

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

H

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

**SUBJECT: CITY OF BURNABY 2003 ENVIRONMENT
AWARDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL STARS**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT two awards be presented for the 2003 Environment Awards in Communications to Cameron Lipp and Robert Anderson for their commitment and dedication to fostering environmental stewardship and sustainability in Burnaby.
2. THAT the 2003 Environment Award in Community Stewardship be presented to Larry Morgan and the Canada Lands Corporation for their long term support for community stewardship initiatives.
3. THAT two awards be presented for the 2003 Environment Award in Pesticide-Free Lawns and Gardens to Jean and Boaz Wong and Cascade Village for outstanding examples of pesticide-free landscaping.
4. THAT an Environmental Star in Communications be presented to Carol McLeod.
5. THAT Environmental Stars in Community Stewardship be presented to Dianne Ramage and Shannon Campbell.
6. THAT an Environmental Star in Youth be presented to Armstrong Elementary School.
7. THAT the 2003 Environment Awards and Environmental Stars be presented at a special afternoon reception at Barnet Marine Park, hosted by Council, on 2003 June 08.

REPORT

The Environment Committee, at its meeting held on 2003 May 06, received and adopted the attached report providing nominations for the 2003 Environment Awards and Environmental Stars. The citizen members of the Environment Committee advised that these individuals have demonstrated exemplary works which enhance the City's natural environment while encouraging stewardship.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Johnston
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Vice Chair

Councillor C. Redman
Member

COPY: CITY MANAGER
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
DIRECTOR FINANCE
DIRECTOR PLNG. & BLDG.

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

2003 APRIL 30

FROM: CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVES
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

OUR FILE: 11.800

**SUBJECT: CITY OF BURNABY 2003 ENVIRONMENT AWARDS
AND ENVIRONMENTAL STARS**

PURPOSE: To recommend the recipients of the 2003 City of Burnaby Environment Awards and Environmental Stars.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. **THAT** the Environment Committee recommend the following 2003 Environment Awards to Council:
 - a) That two awards be presented for the 2003 Environment Awards in Communications to Cameron Lipp and Robert Anderson for their commitment and dedication to fostering environmental stewardship and sustainability in Burnaby.
 - b) The 2003 Environment Award in Community Stewardship be presented to Larry Morgan and the Canada Lands Corporation for their long term support for community stewardship initiatives.
 - c) That two awards be presented for the 2003 Environment Award in Pesticide-Free Lawns and Gardens to Jean and Boaz Wong and Cascade Village for outstanding examples of pesticide-free landscaping.
2. **THAT** the Environment Committee recommend the following 2003 Environmental Stars to Council:
 - a) An Environmental Star in Communications be presented to Carol McLeod.
 - b) Environmental Stars in Community Stewardship be presented to Dianne Ramage and Shannon Campbell.
 - c) An Environmental Star in Youth be presented to Armstrong Elementary School.
3. **THAT** the 2003 Environment Awards and Environmental Stars be announced on 2003 May 26 at the regular meeting of Council, and be presented at a special afternoon reception at Barnet Marine Park, hosted by Council, on 2003 June 08.

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 2003 Environment Awards and 2003 Environmental Stars are outlined in this report, as advanced by the citizen representatives of the Environment Committee for the consideration of the Committee. The terms of reference for the City of Burnaby Environment Awards 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 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 2003 May 26, accompanied by a slide presentation of the winners and their works, and be presented at a special Environment Week afternoon reception at Barnet Marine Park, hosted by Council, on 2003 June 08.

3.0 2003 ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

3.1 Communications Award

The recommended recipients of the City of Burnaby 2003 Environment Award in Communications are:

Cameron Lipp for his service on Burnaby's Environment & Waste Management Committee and for his devotion to environmental issues and education in Burnaby.

Mr. Lipp served for six years on Burnaby's Environment & Waste Management Committee, from 1993 to 1999. Mr. Lipp was a dedicated member during his tenure, demonstrating sound knowledge and understanding of implementing environmental principles at a local government level.

Mr. Lipp's formal environmental work began in 1979 when he joined Katimavik, living and volunteering across Canada. He went on to form his own company, Aquarius Associates, and became well known throughout the province in the areas of environmental education, research and public consultation.

Since 1996, Mr. Lipp served as the project coordinator for the Rivershed Society of British Columbia's Environmental Career Options Program, the Fraser River Spirit of the Salmon Swim and Paddle Leadership Programs, and significant ecological education projects bringing together youth, business, stewardship, First Nations and other community groups. These programs have consistently included Burnaby schools, students and stewardship groups. Mr. Lipp's work in this regard has had tremendous benefits for the City, its citizens and its many stewardship groups. Mr. Lipp passed away suddenly on 2002 November 01, while playing hockey at Burnaby Eight Rinks. He was 42 years old.

Robert Anderson for his commitment to public service as a citizen representative on the Environment & Waste Management Committee from 1996 to 2002.

