

CITY OF BURNABY
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 2001 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the nominations of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2001:
 - Roxy Abernethy
 - Beverly Adams
 - Tracie Buzza
 - Dennis Baker
 - Joan Carne
 - Paulene Hall
 - Christina Lupien
 - Judi Marshall
 - Louise Towell
 - Sandy Twinn
 - Marguerite Wallace

2. **THAT** Council invite the nominees to a Council meeting in November, during Social Planning Month, to be presented with certificates of recognition for their contributions.

3. **THAT** Council approve the expenditure of up to \$3,000 from the 2002 Council Committees and Boards Budget for the printing of brochures and poster and placement of newspaper advertisements for next year's Local Hero program.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 2001 September 26, received and adopted the *attached* report recommending a list of Burnaby residents for consideration for Local Hero Awards for 2001 and to gain approval for launching a Local Hero program for 2002.

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR FINANCE
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.
- DIR. PARKS, REC. & CULT. SERV.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston

Chair

Councillor N. Harris
Vice Chair

TO: CHAIR & MEMBERS
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL
PLANNING COMMITTEE

2001 September 19

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

Our File: 17.931

SUBJECT: 2001 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

PURPOSE: To recommend a list of Burnaby residents for consideration for Local Hero Awards for 2001 and to gain approval for launching a Local Hero program for 2002.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council be asked to
 - a) approve the nominations of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2001:
 - Roxy Abernethy
 - Beverly Adams
 - Tracie Buzza
 - Dennis Baker
 - Joan Carne
 - Paulene Hall
 - Christina Lupien
 - Judi Marshall
 - Louise Towell
 - Sandy Twinn
 - Marguerite Wallace
 - b) invite the nominees to a Council meeting in November, during Social Planning Month, to be presented with certificates of recognition for their contributions.
 - c) approve the expenditure of up to \$3000 from the 2002 Council Committees and Boards Budget for the printing of brochures and posters and placement of newspaper advertisements for next year's Local Hero program.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Each year since 1997, Burnaby has identified and recognized Local Heroes: people who had made substantial contributions to community well being over several years. In 1997 and 1998, the impetus came from the Social Planning & Research Council (SPARC) of BC, which invited Burnaby and other municipalities in the province to undertake a Local Hero initiative. Beginning in 1999, the City decided to launch its own annual Local Hero recognition program.

To date, the City has recognized 41 Local Heroes - individuals who represent diverse interests and background and have contributed to the community in a variety of ways (see list of previous recipients in Appendix 1, *attached*).

This report provides background information and recommendations on the nominees for the 2001 Local Hero program.

2.0 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

As in previous years, the following channels were used to seek nominations for the 2001 Local Hero awards: advertisements in Burnaby's community newspapers, a call for nominations through the City's web site, and requests to participants at various inter-agency meeting to "get the word out" about the initiative. This year, the City also prepared brochures and posters to publicize the program. These materials were circulated through Burnaby schools, City Hall, recreation centres, libraries, and other venues. A copy of the brochure, which includes the eligibility guidelines and nomination form, is presented in Appendix 2, *attached*.

Twelve nominations were submitted for this year's Local Hero recognition program. One nominee, Barb Peabody, 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. Therefore, Ms. Peabody would not be eligible to be recognized a second time under the program. Her nominator has been advised of this.

The eligible nominees were as follows:

- **Roxy Abernethy:** Roxy is a lifelong Burnaby resident who has made a significant contribution to the well being of youths in the city - particularly in the area of youth sports. Roxy has been active with the Burnaby Minor Softball Association for over 35 years, both as a coach and, more recently, as president. Roxy has also been involved with Parent Advisory Councils at the elementary and secondary school

levels in Burnaby. In addition, she played a key role in founding Burnaby KidSport - an organization dedicated to raising money to increase accessibility for local youths to participate in sports. According to her nominator, "Roxy has great caring and consciousness for the community." The nominator further noted, "if you want something done, give it to Roxy."

- **Beverly Adams:** Described as a "dynamo" by her nominator, Beverly is a long-time Burnaby resident who has made a significant contribution to the local performing arts scene. For the past 25 years, Beverly has been involved with directing and performing with the Vaudeville Varieties at the Burnaby Village Museum. She has also participated in community theatre productions with Heritage Musical Theatre and the Footlight Theatre Company. Beverly has supported and served as a mentor to other performers, teaching them vocal and choral music, acting skills, and stage etiquette. To quote from her nomination form: "Beverly gives unselfishly of her time and talent to the community, while subtly teaching us that life is much better when infused with grace, laughter, and forgiveness."
- **Dennis Baker:** Dennis has lived in Burnaby since 1965. He has been an active member of the Lougheed Lions Club, serving on the club's Housing Society and chairing several fundraising events geared to helping local sporting groups and community organizations. Dennis has also worked with Burnaby Minor Hockey and played Santa Claus at numerous community events involving young children. The person submitting the nomination characterises Dennis as "a very community-oriented individual" - the essence of a Local Hero.
- **Tracie Buzza:** Tracie is being nominated for her varied and significant contributions to the Stride community. She has served in leadership roles with the Stride Community Council and District Community School Advisory and Coordinating Committee. She has helped to plan, implement, and raise funds for numerous projects at Stride Avenue Community School. Also, she has shown a passion for earthquake preparedness, educating children, parents and the community about the topic and helping to spearhead development and implementation of the Stride Avenue Community School Emergency Preparedness Plan. Tracie's nominator credits her with being a "positive influence on the community . . . someone who gets the job done and whose efforts come from the heart."
- **Joan Carne and Louise Towell:** Joan and Louise are part of the Byrne Creek Streamkeepers, a group dedicated to the enhancement and restoration of the Byrne Creek Watershed. They played a lead role in initiating the Stream of Dreams project. The project involved creation of a mural on a City-owned fence at the corner of Kingsway and Edmonds which displays wooden fish that have been painted by community members. It's intent was to raise awareness about the importance of

