

CITY OF BURNABY
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

RE: 2002 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** Council approve the nominations of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2002:

- Elizabeth Briemberg
- Steve Cairns
- Millie Canessa
- Kenney Chan
- Jack Cyr
- Harvey Elder
- Richard Harvey
- Reg and Ethel Hawthorne
- Vivian Henderson
- Gail Klarer
- Kenny So Ying Leung
- Nick Lutz
- Eleanor MacQueen
- Merv Magus
- Sev Morin
- Regina Ogmundson
- Hugh Robertson
- Norm Sandercock
- Bernice Wiseman

Copy - City Manager
- Director Planning & Building
- Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
- Director Finance
- City Clerk

-2-

2. **THAT** Council invite 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 \$3000 from the 2003 Council Committees and Boards Budget for printing and advertising costs for next year's Local Hero program.

REPORT

The Community Issues and Social Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 2002 September 25, received and adopted the *attached* report providing a list of Burnaby residents for consideration for Local Hero Awards for 2002 and to gain approval for launching a Local Hero program for 2003.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor N. Harris
Vice Chair

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS 2002 September 19
COMMUNITY ISSUES AND
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING OUR FILE: 17.931

SUBJECT: 2002 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

PURPOSE: To recommend a list of Burnaby residents for consideration for Local Hero Awards for 2002 and to gain approval for launching a Local Hero program for 2003.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council be asked to
 - a) approve the nominations of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2002:
 - Elizabeth Briemberg
 - Steve Cairns
 - Millie Canessa
 - Kenney Chan
 - Jack Cyr
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 - Bernice Wiseman

- b) invite 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 2003 Council Committees and Boards Budget for printing and advertising costs 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 and Research Council (SPARC) of B.C., 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 52 Local Heroes - individuals who represent diverse interests and backgrounds 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 2002 Local Hero program.

2.0 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

As in previous years, the following channels were used to seek nominations for the 2002 Local Hero awards: advertisements in Burnaby's community newspapers, a call for nominations through the City's web site and InfoBurnaby, and requests to participants at various inter-agency meetings to "get the word out" about the initiative. Posters and brochures on the program were circulated through Burnaby schools, City Hall, recreation centres, libraries, and other venues. In addition, Volunteer Burnaby included information about the program in a mail-out to all its member agencies. A copy of the brochure, which includes the eligibility guidelines and nomination form, is presented in Appendix 2, *attached*.

Thirty-three nominations were submitted for this year's Local Hero recognition program. Many strong nominations were received, with each highlighting very worthy candidates for the awards. As stated in the eligibility guidelines, a maximum of 20 Local Heroes may be selected for 2002. Also, the guidelines indicate that the City aims to recognize a balanced slate of nominees in a given year. With this in mind, and based on the established criteria, staff, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, propose the following nominees:

Elizabeth Briemberg: Elizabeth volunteers as a group facilitator of two programs at the Burnaby Family Life Institute. She is the leader of a support group for single parents for three eight-week sessions per year. She devotes much time before and after each session listening to parents and providing resource information. She also facilitates a weekly program called "Canadian Life Information" which provides information and support to newcomers to Burnaby. She calls each member of the group before sessions to find out what their needs are and to make them feel comfortable coming to the group. Her nominator describes her as having an open, kind and inclusive manner which helps to make immigrants feel welcome. Her nominator further adds, "Elizabeth is definitely making a difference in Burnaby."

Steve Cairns: Steve is described as someone who has gone above and beyond his duty as the principal at Buckingham Elementary School. His nominators state that over the years, he has consistently "gone the extra mile" to support initiatives to improve the lives of students, teachers, families and the broader community. His care and concern for individuals and the community was exemplified this past Christmas when he intervened on behalf of two children at the school who had experienced serious family troubles and were in need of foster care. According to his nominators, Steve went into "overdrive" to ensure that the children were placed in a safe and loving home in the community in time for Christmas. In the words of his nominator, "Steve believes that love and showing that we care is everyone's responsibility."

