

Residents recognized with medals

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John Scott

Scott was chosen to receive a Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers in recognition of 27 years of research and advocacy on Lyme disease and tick populations in Canada.

He and his wife Catherine, founded what is now called Lyme Ontario after it took four years for each of them to be diagnosed with Lyme disease.

"Basically I started from scratch," Scott told the *Advertiser* on March 13.

"I was determined to do something and figure out what was going on across Canada with ticks and Lyme disease and so I just kept going from there."

He has published more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific articles on the topic.

In addition to his research, Scott also works with patients, providing information, advice and aid in finding a doctor, etc.

"Over the years he has personally spoken to about 2,500 people, and has helped them get diagnosed and treated in a timely manner by giving them the names of Lyme-literate, health-care professionals," Sharleine Haycock

wrote in Scott's nomination letter.

A government press release states the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers recognizes "exceptional volunteer achievements of individuals from across the country in a wide range of fields.

"As an official Canadian honour, the medal pays tribute to the dedication and exemplary commitment of volunteers."

Even though he was unable to attend the March 9 ceremony Scott said he was pleasantly surprised when he found out he was receiving the award.

"I was very disappointed but I had to make sure I took care of my health so I stayed home," Scott said.

He added he was "deeply honoured ... to be acknowledged for all the work that I've done."

Background

The Governor General awards are presented "on behalf of all Canadians in communities across the country to help share inspir-



JOHN SCOTT

ing stories, celebrate tremendous contributions to our society and connect with Canadians," the government press release stated.

"From community volunteers to astronauts, from actors to members of the military, from scholars to everyday citizens, hundreds of Canadians earn our applause and gratitude."

For a full list of award recipients visit www.gg.ca.