urban creeks and the need to keep toxic materials out of the storm drain system. At present, about 2600 fish are on the fence; eventually, the total is expected to increase to 5000. The project elicited involvement from thousands of people in south Burnaby - even spawning interest in the creation of similar murals at Cascade Heights and Windsor Elementary Schools. To quote the person nominating Joan and Louise, "their dedication and devotion to the restoration of the creek drives them to do as much as possible, and even a bit of the impossible . . . (They) are Local Heroes in every sense, and deserve to be recognized as such by the City that has benefited so tremendously by their efforts."

- **Paulene Hall:** Paulene has been an active volunteer in many capacities over the years, most notably with Girl Guides. A sampling of Paulene's activities with the Guides includes serving as Burnaby Royal Area Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner of the Provincial Awards Committee, Trelfoil Guild Liaison on the Provincial Committee, Deputy Commissioner on the Provincial Awards Committee, and member of the Guide House Committee. For her notable contributions, Paulene was made an honorary life member of the Guides in 1998. In the words of the person nominating her, "Paulene is very supportive of all her friends . . . a positive, supportive person and a real good samaritan."
- **Christina Lupien:** Christina is a Burnaby teacher who served for six years on the Burnaby Beautification Committee. As a Committee member, she was credited with "always being prepared to roll up her sleeves and get the job done." Perhaps her greatest contribution involved spearheading the Committee's School Program - a program geared to increasing awareness and involving students with their natural environment. In launching the program, Christina grew hundreds of plants for distribution through Burnaby schools. She made the plants available both for planting in school gardens and for nurturing by students at home. She also arranged workshops and prepared a resource manual to help the students learn about planting. Christina approached the task as a mission, devoting not only time and energy, but also her own money to make it a success. The person nominating Christina states that "she is a real hard worker . . . the kind of person you need for a vibrant community."
- **Judi Marshall:** Judi has played a key role raising awareness and organizing the community regarding environmental concerns in north Burnaby. She was a founder and director of Burnaby Residents Against Chevron Expansion. Her nomination form credits her with working hard to establish and maintain a public dialogue between residents and Chevron personnel, and with being a key member of the Chevron Greenbelt/ Buffer Zone Advisory Committee. Her nomination form also states that "Judi deserves to be a Local Hero because she has fought so long and hard - often virtually as a full-time, unpaid job - against formidable obstacles."

- **Sandy Twinn:** As with Tracie Buzza, Sandy is being nominated for her significant and varied contributions to the Stride community. Sandy has served as a Beaver and Cub leader and regularly volunteers for events at Stride Avenue Community School. As head of Stride's Parent Safety Committee, she patrols the parking lot area of the school, making sure that parents "obey the rules" and maintain safe practices in dropping off and picking up children. Despite her genuinely friendly nature, in her parking patrol role, Sandy is credited with using a "mother bear stare" on passing cars, communicating the message: "slow down, watch out for the kids." The person submitting the nomination claims that Sandy is "the fabric that good communities are made of." The nominator further states that, along with Tracie Buzza, Sandy has a "familiar presence in the community and should be recognized for her quiet but valuable contributions."
- **Marguerite Wallace:** Marguerite has had a long and diverse career as a volunteer. For about seventeen years, Marguerite was active in the Girl Guides program, starting as a Brownie leader in Alberta and ending up as a District Commissioner in Burnaby. She has volunteered with the Burnaby School District for about twenty years, with the majority of her involvement occurring at Cameron Elementary School. Marguerite currently spends at least two days per week at the school, helping children who are new to Canada learn to read. She also helps around the classroom, in the library, and at school special events. The Principal of Cameron Elementary School states: "I would not even venture a guess as to how many students (Marguerite) has helped in our school system. . . you (cannot) put words on paper that can truly say what should be said about Marguerite Wallace and the way she has touched the lives of so many."