Millie Canessa: Millie has been involved in Burnaby community life for many years. She has volunteered with many organizations including the Burnaby Historical Society, Burnaby Heritage Advisory Commission, and the B.C. Old Age Pensioners' Organization Branch 12 (Edmonds) where she served as both secretary and president. She is described as, "the glue that held together the Edmond's branch." She currently volunteers with the Retired Union Workers sub-committee of the United Way and Burnaby Citizens Support Services where she take seniors out to lunch on two to four days a month. To quote from the person nominating her, "Millie has been an advocate for seniors and those in need for many years. Millie is an extremely caring individual, not only voicing her concerns, but actively and tirelessly working towards creating a better life for those without a voice."

Kenney Chan: Kenny has been volunteering at Eastburn Community Centre for more than ten years, six days a week. He is known by the staff at the centre at their “super volunteer”. Kenney helps out with photocopying, room set up, special events and cleaning. In the summer, he volunteers with recreation programs for youth at Richmond Park. He also helps prepare hot lunches for seniors at Edmonds Community Centre. His nominator states, “Anyone who has ever been in the centres or at the park will know Kenney because of his sweet, caring, friendly and giving nature.”

Jack Cyr: For the past ten years, Jack has volunteered at the Variety Hotelier House Children’s Centre operated by the Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion (formerly known as the Burnaby Association for the Mentally Handicapped). He volunteers two days a week to set up snacks, assist with the recycling, walk the children to kindergarten and support the staff with a variety of jobs. Over the years, he has built many special friendships at the centre. The person nominating him states, “Jack has continuously offered his time, energy and skills of his own free will. His hard work and endless effort have made a vital contribution in the lives of the children and families we support.”

Harvey Elder: Harvey has served the community as a long time member of the East Burnaby Rate Payers (35+ years) and is currently the chair person. He has kept his community aware of changes that might affect the well being of the neighbourhood and was instrumental in saving the Love farmhouse (built in 1893) and having it moved to the Burnaby Village Museum. He has shared his talents as a welder, carpenter and electrician with many people and organizations and was particularly helpful in renovations for the Kids Link Day Care at Second Street Community School. He has built sets for the school’s Christmas musical and cut fish for their Web of Life fence on 16th Avenue. He volunteers to deliver the school’s community newsletter, “The Second Street Signal” four times a year. His nominators further notes, “We have known Harvey for decades and have always appreciated his dedication to this community.”

Richard Harvey: For more than ten years, Richard has been actively involved as volunteer repairman for the Red Cross’ medical equipment loan service in Burnaby. During this time, he has worked two three-hour shifts each week, in addition to taking medical equipment home to repair during his own time. He has frequently augmented the Red Cross’ tool supplies with his own equipment, routinely picked up overdue equipment when clients have had difficulty returning it, and has assisted programs in other communities when they have not had a repair volunteer of their own. His nominator adds “Richard is always willing to get in there and help and make sure the client knows exactly how to use the equipment. He is very easy to deal with and is quick to adjust the equipment to suit the client.”

Reg and Ethel Hawthorne: Reg and Ethel Hawthorne have been citizens of Burnaby for decades. They have served as volunteers for many years with the Pastoral Care program at Burnaby General Hospital. They have also volunteered with the Dania Seniors' Home for thirty years. Their volunteer work mainly involves visiting with patients and their families, offering them care and support during difficult times. Their nominator states, "I was very impressed with their kindness and caring and the way in which they were able to reach out and help individuals they did not even know."

Vivian Henderson: Vivian was born and raised in Burnaby. Her nominator states that since her early days, she has been very community minded. She served as president of the Parent Teacher Association at Second Street Elementary for four years. She became involved with the Girl Guide movement, holding many training positions, and then serving as Commissioner for the Burnaby Royal Area for six years. She has assisted with the Lions' Skate-a-thon and has been involved with the Abbeyfield seniors housing project at Curtis Street and Sperling Avenue. Her nominator states, "For a local girl, Vivian has certainly served her community well."

Gail Klarer: Gail has volunteered with Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services Society for four years. She is described as going above and beyond the call of duty in her administrative support for the peer counselling services offered by the Society. She has reached out to seniors who are having difficulty coping with situations and changes and to let them know about the emotional support available to them through the Society. She has also used her own funds when necessary to purchase supplies for the office. The person nominating her states, "She has been totally committed to the program in so far as giving unstintingly of her time, expertise and community spirit."

