

COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 1999 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the nomination of the following people for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 1999.
2. **THAT** Council invite the nominees to a future Council meeting to be presented with certificates of recognition for their contributions.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee at its meeting held on 1999 September 22, received and adopted the *attached* report recommending a list of Burnaby residents for consideration for Local Hero Awards for 1999.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Vice Chair

:COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES
- DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING

TO: CHAIR & MEMBERS 1999 September 14
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING Our File: 17.413

SUBJECT: 1999 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

PURPOSE: To recommend a list of Burnaby residents for consideration for Local Hero Awards for 1999.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council be asked to
 - a) approve the nomination of the following people for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 1999:
 - Georgie Cole
 - Marjorie Deschner
 - Gloria Inglis
 - Effie Kennedy
 - Erna Kozak
 - Marion Krause
 - Nick Kvenich
 - George MacLean
 - Scott Robertson
 - Ken Ryan
 - Rudy Spence
 - Don Steen
 - Barbara Stewart
 - Tim Zimich
 - b) invite the nominees to a future Council meeting to be presented with certificates of recognition for their contributions.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In 1997 and 1998, Burnaby participated in the Social Planning & Research Council (SPARC) of BC's Local Hero initiative. Through the initiative, Burnaby joined other municipalities in the province in identifying and recognizing Local Heroes: people who had made significant contributions to community well being over several years. The City recognized a total of sixteen Local Heroes - seven in 1997 and nine in 1998 (see Appendix 1, *attached*).

Recognizing the inherent value of acknowledging citizens for their contributions to the community, the Community Issues & Social Planning (CISPC) recommended that the City make recognition of Local Heroes an annual event in Burnaby. Council adopted the recommendation at its meeting of 1998 December 14. The CISPC also developed guidelines for the annual Local Hero recognition events, which were adopted by Council on 1999 February 1.

This report summarizes steps taken to seek nominations for the 1999 Local Hero recognition, summarizes and assesses the submissions, and recommends a list of nominees for consideration for awards.

2.0 NOMINATION PROCESS AND SUBMISSIONS

Staff used four channels to seek nominees for the 1999 Local Hero awards: advertisements in Burnaby's community newspapers, a call for nominations through the City's web site, distribution of information through Burnaby recreation centres, and requests to selected agencies to "get the word out" about the initiative. To avoid creating confusion with the Kushiro Cup Citizen of the Year event, which takes place in May of each year, staff waited until June to call for nominations of Local Heroes.

A total of fifteen nominations were submitted, representing a diversity of backgrounds and contributions to the community. The nominees were as follows:

- ***Beth Chobotuk:*** Beth has been active resident of east Burnaby for several years. She has taken a variety of leadership roles with Second Street Community School, such as organizing Pioneer Teas, teaching family craft nights at the school, supporting the community garden, and helping with the school's Breakfast Club. According to her nominator: "The (community school) staff, children, and parents all appreciate the many positive qualities she brings to the community. Her energy and friendly personality shine through in everything she does."

- **Georgie Cole:** Like Beth Chobotuk, Georgie is a long term resident of east Burnaby who has made significant contributions to the community. Her activities include participating in the East Burnaby Ratepayers' Association, Eastside Opportunities Society, and East Burnaby United Church. She has been particularly helpful to Second Street Community School, undertaking such activities as serving on the Community School Council, baking muffins for the Breakfast Club, organizing line dances, serving as a guest reader for the students, and planning for school age child care programs. The nomination form describes Georgie as a person who is "good at getting different kinds of people working together. . . (and) is always optimistic, cheerful, and enthusiastic about the community."
- **Marjorie Deschner:** Marjorie has lived in north Burnaby for over 30 years. Together with her husband Frank (now deceased), she has been a solid supporter of the Burnaby Minor Lacrosse Association. She has contributed in a variety of ways including ticket taking, organizing breakfasts, and cheering on the teams. In addition to her work with the Lacrosse Association, Marjorie has been an active member of the Burnaby Loughheed Lions Club, helping with several of the club's community projects.
- **Gloria Inglis:** Gloria is described as a person who "makes a difference in people's lives." She was a founding member of the On Our Own Club (an informal self help group for seniors who are on their own and would benefit from friendship and activities), volunteers for seniors who need a "shopping buddy," works at the Burnaby Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop, and serves as a Victim Assistance Volunteer with the RCMP.
- **Effie Kennedy:** Effie is a retired nurse with a long and distinguished record of professional and volunteer service to the community. She was one of four nurses who helped to establish the Greater Vancouver Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention Centre in the early 1970s. In Burnaby, she has shown her compassion through such activities as serving as a Senior Citizen's Counsellor, helping seniors with their income tax forms, and providing a "listening ear" to children or anyone in need of help. Ms. Kennedy is 86 years old and lives in the Fair Haven United Church Home.
- **Erna Kozak:** Erna is an accomplished athlete who volunteers through Burnaby Central Secondary School in helping young people with running. She serves as a coach and mentor, working with students at the school track and even meeting them on weekends and during the summer to monitor and motivate them in their training.