During Mr. Anderson's tenure on the Committee, he consistently participated in a manner beyond what was expected. Mr. Anderson's involvement in the Chevron buffer zone and Gypsy Moth issues exemplified his ambition and passion for public service, in addition to illustrating his ability to find innovative solutions to highly complex environmental public policy issues.

Mr. Anderson's service not only benefited the City and its residents broadly, but specifically the Capitol Hill neighbourhood in which he lives. Mr. Anderson, a well-respected Communications professor at Simon Fraser University, also had considerable involvement with the planning process for the new sustainable community currently being built in SFU's East Neighbourhood. In this role, Mr. Anderson always put environmental considerations atop the agenda, and never lost sight of the importance of the environment in the notion of sustainability.

As a professor at SFU, Mr. Anderson was and continues to be heavily involved in a variety of areas of research, including negotiation and dialogue as communication, communication in conflict and intervention, and the history of communication in science and technology. Mr. Anderson has also published a long list of books, chapters and articles, many of which touch on the environment and sustainability.

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, Mr. Robert Anderson has brought acclaim to Burnaby through his tenure as a professor at SFU, and his very active involvement as a member of the Environment & Waste Management Committee. As environmental issues do not respect municipal borders, his work is of a regional, even national and international interest, which serves Burnaby residents.

3.2 Community Stewardship Award

The recommended recipient of the City of Burnaby 2003 Environment Award in Community Stewardship is:

Mr. Larry Morgan and the Canada Lands Corporation for its long term support of community stewardship initiatives.

The Canada Lands Corporation (CLC), a major land developer in Burnaby's Big Bend area (known mostly for the award-winning Glenlyon Business Park) has been a very active participant and supporter of stewardship initiatives in the South Slope of Burnaby for nearly a decade. Either through lending engineering assistance or the provision of financial resources, the Canada Lands Corporation, and notably Mr. Larry Morgan, has been instrumental in making various events happen during both Environment Week and BC Rivers Day. CLC has also been very active in working directly with local streamkeeper groups on a number of enhancement projects and community initiatives (e.g., the National Stream of Dreams Project 2003).

In addition to being a strong corporate environmental partner with the City and its streamkeeper groups, CLC was a key contributor to the lookout at the Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park. CLC, in cooperation with the City, officially opened the new public interpretive lookout in Burnaby Fraser Foreshore Park on 2002 September 29 (BC Rivers Day). They also continue to complete the park's landscaping and development as development on their land proceeds.

Finally, it is worthy to note that CLC was the major contributor in relation to the lookout and related pedestrian bridges at Sussex Creek, which are now constructed and open to the public. The positive benefits of Larry Morgan and CLC's community stewardship activities cannot be overstated: their hands-on approach has both facilitated and realized numerous enhancement projects and initiatives that would have otherwise not been possible without their support.

3.3 Pesticide-Free Lawns and Gardens

The recommended recipients of the City of Burnaby 2003 Environment Award in Pesticide-Free Lawns and Gardens are:

Jean and Boaz Wong for their efforts to maintain a pesticide-free garden.

The garden was initially designed as an eco-sensitive garden, using only native plants in order to avoid the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and to reduce the prevalence of disease. In fact, there have been no pesticides used on the garden since its inception. While the Wongs did not design and initially plant the garden (it was inherited from a previous owner), their care and attention to its survival as an ecologically friendly landscape over the last two growing seasons is noted.

During the spring and summer, the garden provides habitat value for birds, butterflies and squirrels. In addition to the many flowering shrubs, vines and perennials, a fruit and vegetable garden is incorporated, and includes four varieties of trees, several blueberry bushes, herbs and a mulberry tree.

Overall, the Wong's garden exemplifies how an ecologically-friendly garden focussing on native plants can thrive without the use of chemicals or other pesticides.

Cascade Village for their ecologically-friendly landscaping.

Cascade Village is a large multiple-family development consisting of 260 units in central Burnaby (at Curle Avenue and Canada Way). The strata council for this development has decided to invest in excess of \$90,000 per year in order to maintain

their gardens and landscaping, largely consisting of native plants, in a truly environmentally sensitive manner. On two occasions, 1995 and 2000, Cascade Village received the City of Burnaby Beautification Committee Award.

Cascade Village made a decision, over three years ago, to focus on long term environmental planning and ecological awareness. In the last year, the Landscape-Garden Committee of the development's strata council decided to adopt a policy that prohibits use of any herbicides or pesticides on the property. For example, weeds are pulled manually, and leaves or other debris is raked (not blown). The residents of this development feel this overall approach is essential given their proximity to Springbrook Creek, and the realization of the interconnectedness of landscaping practices and the health of nearby watercourses. The residents of Cascade Village also attempt to ensure their landscaping remains friendly toward the variety of wildlife found in the area.

