

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

**SUBJECT: CITY OF BURNABY 2002 ENVIRONMENT AWARDS AND
ENVIRONMENTAL STARS**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT two awards be presented for the 2002 Environment Award in Planning and Development to: Burnaby School District #41 for Burnaby Mountain Secondary School for environmentally sensitive and innovative design, and to Cranberry Commons Cohousing for the development of environmentally and socially sustainable housing.
2. **THAT** the 2002 Environmental Award in Community Stewardship be presented to Robert Gunn for his long term community stewardship.
3. **THAT** the 2002 Environment Award in Communications be presented to Thelma MacAdam for her long term activism regarding environmental contaminants.
4. **THAT** an Environmental Star in Planning and development be presented to The Village by the Adera Development Corporation.
5. **THAT** an Environmental Star in Community Stewardship be presented to Vici Radford.
6. **THAT** an Environmental Star in Communications be presented to Jason Lesage.
7. **THAT** an Environmental Star in Youth be presented to Lyndhurst Elementary School.
8. **THAT** the 2002 Environment Awards and Environmental Stars be presented at a special evening reception at Ceperly House, hosted by Council, on 2002 June 05.

<p>CC: -CITY MANAGER -DIRECTOR ENGINEERING -DIRECTOR PLNG & BLDG</p>

REPORT

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held on 2002 May 14, received and adopted the attached report providing nominations for the 2002 Environment Awards and Environmental Stars. The Committee advised that these individuals and groups have demonstrated exemplary works which enhance the City's natural environment while encouraging stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor C. Redman
Vice Chair

Councillor B. Der
Member

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS 2002 MAY 09
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: CITIZEN MEMBERS, ENVIRONMENT & WASTE OUR FILE: 11.800
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ROBERT ANDERSON
JOAN CARNE
SID WONG

SUBJECT: CITY OF BURNABY 2002 ENVIRONMENT AWARDS & ENVIRONMENTAL STARS

PURPOSE: To recommend the recipients of the 2002 City of Burnaby Environment Awards and Environmental Stars.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Environment and Waste Management Committee recommend the following 2002 Environment Awards to Council:
 - a) That two awards be presented for the 2002 Environment Award in Planning and Development to: Burnaby School District #41 for Burnaby Mountain Secondary School for environmentally sensitive and innovative design, and to Cranberry Commons Cohousing for the development of environmentally and socially sustainable housing.
 - b) The 2002 Environment Award in Community Stewardship be presented to Robert Gunn for his long term community stewardship.
 - c) The 2002 Environment Award in Communications be presented to Thelma MacAdam for her long term activism regarding environmental contaminants.
2. **THAT** the Environment and Waste Management Committee recommend the following 2002 Environmental Stars to Council:
 - a) An Environmental Star in Planning and Development be presented to The Village by the Adera Development Corporation.
 - b) An Environmental Star in Community Stewardship be presented to Vici Radford.

- b) An Environmental Star in Communications be presented to Jason Lesage.
 - c) An Environmental Star in Youth be presented to Lyndhurst Elementary School.
3. **THAT** the 2002 Environment Awards and Environmental Stars be announced on 2002 May 27 at the regular meeting of Council, and be presented at a special evening reception at Ceperly House, hosted by Council, on 2002 June 05.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Within the State of the Environment Report (SOER), adopted in 1993, there is a provision for Shared Stewardship, an idea that seeks opportunities for community stewardship, environmental awareness and public information. One of the specific ideas discussed in the report is the need “to establish an environmental awards program to recognize environmental achievements.” Council subsequently adopted terms of reference for an environmental awards program to recognize important environmental achievements in a variety of areas. The first City Environment Awards were presented during Environment Week 1996, and have occurred annually during Environment Week since that date.

At its meeting of 2000 March 27, Council adopted the terms of reference for the Environmental Stars program to recognize important environmental works by members of the community which fall outside the scope of the Environment Awards. The first Environmental Stars were awarded during Environment Week 2000, and have subsequently been awarded during Environment Week and on BC Rivers Day.

