

**TO:** HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS

**DATE:** 2009 MARCH 18

**FROM:** KUSHIRO CUP SELECTION COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT: 2008 OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – RUBY JOHNSON**

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

**REPORT**

Burnaby City Council, at the 'Closed' Council meeting held on 2009 March 09, adopted the recommendation of the Kushiro Cup Selection Committee that Ruby Johnson receive the Kushiro Cup as Burnaby's 2008 Outstanding Citizen of the Year and that the presentation be made at the City Appreciation Dinner.

Nominations for Burnaby's 2008 Outstanding Citizen of the Year were invited through advertisements in The News Leader and the Burnaby Now newspapers.

The Kushiro Cup Selection Committee, at its meeting held on 2009 February 26, received and reviewed all nominations submitted. The Committee noted that all nominees were worthy of Council's consideration as they have all contributed a tremendous amount of their valuable time to the community.

**2008 Outstanding Citizen of the Year**

The Kushiro Cup Selection Committee recommended Ruby Johnson as the recipient of the Kushiro Cup as the 2008 Outstanding Citizen of the Year for her lifelong devotion to Burnaby and for generously giving of her time by volunteering in the community.

Ruby was born on her family's farm called "Drakes Landing" which was on Hastings Street and as a child attended Capitol Hill Elementary School and later Burnaby North Secondary School. According to her nominator, Ruby's first act of volunteering came when she was a very young woman. As a volunteer with the Canadian Red Cross she went and met the ships carrying the young men coming home from the War, which was not always easy as many came home wounded. During the years that Mrs. Johnson was busy raising her family, she managed to find the time to be a volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Society.

CC: CITY MANAGER
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Currently, there are many Burnaby organizations which are lucky to have Ruby as a volunteer – she is a hostess at the Confederation Centre for Seniors; she is the founding member of The Capitol Hill Community Association and presently serves on the Special Events Committee; she is a member of the Burnaby Historical Society; she sits as a citizen representative on the City of Burnaby’s Community Heritage Commission; and she is a founding member and Past President of the Canadianna Costume Society. Over the last 30 years, Ruby has done many jobs for the Costume Society including cataloguing of clothing, displays at special events in Burnaby, fashion shows and even arranged antique cars and participants for “Hat’s Off Day”.

Mrs. Johnson is a true pioneer of Burnaby and is part of the City’s living history. Ruby has been volunteering at the Burnaby Village Museum since 1974 and in 2007, she served as the Museum’s Honourary Reeve. In that capacity, she became the Museum’s ambassador at public events both on and off site. According to one of her supporters, Ruby also wears the Museum’s 1920s costumes with panache! Sharing her lifetime of experiences as an early resident of North Burnaby, Ruby is a favourite with visitors.

Mrs. Johnson’s supporters advise that she loves Burnaby, especially her beloved North Burnaby and as the unofficial spokesperson for the area she has earned the nickname “The Queen of North Burnaby”.

Her nominator states *“that recognition of Ruby’s lifetime of volunteering is long overdue”*. And in the words of one of her supporters, *“Mrs. Ruby Johnson is a devoted volunteer who never fails to give freely of her time. Ruby is an excellent choice for Burnaby’s Citizen of the Year!”* The Kushiro Cup Selection Committee agrees that Mrs. Ruby Johnson is truly worthy of receiving the honour of *“Citizen of the Year”*.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Nick Volkow  
Chair

Councillor Dan Johnston  
Member

Councillor Colleen Jordan  
Member