It is noted that the main consideration in favour of this award nominee is the size of their development – practising ecologically friendly landscaping on a large scale such as this is a difficult proposition for private residents, one which requires dedication and commitment in light of the many less costly and labour intensive alternatives. As this is the first year that an award under this category is being conferred, the work undertaken by Cascade Village will be the benchmark to which future award nominees in this category will be compared.

4.0 2003 ENVIRONMENTAL STARS

4.1 Communications Star: *Carol McLeod*

Carol McLeod teaches grades 6 and 7 at Clinton Elementary School, and is expected to retire this year. Carol and her Grade 7 or grade 6/7 classes have been involved in Burnaby-sponsored Environment Week and BC Rivers Day events for many years. She has invited Byrne Creek Streamkeepers to lead two to four tours of the creek each year for at least the last five years. Furthermore, she arranged for her classes to participate in Chevron's Aquaschool at the Vancouver Aquarium for two years. Her enthusiasm and commitment was essential in completing the fish painting for the original Stream of Dreams mural at Edmonds and Kingsway, the unveiling of which served to kick-off BC Rivers Day 2000. She later organized similar projects at her school, in order that her students could have their own "Stream".

4.2 Community Stewardship Stars: *Dianne Ramage and Shannon Campbell*

Dianne Ramage was the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Community Stewardship Coordinator for Burnaby for the last 18 months. Ms. Ramage has been instrumental in the growth of streamkeeper groups in Burnaby. During her time as Stewardship

Coordinator, the number of streamkeeper groups serving Burnaby increased from eight to twelve, a testament to her dedication and nurturing of the streamkeeper program. The Burnaby Streamkeepers speak very highly of Ms. Ramage and the work that she does in this community. "She's always been there for us," is a phrase echoed by every stewardship group. This refers not only to the provision of fish for a release, or a letter of support for a grant application, but for advice, strategy and support. As such, she attended stewardship meetings and worked with the stewards to address advocacy issues in their community. She took the extra step to get involved, and has cultivated a reputation of always being there and for always going the extra mile.

Shannon Campbell has been a valuable parent volunteer and active streamkeeper in Burnaby for a number of years. She has been raising chum salmon with the streamkeeper's club at the school in which she volunteers (Cascade Heights), which she faithfully organizes and runs every week. Ms. Campbell also organizes arts and crafts sessions with the children, all of which center around environmental friendliness. She regularly arranges for speakers from BCIT and the fisheries department (DFO) to speak to the students, and organizes field trips to local streams so that children could see for themselves the connection they have to their waterways. She consistently teaches the children the relationship between a clean environment and the health of local streams. Finally, Ms. Campbell was instrumental in an ambitious tree planting program at Cascade Heights, which also served to contribute to the vitality of the ecosystem in and around Guichon Creek. Ms. Campbell has clearly demonstrated her value to her community not only through volunteer works as a streamkeeper, but as an environmental educator of young children.

4.3 Youth Star: *Armstrong Elementary School*

The students of Armstrong Elementary School have been active in a number of positive environmental initiatives. One notable project is a recycling program called "The Green Team", which involves the recycling of juice boxes. Students are responsible for everything from collecting and sorting, to staffing and administration of the program. The school garden is another project of note. Technically four separate gardens (two flower, one fruit and vegetables and one native plants), the largest is entirely devoted to native plants. The gardens are intended to convey to the students not only the science behind agriculture, but also the value of native plants (hence that garden being the largest of the four). Finally, the school instituted "Footloose Friday", which is a program designed to encourage children to walk to school every Friday to reduce the number of cars on the road. Some classes have nearly achieved a 100% participation rate. Overall, the school has tried to instill in its students that doing their part in helping to protect the environment can be done in many small, achievable ways; and it is encouraging to note that the students have responded with a great deal of enthusiasm. Through these initiatives, the students of Armstrong Elementary School are fledging stewards making a difference in their school and community.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The citizen representatives of the Environment Committee recommend that the recipients identified in this report receive the 2003 City Environment Awards and 2003 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 eighth year for the City Environment Awards program, and the fourth year for the Environmental Stars.

It is recommended that the 2003 City Environment Awards be announced on 2003 May 26 at the regular meeting of Council. It is also proposed that the awards be presented at a special afternoon reception at Barnet Marine Park, hosted by Council, on 2003 June 08. The Awards afternoon also serves as an opportunity for the City to host its many environmental volunteers and community stewards.

JOAN CARNE, Citizen Representative
Environment Committee

GARY LANYON, Citizen Representative
Environment Committee

BILL SCHWARTZ, Citizen Representative
Environment Committee

SID WONG, Citizen Representative
Environment Committee

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Attachment

cc: City Manager

Appendix A

City of Burnaby Environment Awards & 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.

Pesticide-Free Lawns and Gardens

This category recognizes those in the community who have demonstrated and undertaken pesticide-free approaches to landscaping, and which provide a strong showcase for alternative approaches to cosmetic pesticide use in the City.