother, partner, and friend.

Dr. Chris Roulston, Emma's wife, joined the stage and discussed how "Emma spends her time imagining other worlds, but her writing is always a meditation on the world we live in." She presented a number of personal stories that demonstrated Emma's conviction in her abilities and how she is a shining example of a Laudable Londoner.

Emma was humbled by all of the positive stories and testimonials. She thanked everyone in attendance and noted that being acknowledged for her contributions to the community is a tremendous accomplishment and honour.

Sandra Regalo, supported by PHSS, presented Emma with the 2022 Laudable Londoner award. An inukshuk is selected, as it symbolizes the ripple effects of one person on a community, and Sandra was thrilled to present this year's Laudable Londoner award, as she truly admires Emma.

Proceeds from the event benefit people with complex medical, physical and/or developmental needs. *Every donation makes a difference* in enriching the lives of the people we support.

To learn more about PHSS, the people we support, how to make a donation, or to get involved, please visit our website at www.PHSScommunity.com.



Left to right: Emma Donoghue, Chris Roulston, Anne Schuurman, Sandra Regalo, and Marian Strom



Emma Donoghue & Bill Brady



Donna Ladouceur, Catherine Sexton & Linda Ballantyne



Mina & Amany Abdelsayed



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