Kenny So Ying Leung: Kenny has been volunteering with the Red Cross in Burnaby and other parts of the Lower Mainland for the past 3 years. Prior to her service here, she volunteered with the Red Cross in Hong Kong for 12 years. Her long service in the field of First Aid training and community liaison has made her a vital link for Red Cross operations with the local Chinese community. She has delivered First Aid programs at Burnaby College, Burnaby Family Life, and other support groups through the Burnaby Multicultural Society. In the words of the person nominating her, "It is our belief that she has brought much to the Red Cross as a volunteer, and to Burnaby in particular. Our partnership with the community is strengthened by her activities."

Nick Lutz: Nick currently serves as president of the Metro Lions Club and was past president of the Burnaby Host Lions Club. A particular focus of his volunteer work is helping to meet the needs of blind people. He has served as chairman of the Lions' Journey for Sight walk and has organized curling tournaments for blind curlers. He works with the Canadian Institute for the Blind to assist blind people in getting equipment they need. His nominator states, "Nick is very diligent - he wants to finish a job once he has started it. He devotes his time to whatever he can."

Eleanor MacQueen: Eleanor's years of volunteering span many decades. She has been involved with numerous programs at Burnaby Hospital including fund raising, volunteer orientation and the children's hospital tour program. She has a regular Friday shift in the out-patient oncology program where she is described as having boundless compassion for the cancer patients she assists. In total, she has contributed over 8,000 hours of volunteer time to Burnaby Hospital. In the words of her nominator, "She has touched the lives of countless individuals...She is undoubtedly a Local Hero, and truly an irreplaceable 'jack of all trades' in our volunteer organization."

Merv Magus: Merv has been actively involved in Burnaby community life for several decades. As a teacher at Edmonds Junior Secondary and Burnaby Central Senior Secondary schools, he served as coach for various sports and the editor of school annuals. Even after retiring, he has continued to coach high school basketball teams. He was a founding member of the Burnaby Sports Recognition Dinner, which he organized for 17 years. He was also part of a team which established the Burnaby Sports Hall of Fame and is involved with its annual event program. To quote from his nominator, "Merv Magus provides a wonderful example to young people and others around him. I am one of those fortunate people. Merv has been, and is, a hero to me."

Sev Morin: Over the years, Sev has volunteered his time with many local organizations. A partial list includes Variety Club, Burnaby Hospital, Burnaby School District's Secondary School Apprenticeship Program, and the B.C. Summer Games in Burnaby. Sev currently serves with the Coast Foundation Society, the Canadian Foundation on Problem Gambling and the Burnaby Board of Trade. In his volunteer work with the Board of Trade, he is described as helping to fill all the holes, making life easier for everyone. His nominator further adds, "Sev shows his commitment to Burnaby in many different ways. This commitment, we believe, makes Sev a true Local Hero."

Regina Ogmundson: Regina has volunteered as a Big Sister. For the last three years, she has been a Big Sister and mentor to a Little Sister who lives in Burnaby. Her nominator states that because her Little Sister has been dealing with a number of difficult issues, Regina's match has been particularly challenging. Her nominator further adds that Regina "is able to utilize the numerous attributes and skills she possesses to handle situations that come up... Because of the stability Regina offers the Little Sister, the Little Sister has been able to overcome many barriers. I believe that Regina deserves to be honoured as someone who continues to give above and beyond the call of duty..."

Hugh Robertson: Hugh has volunteered with the Lougheed Community Police Office since 1999. Since then he has put in over 700 hours of volunteer time, primarily on the bike patrol. As a bike patroller, he rides with a partner through the community and stays in touch with

the office by cell phone. Hugh has participated in patrols that have spotted and reported fires, stolen vehicles and the dumping of hazardous materials. He has assisted people with making police reports and recruited numerous other cyclists to the program. His extensive knowledge of bike maintenance has kept program costs down. The person nominating Hugh states, "There are few of us that make the kind of contribution to our community that Hugh has."