The recommendations for the 2002 Environment Awards and 2002 Environmental Stars are outlined in this report, as advanced by the citizen representatives of the Environment and Waste Management Committee for the consideration of the Committee. The terms of reference for the City of Burnaby Environment Award and Environmental Stars Programs are outlined in *Appendix A, attached*.

2.0 AWARD PROCESS

A call for nominations is made annually through the local newspapers and on the City’s web page. The Environment Awards are given annually by Council, through recommendations of citizen representatives of the Environment and Waste Management Committee. The Committee is not compelled to recommend Award winners to Council in any or all categories if they feel there are no appropriate candidates in a given year. The Environmental Stars can be awarded throughout the year, and recommendations may come from either the citizen representatives or members of Council.

It is recommended that the Awards and Stars be announced at the regular Council meeting of 2002 May 27, accompanied by a slide presentation of the winners and their works, and be presented at a special Environment Week evening reception at the Ceperly House, hosted by Council, on 2002 June 05.

3.0 2002 ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

3.1 Planning and Development Award

The citizen representatives recommend that two developments be awarded the Planning and Development Award. The first recommended recipient is:

Burnaby School District #41 for Burnaby Mountain Secondary School for environmentally sensitive and innovative design.

Burnaby Mountain Secondary School (BMSS) is situated near Tributary #1 of Stoney Creek, one of the most productive fish-bearing streams in the Brunette Basin. Due to the proximity of the site to this waterway and the community sentiment that the school be as environmentally friendly as possible, School District #41 endeavoured to create an environmentally sensitive and innovative building design which would in turn foster and reinforce a stewardship ethic as part of the school culture.

Steps were taken to minimize the overall development impact on the surrounding environment, including:

- reducing the footprint of the building by using a three storey concept;
- reducing the parking area by 30 stalls to accommodate additional bicycles;
- moving the entire development to the eastern property line, thereby increasing the distance between the building and Tributary #1;
- implementing a stormwater system that emulates pre-development release rates and quality, including the collection of stormwater from the roofs, playing field and the parking areas into biofiltration swales and ponds;
- stormwater detention ponds utilized during construction that now function as wetlands;
- riparian habitat measures including bat house and nest box installation, artificial snags and understory enhancement;
- reduction of typical ornamental landscaping in favour of enhancement of the native vegetation along the forested periphery;
- the use of recycled building materials, as well as locally provided material, was maximized;
- a ground source heat pump system below the playing field serves a system of fan coil units which are the heating and cooling source for the school's Academic Core;

- solar orientation has been considered in the building's orientation;
- windows and glazing are designed to maximize the use of natural light;
- high efficiency, low glare metal halide fixtures with multi-level lighting control are provided; and
- extensive consultation with community residents and stewardship groups.

In addition to these components, several initiatives have been undertaken to meet the stewardship objectives identified for the school culture. A Community Relations position has been created and is staffed by Joan Parsonson, a social studies and urban ecology teacher at the school (Ms. Parsonson was awarded the City of Burnaby Environmental Award in Communications in 2001). Ms. Parsonson has been working with staff and students to reach out into the community through the following initiatives:

- initiated an annual school and neighbourhood cleanup for both BC Rivers Day (September) and Earth Day (April);
- initiated a "Stream of Dreams" mural for the school fence, which is currently underway;
- arranged for a tour of Stoney Creek for students by the Stoney Creek Environment Committee;
- arranged for BMSS students to partner with students at Stoney Creek Community School, producing workbooks and doing guided tours of Stoney Creek for the younger children;
- participation in BC Rivers Day events with the Stoney Creek Environment Committee; and
- currently liaising with Great Salmon Send-Off Committee to facilitate involvement of BMSS students in the GSSO.

The design of BMSS successfully integrates site planning, building design and educational themes in a holistic manner to meet the needs of students, the community and the larger environmental considerations that are integral to this site. It is hoped that the design of BMSS will be considered a model for future school developments.

The second recommended recipient of the City of Burnaby 2002 Environment Award in Planning and Development is:

Cranberry Commons Cohousing for the development of environmentally and socially sustainable housing.

