

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2013 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

Council, at the 'Closed' Council meeting held on 2013 August 26, 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. McDonell
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Vice Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Member

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

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2013 May 28

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1450 01
Reference: Local Heroes

SUBJECT: 2013 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

PURPOSE: To recommend individuals for receipt of 2013 Local Hero Awards and to seek funding approval for the 2014 Local Hero Award program.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to:
 - a. Approve the nominations of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2013:
 1. Verna Adamson
 2. Georgette Leduc
 3. Gulshan Megji
 4. Velma Pallen
 5. Larry Smith
 6. Ken Tunnicliffe
 7. Melanie Walkus.
 - b. Invite approved nominees to the 2013 November 04 Council meeting to be presented with their Local Hero Award certificates of recognition.
 - c. Approve expenditures of up to \$3,000 from the 2014 Boards Committees and Commissions budget for printing and advertising costs for the 2014 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 225 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*).

To: Social Issues Committee
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: 2013 Local Hero Nominees
2013 May 28..... Page 2

This report provides background information and recommendations on the nominees for the 2013 Local Hero Award program.

2.0 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

As in previous years, nominations were sought for the 2013 Local Hero Awards through advertisements in local newspapers, the City website, the City’s social media channels (i.e., City Facebook page and Twitter account), and community networks (e.g., Burnaby Interagency Council¹). 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 2013 May 10.

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 12 nominations were received this year. After reviewing the submissions in accordance with the established criteria, the following 7 nominees are proposed for 2013 Local Hero Awards.

Verna Adamson

Verna gives many hours of her time as a volunteer with Scouts Canada, specifically assisting to oversee the Scouting network in Burnaby. Over the past 15 years, some of her duties in this role have included recruiting and engaging volunteers, facilitating the input of participating youth in Scouting network decisions, supporting Scout troupe leaders, and organizing volunteer appreciation events. As well, Verna is a past volunteer president of the Burnaby Rhododendron and Garden Society, which is an active garden club in Burnaby that supports gardeners of all levels and interest and that also promotes gardening in the wider community. As Verna’s nominators state: “*Verna contributes countless hours in Burnaby [...] impacting many hundreds of local community residents for the better*”.

Georgette Leduc

For the past 15 years, Georgette has been active volunteering with four local care homes for seniors, acting as a ‘conversation visitor’ for resident frail elders, while also assisting with recreation programs. In addition, Georgette provides end-of-life companionship for care home residents and also coordinates volunteers and clergy to offer Mass for Catholic residents of the care homes. As Georgette’s nominators write: “*She calmly and steadfastly carries on with her volunteer work, bringing a sense of peace to people at the end of their lives. [...] We feel blessed to have her as a volunteer, and honoured to know her as a person*”.

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

To: Social Issues Committee
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: 2013 Local Hero Nominees
2013 May 28..... Page 3

Gulshan Megji

Over the past 19 years, Gulshan has been an active volunteer with the Burnaby Art Gallery and Citizen Support Services. Among other duties at the Gallery, Gulshan assists with the opening of exhibits and other special events. With Citizen Support Services, Gulshan also fills a number of roles including assisting frail seniors with shopping and personal errands, and accompanying arranged group outings as a support assistant. As Gulshan's nominators write: *"We are truly grateful for volunteers like Gulshan who give not only their time, but also their compassion and friendship to others"*.

Velma Pallen

Velma has volunteered over the past 20 years with the Burnaby Lougheed Lions Club, the Burnaby North Lions Club and the Fellburn Care Centre. Some of her roles with the Lions Clubs include hosting community pancake breakfasts, organizing the collection of used hearing aids and eyeglasses for donation overseas, and refurbishing used children's bicycles for donation. At the Fellburn Care Centre, Velma volunteers three days a week accompanying residents on bus trip outings and helping to organize centre teas. As Velma's nominators state: *"Burnaby citizens are lucky to have Velma in their midst, and we would be proud to call her a community hero"*.

Larry Smith

Over the past 6 years, Larry has volunteered countless hours with the Burnaby Hospice Society and Progressive Housing Society. At Burnaby Hospice, he volunteers four days a week at the Hospice Thrift Store assisting customers, and sorting and displaying donated items. With Progressive Housing Society, Larry assists with fundraising activities and plans events for participants in the Supported Housing Programs. As Larry's nominators write: *"Larry is a model Burnaby citizen who should be honoured for his effort and service to the community over many years"*.

Ken Tunnicliffe

Ken has volunteered for the past 15 years with Burnaby Association for Community Inclusion as a fund development advisor, and with the Sharing Our Futures Foundation (SOFF) as a Director. The SOFF raises funds to support individuals with developmental disabilities in the Burnaby community. In addition to providing this link between the business and non-profit community, Ken has also been an active volunteer with the South Burnaby United Church for over 20 years, including 6 years as Board Chair. As Ken's nominators describe: *"Ken truly embodies all that a Local Hero Award stands for – inspiring others to achieve their goals and creating a better world for us all to live in"*.

Melanie Walkus

Over the past 7 years, Melanie has become an indispensable part of the Twelfth Avenue Elementary School community for her extensive and varied volunteer work. Examples of her involvement include administering the Home Reading Club, and initiating and organizing fundraisers for the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). As well, for the PAC, Melanie has organized Christmas Hampers for in-need school and community families, and has helped to

To: Social Issues Committee
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: 2013 Local Hero Nominees
2013 May 28..... Page 4

prepare and serve breakfast to students who arrive at school hungry. A particularly notable achievement is Melanie's volunteer involvement on the District Committee to establish the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement, which was established to encourage the academic and social success of Aboriginal students in the Burnaby school system. The Ministry of Education, the Burnaby School Board and the Burnaby Teachers Association are all signatories to this agreement. As Melanie's nominators write: "*Melanie gives hundreds of hours each school year [...] to make the lives of students happier and to encourage them to achieve academic and life success*".

3.0 ASSESSMENT

Based on the established selection criteria, the foregoing 7 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

2013 marks the seventeenth year that Burnaby has recognized Local Heroes. As in previous years, 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 2013:

1. Verna Adamson
2. Georgette Leduc
3. Gulshan Megji
4. Velma Pallen
5. Larry Smith
6. Ken Tunnicliffe
7. Melanie Walkus

It is further recommended that the Committee request Council to invite approved nominees to the 2013 November 04 Council meeting to be presented with certificates of recognition. 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 2014 Local Hero Award program. As occurred successfully in

To: Social Issues Committee
From: Director Planning and Building
Re: 2013 Local Hero Nominees
2013 May 28..... Page 5

2013, staff will also again work to align 2014 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 late 2013 August, with subsequent consideration at an Open meeting in early 2013 September. With Council approval, successful nominees would be notified, and the awards presented at the 2013 November 04 Council meeting.

Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RM:sa:jc
Attachment

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