Norm Sandercock: Norm has volunteered for the Conservation Department at Burnaby Village Museum since 1994. Prior to that time, Norm volunteered in the restoration of the 1912 Parker Carousel which is now in use at the Museum. He also volunteered with the Scout movement in Burnaby during the late 1960s and 70s. He has been a longstanding member of the Burnaby Historical Society and more recently, of the Friends of Interurban 1223. Staff at the Museum credit him with the ability to figure out how anything works and have come to depend on his mechanical expertise. His nominator adds, "Whether designing his projects in his dreams or sketching them at the breakfast table, Norm has made each contribution with love."

Bernice Wiseman: Bernice has been a volunteer at Edmonds Community Centre for the past five years. She started out as treasurer for the Edmonds Seniors' Society, managing the extensive finances and book-keeping of the Society which has over 25 member groups. She then branched out to tending the outdoor cutting garden, overseeing the installation and maintenance of a three-tiered fountain at the Centre and minding the centre's indoor solarium. She has also been instrumental in the challenging coordination of the finances for the Edmonds Food Service Program and has recently been taking courses in volunteer management. In addition, she sits on the Tenants' Resource Association in her residence at Hall Towers, and helps organize their special events. To quote from the person nominating her, "Far more than just a treasurer, Bernice is a treasured resource wherever she volunteers."

3.0 ASSESSMENT

Based on the established selection criteria, the foregoing twenty nominees satisfy the guidelines for Burnaby Local Hero recognition. In their unique ways, they have all made strong contributions to community well being over several years. It is therefore proposed that they be recognized as Local Heroes for 2002.

4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2002 marks the sixth year that Burnaby has recognized Local Heroes, and the fourth 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 2002 were high. Also, the number of submissions substantially increased this year, indicating growing awareness of and interest in the program. 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 2002:

- Elizabeth Briemberg
- Steve Cairns
- Millie Canessa
- Kenney Chan
- Jack Cyr
- Harvey Elder
- Richard Harvey
- Reg and Ethel Hawthorne
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- Nick Lutz
- Eleanor MacQueen
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- Sev Morin
- Regina Ogmundson
- Hugh Robertson
- Norm Sandercock
- Bernice Wiseman

It is further recommended that these individuals be invited to a Council meeting November, during Social Planning Month, to be prepared with certificates of recognition for their contributions. It is also recommended that Council be asked to approve the expenditure of up to \$3,000 from the 2002 Council Committee and Boards for the printing of brochures and posters and placement of newspaper advertisements for next year’s Local Hero program.

To facilitate even broader participation in the program, it is also proposed that the deadline for submission of nominations be extended to the end of September next year to allow more time to make nominations after the summer break. This change would necessitate a convening of the Committee in October to consider the nominations for 2003.

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).

B. Rukhman-1
for J.S. Belhouse, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

MM/sa

Attachments (2)

cc: City Manager
Director Parks, Recreation and 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

2001

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

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

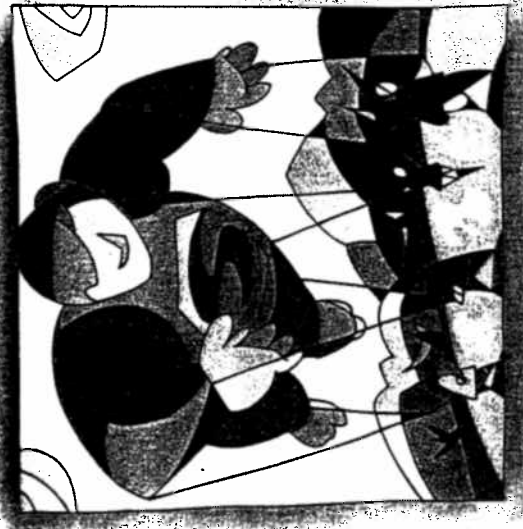
Nominations: Nominations are invited from community groups, agencies, and the general public.

Selection 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 with settling 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 this year. Further, efforts will be made to recognize a balanced slate of Local Heroes, which collectively represent a diversity of:

- age groups,
- geographic areas - i.e., people living in or contributing to various parts of Burnaby, and
- activity types - i.e., participate in a range of activities, rather than a select few



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 in early 2003.

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

2002 Local Hero Recognition
 Community Issues & Social Planning Committee
 c/o City Clerk's Office
 4949 Canada Way
 Burnaby, BC V5G 1M2
 Attention: Gloria McCaskie



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 check 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: _____