She is willing to work with anyone who has a desire to improve and have fun in the process - not only gifted athletes. Parents of students who trained with Erna describe her as “a positive force beyond the home (who) encourages young people to set personal goals and to work to achieve their ‘personal best’.”

- **Marion Krause:** Eight years ago, after having to leave her legal secretary job for medical reasons, Marion became a volunteer at Burnaby Family Life Institute (BFLI). She assists the Institute’s reception and administrative team, devoting 20 hours per week to her duties. She also volunteers for Burnaby Psychiatric Services and helps in her housing co-op, organizing special events, meetings, and children’s activities. According to her nomination form, “Marion takes pride in nurturing everyone . . . she responds to the public sensitively and respectfully . . . her effort benefits hundreds of families in Burnaby and makes our community a better place to live.”
- **Nick Kvenich:** Nick has volunteered in many capacities over the years, devoting time and energy to such diverse activities as the Cliff Avenue Soccer Club, Burnaby Optimist Club, Scouts Canada, Community Policing, Eagle Creek Streamkeepers, and SUCCESS. His wife jokingly refers to Nick as a “do gooder.” She notes, however, that “he is the type of person you want on your team because he is hard working, and can always be relied on to get the job done.”
- **George MacLean:** From 1946 to the present, George has been making a significant contribution to Burnaby. To cite but a few examples, he served on City Council for 18 years, the Parks & Recreation Commission for 15 years, and the Advisory Planning Commission for 8 years. He also coached minor softball and hockey and served on such bodies as the Burnaby Rotary Club, Burnaby Hospital Society, Central Burnaby Ratepayers Association, Westburn Community Association, and the Burnaby Centennial Committee. In recognition of George’s outstanding contributions, the City conferred the title of Freeman upon him in 1989.
- **Scott Robertson:** Despite having a disability, Scott has made a concerted effort to contribute to the community. He is a valued member of the Burnaby Host Lions Club, devoting considerable time and energy to the club’s projects. He helps with the Lions’ bingo nights, fundraising, and other club events. To quote from his nomination form, he provides “an excellent example that disabilities can be overcome in work as a citizen volunteer.”
- **Ken Ryan:** Ken has volunteered in several capacities in north east Burnaby. Examples include the District 2 Community Police Advisory Council, Lochdale Community School Association, Kensington Merchants’ Association, and Sunshine Walk Committee. His nominator describes Ken as a person with “contagious

enthusiasm and boundless energy . . . (who) encourages other community members to get on the ball and make things happen.”

