

MUTUAL AID HEROES

To celebrate and encourage the practice of Mutual Aid in congregations, four Certificates of Appreciation were awarded by MAX Canada Mutual Aid Ministries program at the close of 2008. "These certificates are provided to extend positive affirmation when we become aware of significant acts of Mutual Aid in our congregations. We want to recognize those who have unselfishly practiced mutual aid," said Nelson Scheifele, Director of Mutual Aid Ministries for MAX Canada.

The 2008 certificates were awarded to two congregations and two individuals: Prespatou Mennonite Church near Fort St. John, BC; Petitediac Mennonite Church in New Brunswick; Gerald Zielman of the Zurich Mennonite Church (Ontario) and Wilbur Roth of First Mennonite Church, Kitchener, Ontario. The certificates read in part, "For being our Mutual Aid Hero and providing outstanding Mutual Aid Ministry".

Prespatou Mennonite was awarded the certificate for offering generous spiritual and financial support to a family whose 23 year old son required extensive treatment for Leukemia at a centre eight hours distance from their home. Petitediac Mennonite extended generous financial and medical leave assistance to their part time pastoral couple during a health crisis. Gerald Zielman organized a congregational MDS crew to assist a young uninsured couple with water damage in their home due to frozen pipes. Wilbur Roth assisted a family at First Mennonite with water seepage problems and improper sump pump drainage to prevent further damage to their home.

MAX Canada Mutual Aid Ministries was privileged to assist with financial aid grants from its Share Fund in each of these situations. "However," emphasizes Scheifele, "the work and motivation for providing assistance came from individuals and the commitments of the congregations." To make a nomination for a "Mutual Aid Hero" or to learn more about Mutual Aid Share Fund grants, contact mutualaid@maxcanada.org.

For more information contact



MAX Canada Agent Dale Good presenting a Mutual Aid Ministries Certificate of Appreciation to Gerald Zielman at Zurich Mennonite Church, December 29, 2008.



From left to right: Dale Good (MAX Canada Agent), Gerald Zielman (Certificate Recipient), John and Melanie Drummond (Aid Recipients), Rob Steckle (Zurich Mennonite Church Elder).