

**SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2012 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

**REPORT**

Council, at the 'Closed' Council meeting held on 2012 September 17, received and adopted the *attached* report containing this year's Local Hero nominees.

A copy of the Local Hero report is provided for public information.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor P. Calendino  
Chair

Councillor P. McDonell  
Vice Chair

Councillor N. Volkow  
Member

<p>COPY: City Manger Deputy City Managers Director Planning and Building Acting Director Engineering Director Finance Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Chief Librarian Fire Chief OIC, RCMP</p>
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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2012 September 11

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

**FILE:** 1450 01  
*Reference: Local Heroes*

**SUBJECT:** 2012 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

**PURPOSE:** To recommend individuals for receipt of 2012 Local Hero Awards and to seek funding approval for the 2013 Local Hero Award program.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to:
  - a. Approve the nominations of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2012:
    1. Karen Corcoran
    2. Thea Juett
    3. Maria Motta
    4. Vivian Pinter
    5. Michael Raynor
    6. Linda Saunders
    7. Tanaya Shaw
    8. Marilena (Marilyn) Soligo
  - b. Invite approved nominees to the 2012 November 5 Council meeting to be presented with their Local Hero Award certificates of recognition.
  - c. Approve expenditures of up to \$3,000 from the 2013 Boards Committees and Commissions budget for printing and advertising costs for the 2013 Local Hero Award program.

**REPORT****1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Since 1997, Burnaby has identified and recognized Local Heroes, individuals who make outstanding contributions to community well-being in Burnaby. To date, the City has recognized 217 Local Heroes, individuals who represent diverse interests and backgrounds and have contributed to the community in a variety of ways (see list of past recipients in *Appendix 1, attached*).

This report provides background information and recommendations on the nominees for the 2012 Local Hero Award program.

## 2.0 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

As in previous years, nominations were sought for the 2012 Local Hero awards through advertisements in local newspapers, the City website, and community networks (e.g., Burnaby Interagency Council<sup>1</sup>). Associated posters and brochures were also circulated through all City venues (e.g., City Hall, recreation centres, libraries, community police offices), and through partners such as the Burnaby School District. Volunteer Burnaby also distributed information about the program to their members and networks. The deadline for submitting Local Hero nominations was 2012 May 4.

As stated in the eligibility guidelines, a maximum of 12 Local Heroes may be selected in a given year. Local Hero Awards are intended to recognize individuals who have made contributions to community well-being in Burnaby over an extended period of time in multiple capacities. Local Hero Awards are given on a one-time basis only.

A total of 14 nominations were received this year. After reviewing the submissions in accordance with the established criteria, the following 8 nominees are proposed for 2012 Local Hero Awards.

### **Karen Corcoran**

Karen gives many hours of her time to improving public safety in Burnaby by volunteering with the Hastings Brentwood Community Police Office. Karen was instrumental in initiating the Business Watch program in North Burnaby, a pilot which transferred application of many of the lessons and techniques of Block Watch to businesses. This successful pilot has now expanded to the southwest area of Burnaby. As well, working with Constable Sarah Hunter, Karen developed the ‘Comfort Bags’, which provide basic toiletries, toy and activities to children in crisis or who are victims of crime. ‘Comfort Bags’ are now used by the RCMP in multiple areas. As Karen’s nominators state: *Karen dedicates an immeasurable amount of time to the well-being of the city of Burnaby.*

### **Thea Juett**

For the past 25 years, Thea has been an active volunteer with the Burnaby Hospice Society and St. Michael’s Extended Care and Hospice Facility. A founding member of the Burnaby Hospice Society, Thea rallied the Burnaby community with the conviction that no one should have to die alone. Still active with the organization, Thea also volunteers as a Board member of the St. Michael’s Centre, which is currently celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary. As her nominators highlight: *Because of Thea [...] no one in Burnaby now need go through the end-of-life journey alone.*

### **Maria Motta**

Maria is a long-time volunteer with South Burnaby Neighbourhood House (SBNH) and the Healthy Heart Program at Burnaby Hospital. Based on her passion for cooking, Maria has been involved in organizing and providing food for community dinners and fundraising events for the past 15 years. As well, every year for Easter, Valentine’s Day, St. Patrick’s Day and Christmas Maria bakes hundreds of cookies for the children at SBNH daycares. Maria is also a member of SBNH’s ‘Seniors Together’ program, which reaches out to diverse seniors who are experiencing isolation, and has been active in suggesting and creating healthy lunches and snacks for participating seniors. In addition, for the past 8 years, Maria has been cooking and serving snacks every Tuesday and Friday morning to participants of the Burnaby Hospital Healthy Heart program, for which she also is an

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<sup>1</sup> Burnaby Interagency Council is an informal affiliation of approximately 100 representatives from organizations and agencies offering community and social services in Burnaby.