- **Rudy Spence:** Rudy has a long list of accomplishments, giving his energies to such groups as the Burnaby Library Board, Burnaby School Board, Burnaby Arts Council, Burnaby Art Gallery, Burnaby Multicultural Society, Burnaby Metrotown Rotary Club, Heart Fund Campaign, and Community Issues & Social Planning Committee. In addition to his contributions to Burnaby, Rudy has also participated in numerous regional, provincial, and federal initiatives (e.g., BC Education Advisory Council, MOSAIC, Canadian Citizenship Federation, Citizens’ Advisory Panel of the Vancouver Sun).
- **Don Steen:** Don is a lifelong Burnaby resident who believes strongly in the benefits of being physically active. He started the Burnaby Striders Track and Field Club in 1958, serving as its head coach for 20 years. As a physical education teacher at Burnaby South, Don developed a series of strong track and field teams, founded the school’s first wrestling team, and coached basketball and rugby at the school. In the early 1970s, he chaired the Burnaby Rugby Committee, which was responsible for the design, funding, and construction of the clubhouse at Burnaby Lake. In the 1990s, Don coached blind and visually impaired athletes, helped organize the 1994 BC Games for Athletes With Disabilities, and sat on the 1997 BC Summer Games Board of Directors.
- **Barbara Stewart:** Barbara has lived in Burnaby for 45 years, contributing to the city and region in several capacities. For the past ten years, she has served on the Sharing Our Future Foundation for Burnaby Association for the Mentally Handicapped. She has also held several positions with the Variety Club, serving as the first woman Chief Barker in 1987-88, and receiving the Presidential Citation from Variety Club International for her extensive contributions. Barbara’s other activities include serving on the advisory board for Ronald MacDonald House, helping out at Brentwood Park Elementary School, and serving on the Burnaby Arts Council and Board of Directors of CrimeStoppers.
- **Tim Zimich:** Tim currently serves as President of Burnaby Family Life Institute. He brings business sector skills and experience to the Institute, helping in such areas as marketing, advertising, promotion, and fundraising. Tim has also contributed to various other community functions, such as Discovery Day, the Labatt’s 24 Hour Relay, and fundraising for the Children’s Hospital. According to the Executive Director of BFLI, “we can always count on Tim to search for creative solutions for any problem that arises. Tim has demonstrated excellent organizational skills combined with respectful, compassionate people skills... He is modest to a fault and works for the betterment of the community rather than his own recognition.”

3.0 ASSESSMENT

One of the above nominees, Beth Chobotuk, was recognized as a Local Hero in 1997. Notwithstanding her significant contributions, the Local Hero recognition is intended to be a “once in a lifetime” acknowledgement of service. It is therefore recommended that Ms. Chobotuk’s name be withdrawn from consideration for an award this year.

The remaining fourteen nominees satisfy the guidelines for Local Hero recognition. They have made strong contributions to community well being over several years. Also, collectively, they constitute a balanced “slate” of nominees, living in various parts of the city and representing a diversity of interests (i.e., community services, education, culture and recreation, and the environment).

The guidelines for Local Hero recognition place a cap of twenty individuals who can be recognized in a given year. Given that the fourteen nominees under consideration meet the program guidelines and fall below this cap, it is considered appropriate that all fourteen be recognized as Local Heroes for 1999.

4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1999 marks the third year that Burnaby has recognized Local Heroes and the first year that it has done so as a City initiative (i.e., independent of an invitation from SPARC of BC). The program has grown each year, going from seven nominations in 1997, to nine in 1998, to fourteen in 1999 (excluding one nominee who had previously been recognized). With additional publicity, and growing public awareness of the program, it is expected that the number of nominations should continue to increase in the years ahead.

Based on an assessment of the submissions, it is recommended that Council be asked to:

- a) approve the nomination of the following people for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 1999:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| • Georgie Cole | • George MacLean |
| • Marjorie Deschner | • Scott Robertson |
| • Gloria Inglis | • Ken Ryan |
| • Effie Kennedy | • Rudy Spence |
| • Erna Kozak | • Don Steen |
| • Marion Krause | • Barbara Stewart |
| • Nick Kvenich | • Tim Zimich |

- b) invite the nominees to a future Council meeting to be presented with certificates of recognition for their contributions.

Given Committee and Council concurrence with this recommendation, staff would propose to publish an article on the Local Hero recipients in InfoBurnaby and arrange for publication of their names in SPARC News (SPARC of BC's newsletter, which is circulated throughout the province).



D.G. Stenson, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

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attachment

cc: City Manager
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

APPENDIX 1

**PREVIOUS BURNABY
LOCAL HEROES**

1997

Barbara Brady
Don Brown
Beth Chobotuck
Don Copan
Edie Fisher
Maddie Greenlay
Barb Peabody

1998

Ray Abernethy
Allison Dalglish
Bharti Envik
Lilac Jung
Faye Ku
Ruth Loland
Anita Loy
Melody Marbach
Sharon Mudrakoff