Cranberry Commons Cohousing Development Corporation is a not-for-profit corporation that was formed by future homeowners expressly for the purpose of financing and directing the design and development of a multi-family residential building. Construction began in October 2000 and was completed a year later, with all 22 homeowner households taking occupancy in November 2001.

Cohousing groups are based on private ownership of complete, self-contained individual housing units centred around and focused on extensive shared facilities including a common kitchen, dining area, lounge, children's play spaces, office, meeting room, guest room, library and workshop. These communal facilities serve both a social function as well as an environmental function: the provision of a fax machine, for example, for all to use eliminates the need for multiple households to each purchase an item that may only be used occasionally. Community connection in these developments is further supported by the physical layout of the community and the involvement of all members in the development and operation of the community using consensus decision making.

In addition to these social dimensions, environmental sustainability is incorporated into the design, beginning with the selection of the building site to the solar hot water panels that are installed on the roof. The site was selected in the Heights, given its proximity to commercial services, community amenities and public transit. Environmentally sustainable features of the building include:

- solar hot water panels to offset the domestic hot water load by 50%;
- high efficiency boiler for domestic hot water and space heating combined with an in-floor radiant heat distribution system;
- compact fluorescent lighting;
- low flow toilets and showerheads;
- high volume flyash concrete, which cuts the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the production of cement by up to 50%;
- 10% of the wood used for the building was reclaimed lumber;
- construction site recycling;
- shared composters and recycling bins;
- shared car, laundry and bulk purchasing programs; and
- site landscaping with native plantings and rainwater collection system.

The concept of sustainability has three fundamental components: social, ecological and economic, and Cranberry Commons Cohousing endeavours to meet all three aspects. From its communal spaces and consensus decision making structure, to its environmentally friendly site and building features, to the not-for-profit corporation of future homeowners that funded the project, Cranberry Commons serves as an exciting model for future developments.

3.2 Community Stewardship Award

The recommended recipient of the City of Burnaby 2002 Environment Award in Community Stewardship is:

Robert Gunn for his long term community stewardship.

Long term Burnaby resident Robert Gunn has devoted countless hours as a volunteer to enhance and rehabilitate Burnaby's lakes and waterways. On any given weekend it is not uncommon to find Mr. Gunn working with community groups on a riparian planting project, servicing wood duck nest boxes or helping out at a community environmental event. In addition, this community has benefited significantly from his extensive knowledge and experience through his participation in a wide variety of committees dealing with fisheries issues, park management plans and environmental advocacy.

A graduate of BCIT's Fish, Wildlife and Recreation Program, Mr. Gunn has been an assistant instructor with the program since 1993. Mr. Gunn has been instrumental in the development and growth of the program's Burnaby Lake System Project. As the program coordinator, he has brought together community volunteers, students and all levels of government to undertake a wide variety of enhancement and restoration projects on Still Creek, Burnaby Lake, Deer Lake, Beecher Creek and many others.

Mr. Gunn's passion, energy and commitment to the well being of Burnaby's lakes and waterways is reflected in the many years of volunteer work that he has contributed. Some of his involvement includes:

- citizen representative on the City's Environment and Waste Management Committee;
- member of the Brunette Basin Task Group;
- member of the GVRD Liquid Waste Management Plan Stormwater Management Committee;
- current vice chair of the Regional Park Forum;
- past chair and director of the Burnaby Lake Park Association;
- member of the GVRD Parks Partners Initiative Steering Committee; and
- coordinates and assists with community events such as Environment Week, BC Rivers Day and the GVRD's Birds, Butterflies and Bees event.

The positive benefits of Mr. Gunn's community stewardship activities cannot be overstated: his hands-on approach has both facilitated and realized dozens of enhancement projects with literally thousands of community members, from elementary students to senior citizens.

3.3 Communications Award

The recommended recipient of the City of Burnaby 2002 Environment Award in Communications is:

Thelma MacAdam for her long term activism regarding environmental contaminants.

