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Honouring Extraordinary Bravery in Whitby

WHITBY - This past week, Whitby honored some of the bravest of the brave.

Three members of Whitby Fire and Emergency Services — Captain Christopher Curry, Firefighter Terry Williams, and Firefighter Adonis Perez were among the recipients of the 2024 Ontario Medal of Firefighter Bravery.

On August 20, 2024, Whitby Fire and Emergency Services responded to a house fire with reports of a person trapped on the second floor. Captain Christopher Curry and Firefighters Terry Williams and Adonis Perez encountered intense flames, heavy smoke and worsening conditions. Advancing with a fire hose, they extinguished fire after fire while searching for the occupant. They forced open a blocked door and found the unresponsive victim in a bedroom. Suddenly, the ceiling collapsed on the crew. Despite their training that calls for retreat, they pushed forward, cleared debris and created a path to carry the occupant to safety. Curry, Williams and Perez showed exceptional courage, staying calm and refusing to back down under extreme danger to save someone's life.

Congratulations and thank you, Captain Curry, Firefighter Williams, and Firefighter Perez!

Town of Whitby - Local Government and this news-paper.

Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence Awards Room 217 for Exceptional Contribution

Port Perry, ON – November 27, 2025 - The Room 217 Foundation has received the Outstanding Achievement Award at the Canadian Caregiving Summit in Ottawa on Monday November 3. Presented to “an organization making an outstanding contribution to raising awareness of the experiences and challenges of caregivers in Canada,” the award recognizes Room 217’s national leadership in advancing music-based approaches to care.

Founder and Executive Director, Bev Foster, reflected on the significance of the moment.

“Who could have imagined that what began as a response to the experience of my father’s death in Room 217 at the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital in 2002 would touch so many lives more than 20 years later? This award belongs to the many people who have joined my husband, Rob, and me in building a movement that is tangible, effective, and economical. We deeply appreciate everyone who has contributed to realizing the vision of making music an integral part of care in Canada.”

The Room 217 Foundation extends its sincere gratitude to the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence and the Azrieli Foundation for this meaningful acknowledgment.

About the Canadian Caregiving Summit

The Canadian Caregiving Summit is a national conference hosted by the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence, a program of the Azrieli Foundation. This two-day event brings together paid and unpaid caregivers, system leaders, policy makers, researchers, and advocates from across Canada’s healthcare, disability, aging, and community-care sectors. Its central mission is to elevate caregiving as a national priority and to collaboratively shape a more inclusive, sustainable, and human-centred vision for care in Canada.

About the Room 217 Foundation

The Room 217 Foundation is a music-based health arts organization located in Port Perry, serving communities across Canada. The Foundation provides training, resources, and certification programs that equip caregivers to integrate music intentionally into healthcare and community settings. With an evidence-informed approach that bridges arts and health, Room 217 empowers caregivers to enhance quality of life and wellbeing through music, supporting a more compassionate, person-centred care experience.

Image above– “Bev Foster, Room 217 Foundation Founder and ED, with Liv Mendelsohn, ED of the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence at the Canadian Caregiver Summit in Ottawa.”