3.0 ASSESSMENT

With the exception of Barb Peabody, who was previously recognized, the foregoing nominees satisfy the guidelines for Local Hero recognition. They have made strong contributions to community well being in a diversity of areas over several years. Given that the eleven nominees meet the program guidelines, it is considered appropriate that they be recognized as Local Heroes for 2001.

4.0 CONCLUSION AND AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2001 marks the fifth year that Burnaby has recognized Local Heroes, and the third year that it has done so as a City initiative (i.e., independent of an invitation from SPARC of BC).

As in previous years, the quality of the submissions and calibre of the nominees for 2001 were high. It is believed that the Local Hero program continues to be a relatively

inexpensive, effective vehicle for recognizing citizens who have "gone beyond the call of duty" in contributing to the community over the years.

In conclusion, it is recommended that Council be asked to approve the nomination of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2001:

- Roxy Abernethy
- Beverly Adams
- Tracie Buzza
- Dennis Baker
- Joan Carne
- Paulene Hall
- Christina Lupien
- Judi Marshall
- Louise Towell
- Sandy Twinn
- Marguerite Wallace

It is further recommended that these individuals be invited to a Council meeting in November, during Social Planning Month, to be presented with certificates of recognition for their contributions. Also, it is recommended that Council be asked to approve the expenditure of up to \$3000 from the 2002 Council Committees and Boards Budget for the printing of brochures and posters and placement of newspaper advertisements for next year's Local Hero program.

Given Committee and Council concurrence with these recommendations, staff propose to publish an article on this year's 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).

J.S. Belhouse
J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

JF\sa

Attachments(2)

cc: City Manager
Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
Director Finance
City Clerk

APPENDIX 1

PREVIOUS BURNABY LOCAL HEROES

1997

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

1998

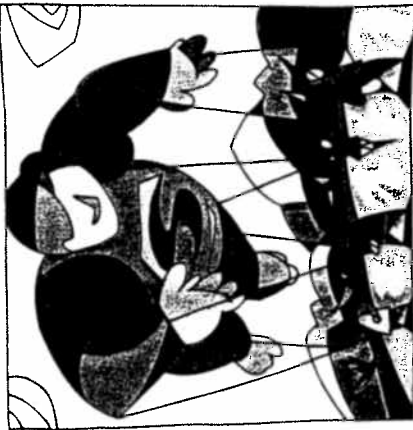
Ray Abernethy
Allison Dalglish
Bharti Envik
Lilac Jung
Faye Ku
Ruth Loland
Anita Loy
Melody Marbach
Sharon Mudrakoff

1999

Georgie Cole
Marjorie Deschner
Gloria Inglis
Effie Kennedy
Erna Kozak
Marion Krause
Nick Kvenich
George McLean
Scott Robertson
Ken Ryan
Rudy Spense
Don Steen
Barbara Stewart
Tim Zimich

2000

Mark Angelo
Lillian Chalmers
Glenice English
Philip Henderson
Grace Jo
Les Lee Lowe
Barbara Lussier
Tony Mauro
Doreen Player
Joyce Rosteron
Carol Roycroft



Eligibility: All people living, working, or participating in Burnaby are eligible for recognition.

Nominations: Nominations are invited from community groups, agencies, and the general public.

Evaluation Process and Criteria: What distinguishes Local Heroes? They are people who have made noteworthy contributions to community well being for an extended period in the city. Examples of activities include volunteering for a local agency or community school, participating in environmental initiatives, or helping recent immigrants to integrate into the community.

The intent is to recognize volunteers, rather than people who contribute through their paid employment. In exceptional circumstances, however, people who go "above and beyond the call of duty" in their jobs may also be eligible for recognition.

A maximum of 20 Local Heroes will be selected per year. Further, efforts will be made to identify a diverse and balance slate of Local Heroes, based on such factors as:

- geography - i.e., aim to recognize people living in or contributing to various parts of Burnaby
- activity type - i.e., aim to recognize a slate that participates in a range of activities, rather than a select few
- age - i.e., aim to recognize people of various ages.

The Community Issues & Social Planning Committee will evaluate the submissions and forward its recommendations to Burnaby Council for endorsement.

Recognition: Local Heroes will be presented with certificates and publicly recognized at a City Council meeting in November. An article on the Local Hero recipients will also be published in the City's information newsletter, InfoBurnaby.

Submission Procedure: People wishing to submit a nomination are requested to return a completed Nomination Form (attached), along with any necessary supporting materials, to:

2001 Local Hero Recognition Committee
c/o City Clerk's Office
4949 Canada Way
Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2
Attention: Gloria McCaskie

continued on reverse



Nomination Form Burnaby Local Heroes

Who is being nominated?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
(home)

_____ (work)

Who is making the nomination?

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____
(home)

_____ (work)

What category or categories best describe the nominee's activities (please -all that apply)?

- Health or community services
- Education
- Environment
- Recreation
- Other (describe briefly)

Is the person being nominated for activities done as a volunteer or paid employee?

- Volunteer
- Paid employee

If a paid employee, please state where the person works: _____

continued on reverse

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