In 1971, Thelma MacAdam began her activism when her organic homestead in Coquitlam was erroneously aerial sprayed with malathion for mosquitos after she had officially requested that her property be exempt from the spray. Ms. MacAdam was spurred into action to learn more about environmental contaminants, and she began her tireless work compiling research on the hazardous effects of pesticides on people, especially on children, and the environment. In 1984 she joined the Burnaby-based national Health Action Network Society (HANS) as a director and chair of its Environment Committee, where she served for 18 years. Her lobbying efforts on its behalf, which extensively utilized local newspapers, resulted in the introduction of a no-chemical gardening policy being adopted by Port Coquitlam City Council in 1985, the same year she successfully got the Vancouver Parks Board to stop using 2,4-D. She has greatly increased the public awareness of these issues through speaking to city councils, school boards, park boards, and the media. Often quoted in newspapers and having done many radio and television appearances, Ms. MacAdam is active in supporting citizens who want to initiate change in their communities by sharing her experience and knowledge. She has also written extensively for local newspapers, community newsletters, and magazines including *Alive*.

In 1989, Ms. MacAdam was honoured nationally in *Homemaker's Magazine* as one of the ten women in Canada who was "Making a Difference." In 1999, she was one of 34 women selected internationally to be included in a book entitled *Sweeping the Earth: Women Taking Action for a Healthy Planet*, which profiled women environmentalists. She was also honoured by the British Columbia Environmental Network for her outstanding community service on behalf of the environment.

In 2001, Dr. Mark Winston received a City of Burnaby Environment Award in Communications given his numerous distinctions and publications. While his work did not specifically address local Burnaby issues, as a professor at Simon Fraser University he significantly raised the profile of Burnaby as a place that fosters environmental discovery and innovation, and his writings address issues of concern to all residents, regardless of municipal boundaries. Like Dr. Winston, Ms. MacAdam has brought acclaim to Burnaby through her 18 years with HANS, an independent and not-for-profit consumer health organization and information resource centre based in Burnaby. As environmental contaminants do not respect municipal borders, her work is of a regional interest which serves Burnaby residents.

4.0 2002 ENVIRONMENTAL STARS

4.1 Planning and Development Star: *The Village*

The Village is a multi-phased development by the Adera Development Corporation. It occupies the former Weiser Lock industrial property, between Beresford and Prenter Streets, west of Griffiths Drive. The project incorporates six development sites on

10.4 acres with a total of 406 townhouses and apartments. The City worked closely with the developer on a number of elements, including:

- transfer of density from an adjacent BC Hydro transmission line with a watercourse on it to the adjacent development sites; Adera acquired the Hydro property and significantly improved it for park/trail/riparian use;
- City streets with non-standard design features (traffic circles) and a private pedestrian/cycle road which also serves as a fire lane;
- incorporated reduced setbacks and tandem parking;
- a public consultation process; and
- the development of an urban design guide plan.

At the tenth Annual Georgie Awards, which recognize excellence in residential construction in BC and the Yukon, the Village earned a Grand Georgie Award for *Best Residential Development in BC and the Yukon*, and a Silver Georgie Award of *Excellence by Public-Private Partnerships in Creating Affordable Housing and Healthy Communities*.

4.2 Community Stewardship Star: *Vici Radford*

Ms. Radford has volunteered her time to take care of the gardens and coordinate a student gardening club at Lyndhurst Elementary School for many years. Supported by the donation of gardening tools and gloves by Trans Mountain Pipe Line, under Ms. Radford's guidance the students are becoming more aware and involved in the environment in both the school yard and local community. Through her involvement, raised beds have been constructed and the students actively care for them, doing the planting, weeding and other tasks. The principal has commented that in her experience it is unique that the beds have never been vandalized, and attributes this to the stewardship ethic of the students developed in part by the efforts of Ms. Radford.

4.3 Communications Star: *Jason Lesage*

Jason Lesage is the Community Relations Coordinator for the Wildlife Rescue Association (WRA), a Burnaby-based not-for-profit group that cares for sick and injured wildlife. In 2000, the city recognized WRA for their long term commitment and excellence in this field with an Environmental Star in Community Stewardship. Mr. Lesage joined WRA later that same year, and now works to bring information about urban wildlife to both Burnaby and Lower Mainland residents through presentations at schools, articles in the local newspapers and displays at environmental fairs. Mr. Lesage's commitment and enthusiasm is evident, especially as he talks to children, and he is an effective communicator about issues surrounding coexistence with urban wildlife.

