

**TO:** MAYOR AND COUNCILLORS

**DATE:** 2014 March 06

**FROM:** KUSHIRO CUP SELECTION COMMITTEE

**SUBJECT:** 2013 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR – MRS. GEORGIE COLE

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this report is to announce the presentation of the 2013 Citizen of the Year Award to Mrs. Georgie Cole at the annual City Appreciation Dinner to be held on 2014 May 02.

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. **THAT** Council receives this report for information purposes.

**REPORT**

Burnaby City Council, at the 'Closed' Council meeting held on 2014 March 10, received and adopted a report from the Kushiro Cup Selection Committee recommending that Mrs. Georgie Cole be awarded the Kushiro Cup for 2013 Outstanding Citizen of the Year. Mrs. Georgie Cole has been selected for her devotion to Burnaby and for generously giving of her time by volunteering in the community for the past 50 years. Her compassion for children, youth, and families has enriched and blessed the lives of many in our community.

Over the past 50 years many Burnaby organizations have had the great fortune of Mrs. Cole's volunteerism, a few of these include:

- Second Street Community School:
  - active member of the school community for over 48 years;
  - instrumental in 'Community School' designation;
  - Breakfast Homework Club – providing healthy muffins and assistance with homework;
  - one on one reading assistance as well as providing support to other Literacy Centres in Burnaby Community Schools;
  - Knitting Club and many other social events;
- Eastside Opportunities Society:
  - active member of Board for 30 years;
  - committed to promotion of youth programs;
  - advocating for the Society to create and expand before and after school care programs;
  - researching and applying for funding grants;
  - initiating spring break and summer day camps, youth drop-in programs, homework clubs, and breakfast programs;
- Deer Lake United Church
  - integral part of the homeless outreach program by making lunches and offering care to strangers;

- East Burnaby United Church
  - 45 years Mrs. Cole as a contributing member of the outreach to care homes and shut-ins, teaching Sunday School, youth leader and fundraising;
- Block Watch
  - Captain for the past 26 years;
- Burnaby Barracudas Swim Club
  - volunteer for 18 years; and
- Robert Burnaby Park
  - advocating for amenities and youth and family programs.

Mrs. Cole has even managed to turn her hobbies into opportunities to volunteer and bring joy to others. Her love of line dancing has resulted in sharing this passion by teaching classes for the last 21 years. As a quilter, sewer and knitter she has provided Sheway (pregnancy outreach program), Liberty Place, breast cancer patients and local schools with quilts, pillows, book bags, bean bags, hats and scarves. Through her love of theatre and stand-up comedy Mrs. Cole is able to bring laughter and happiness to all that attend her performances.

In conclusion, one of Mrs. Cole's many nominators summed her up by saying:

*'Communities don't happen without the passion, heart and soul of the people within it. Georgie Cole personifies every one of those qualities. It is with passion that she advocates for the rights of families, children and youth in her neighbourhood, keeping their futures in mind. It is with her whole heart that she embraces people from every walk of life and helps them make connections with one another so that they feel loved and welcomed. And it is with soul that Georgie pours her whole being into living life's every moment, so that she can share all that her community has to offer with zest and fervor. Georgie Cole isn't just a part of the community, Georgie is the community.'*

The Kushiro Cup Selection Committee agrees that Mrs. Georgie Cole is truly worthy of receiving the honour of "2013 Citizen of the Year" and is pleased to recommend this award be presented to Mrs. Cole at the annual City Appreciation Dinner to be held on Friday, 2014 May 02.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Anne Kang  
Chair

Councillor Paul McDonell  
Vice Chair

Councillor Dan Johnston  
Member

Copied to: City Manager