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active fundraiser. As Maria's nominators write: *Our young volunteers love working alongside Maria, who is turning 77 this year – with Maria it is about learning, sharing life's wisdom and love for her community.*

### **Vivian Pinter**

Vivian is a dedicated volunteer who gives many hours to the Burnaby North Girl Guides, the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) of Capitol Hill Elementary School and her local Block Watch chapter. Vivian has acted as a Spark, Brownie and now Pathfinder leader bringing her energy to organizing and maintaining the group, while helping to create a range of positive learning experiences for participating children. As well, Vivian accompanied a group of Pathfinders to Mexico for a service trip this past summer. In her role with the Capitol Hill Elementary PAC, Vivian exercises her fundraising talents to support the school's activities. As Vivian's nominators highlight: *Vivian is not only a wise and patient mentor to young people in our community, but also a tireless fundraiser and a terrific organizer.*

### **Michael Raynor**

Michael has been an active volunteer with the Community Centered College for the Retired since 1999, and during these 13 years has acted in a number of different roles. Michael served as a Director of the College from 2001-2006 and currently teaches computer skills classes. As a long-time Mason and Shriner, joining 31 years ago in 1981, Michael has also been active in his community, along with his wife Barbara, by cleaning and restoring electronic equipment for re-use and recycling, working at food banks, and compiling comfort kits for the homeless. As his nominators write: *Michael sees his community as his extended family, and Michael's sense of extended family responsibility is very strong.*

### **Linda Saunders**

Since becoming a volunteer over 10 years ago for the Wildlife Rescue Association of BC, Linda has contributed over 9,000 hours of service helping injured wildlife. The Wildlife Rescue Association, which has its care centre located in Burnaby, rehabilitates injured wildlife and promotes the welfare of animals in the urban environment. Through her volunteer duties, Linda not only feeds animals and cleans cages, but also constructs needed facilities – such as a recent project where Linda built a new outdoor enclosure to better care for orphaned ducklings. Linda has also been active in the Burnaby community to solicit financial support for helping injured wildlife and has been successful in facilitating many thousands of dollars of necessary donations. As her nominators state: *Linda has always been committed to providing support to animals by any means needed. Whenever we need additional support, whether it be last minute or well in advance, she has been there without question.*

### **Tanaya Shaw**

Tanaya is a long-time volunteer with the City of Burnaby Citizen Support Services Department, specifically in the 'Baby Cuddle' program. In this role, Tanaya provides close support and attention to families in need by assisting new mothers of infants with daily tasks and providing respite care for older siblings. As well, Tanaya goes 'above and beyond' in sourcing and collecting needed household items for the families she works with including children's clothes and toys. Tanaya has also accompanied families with ill infants to the hospital to provide support and care for older children so the parents can spend concentrated time with their sick child. As Tanaya's nominators outline: *Tanaya is one of Burnaby's own, giving back to her community [...] She is a young person that represents the city she lives in, works in, and volunteers in – exceptionally.*

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**Marilena (Marilyn) Soligo**

Marilena – or Marilyn – has been a dedicated volunteer at the Community Centered College for the Retired since 1998, leading language classes in Spanish and Italian to interested seniors. Each year Marilyn contributes more than 148 hours of volunteering at the College. In addition to this work, Marilyn is an long-standing volunteer at St. Helen’s Parish in Burnaby assisting with the Mission Society, church events and food drives for those in need. As Marilyn’s nominators write: *Marilyn arrived in Canada from her native Italy in 1956 unable to speak English [...] she learned English while on the job, married and raised a family all while giving back to the community that welcomed her through volunteering – and she taught her children to do the same.*

**3.0 ASSESSMENT**

Based on the established selection criteria, the foregoing 8 nominees satisfy the guidelines for Burnaby’s Local Hero Award program and demonstrate the exemplary characteristics required of a local hero. In their unique ways, they have all made noteworthy contributions to community well-being and merit recognition as Local Heroes.

**4.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

2012 marks the sixteenth year that Burnaby has recognized Local Heroes. As in previous years, again the quality of submissions and calibre of nominees is high. It is believed that the Local Hero Award program is an effective vehicle for recognizing citizens who have made noteworthy contributions to community well-being in Burnaby over the years. A key strength of the program is that the nominations are received from the community.

It is recommended that the Committee request Council to approve the nominations of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2012:

1. Karen Corcoran
2. Thea Juett
3. Maria Motta
4. Vivian Pinter
5. Michael Raynor
6. Linda Saunders
7. Tanya Shaw
8. Marilena (Marilyn) Soligo

It is further recommended that the Committee request Council to invite approved nominees to the 2012 November 5 Council meeting to be presented with certificates of recognition. As in previous years, a reception for the Local Hero award recipients will be held prior to the meeting. Volunteer Burnaby will be invited to have a display at the reception in recognition of its ongoing support in promoting the program. After the awards presentation, staff will also once again publish an article celebrating the Local Hero Award recipients in a forthcoming issue of InfoBurnaby and on the City website.

Finally, as in previous years, it is recommended that the Committee request Council to approve expenditures of up to \$3,000 from the Boards, Committees and Commissions budget for printing and advertising costs for the 2013 Local Hero Awards program. For efficiencies, staff will also work to

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align 2013 promotional activities with the civic Environment Awards program which occurs during the same period as the Local Hero award program.

With Committee adoption of the recommendations of this report, the report would advance to Council for initial consideration at a closed meeting in mid 2012 September, with subsequent consideration at an open meeting in early 2012 October. With Council approval, successful nominees would be notified, and the awards presented at the 2012 November 5 Council meeting.

Lou Pelletier, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RM:sa  
**Attachment**

cc:	City Manager	Deputy City Managers
	Acting Director Engineering	Director Finance
	Fire Chief	Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services
	OIC - RCMP	Chief Librarian