4.4 Youth Star: Lyndhurst Elementary School

The students of Lyndhurst Elementary School have been active in a number of positive environmental initiatives. A school-wide beverage recycling program was initiated to purchase a digital camera and scanner for the school, and the students enthusiastically participated by gathering, sorting and storing the containers for pick up. It is a student-led program, and reaches out into the community as the students hold bottle drives and collect containers from their homes. In addition, the Grade 5 and 6 classes participate in the City's Waste Reduction Program, and have hosted the GVRD in day long activities about recycling. Further, up to 20 students participate in the gardening club led by Ms. Vici Radford (as described above), representing nearly 20% of all the students at this small school. Through these initiatives, the students of Lyndhurst Elementary School are fledging stewards making a difference in their school and community.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The citizen representatives of the Environment and Waste Management Committee recommends that the recipients identified in this report receive the 2002 City Environment Awards and 2002 Environment Stars as outlined. The citizen representatives believe these individuals and groups have demonstrated exemplary works which enhance the City's natural environment while encouraging stewardship. This will be the seventh year for the City Environment Awards program, and the third year for the Environmental Stars.

It is recommended that the 2002 City Environment Awards be announced on 2002 May 27 at the regular meeting of Council. It is also proposed that the awards be presented at a special evening reception at Ceperly House, hosted by Council, on 2002 June 05. The Awards evening also serves as an opportunity for the City to host its many environmental volunteers and community stewards.

ROBERT ANDERSON, Citizen Member
Environment and Waste Management Committee

JOAN CARNE, Citizen Member
Environment and Waste Management Committee

SID WONG, Citizen Member
Environment and Waste Management Committee

cc. City Manager

Attachment

Appendix A

City of Burnaby Environment Award & Environmental Stars Categories

The City of Burnaby Environment Awards recognize outstanding contributions made by individuals, organizations or companies to improve Burnaby's environment and our understanding of it. The Environmental Stars program is intended to recognize important environmental works by members of the community which fall outside the scope of the Environment Awards. Both programs increase awareness of opportunities available to the public and the City to become more environmentally responsible. While the specific categories of awards are described below, the Committee does reserve the right to recommend awards to candidates that do not fall into any of the categories as outlined. It should be noted that the same categories apply to both the Awards and the Stars, although the criteria for the Stars is less rigorous.

Communication


This category includes newspaper articles, publications, video, audio, multi-media or visual/ graphic presentations that help to increase the awareness and understanding of environmental issues in Burnaby. The nominated work should demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of an environmental issue and its relationship to the citizens of Burnaby. Newspaper articles may be in the form of regular constructive reporting on environmental issues or may be serial in format, thoroughly researched and referenced, and prominently featured within the newspaper. Other publications such as magazine articles or books should offer in depth profiles or insight into specific environmental characteristics and issues found in Burnaby and be readily available in Burnaby bookstores. Awards in the video, audio and multimedia category should be granted to those works that exploit their media format to provide insightful, and possible interactive, educational opportunities that may be useful within Burnaby schools and libraries to increase awareness of environmental issues in the City.

Planning and Development

This category highlights exemplary developments that demonstrate innovative environmental features that may include environmentally sensitive site planning, solar energy, water conservation, storm water or wastewater management, conservation of resources through the reuse of materials, the protection and enhancement of urban streams or the enhancement of wildlife habitat in the City. Developments may range in scale from large commercial, industrial, institutional or residential projects to individual new or renovated buildings or sites.

Community Stewardship

This category identifies citizens or groups in Burnaby who have been actively involved in promoting environmental stewardship for several years and who, through their efforts, have increased public awareness of an environmental issue or notably enhanced or rehabilitated the City's environment.



Youth

This category recognizes the contributions that children or teenagers have made, either through their own initiatives or through school or other programs that have resulted in enhanced public awareness of environmental issues or notably enhanced or rehabilitated the City's environment.

