

SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2014 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Social Issues Committee submitted a report to the Closed meeting of Council held on 2014 August 25, recommending individuals for receipt of the 2014 Local Hero Awards.

At its Closed meeting, Council received and adopted the *attached* report containing this year's Local Hero nominees.

This report is provided for public information.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor P. McDonell
Chair

Councillor P. Calendino
Vice Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Member

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

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
SOCIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE

DATE: 2014 May 23

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1450 01
Reference: Local Heroes

SUBJECT: 2014 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

PURPOSE: To recommend individuals for receipt of 2014 Local Hero Awards and to seek funding approval for the 2015 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 2014:
 1. Farida Bano Ali
 2. Flavia Crema
 3. Ernest Maitland
 4. Ceilidh Millar
 5. Teresa Morton
 6. Susan Nugent
 7. Carol Rush
 8. Arlene Sawchuk
 9. Yun-ik Schallert
 10. Peggy Woodruff
 - b. Invite approved nominees to the 2014 October 20 Council meeting to be presented with their Local Hero Award certificates of recognition.
 - c. Approve expenditures of up to \$3,000 from the 2015 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget for printing and advertising costs for the 2015 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 233 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*).

Report

To: Social Issues Committee

From: Director Planning and Building

Re: 2014 Local Hero Nominees

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This report provides background information and recommendations on the nominees for the 2014 Local Hero Award program.

2.0 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

As in previous years, nominations were sought for the 2014 Local Hero Awards through advertisements in local newspapers, the City website, the City’s social media channels (e.g., City Facebook page and Twitter account), and community networks (e.g., Burnaby Interagency Council¹). Associated posters and nomination forms 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 2014 May 9.

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, including one joint nomination. After reviewing the submissions in accordance with the established criteria, the following 10 nominees are proposed for 2014 Local Hero Awards.

Farida Bano Ali

For almost the past two decades, Farida has been an advocate for social justice, interfaith dialogue, mental health wellness, and women and children’s issues both in Burnaby and in surrounding communities. Among other activities, Farida is a Director of the Multi-Faith Action Society, which has projects in Burnaby, a Chairperson on the Muslim Advisory Committee for the Provincial Ministry of Children and Family Development, the Chair of the BC Muslim Association (Women’s Council) and a member of the B.C. RCMP Diversity Advisory Committee. In all of these roles, Farida works to build cross cultural and faith understanding, collaboration and engagement. Farida has also worked closely with Masjid A-Salaam and Education Centre in Burnaby to raise monies for mental health and community wellness projects. As Farida’s nominators state: *“Her compassion and unconditional giving in Burnaby and surrounding communities makes Farida a local hero to us all.”*

Flavia Crema

For the past 19 years, Flavia has been an active volunteer with the Burnaby Art Gallery, assisting with the preparation and coordination of new exhibits. She also maintains and organizes the preparation area, including organizing the inventory of supplies. As well, Flavia is a long-time volunteer at St. Helen’s Parish where she assists at the busy parish office and in coordinating a wide range of parish activities including bingo and food events. As Flavia’s nominators write: *“She is a very dedicated volunteer to her community. Flavia works very hard and delivers the best service and help whenever and wherever needed.”*

¹ 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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Ernest Maitland

Since 2007, Ernest has been deeply involved in a number of volunteer capacities with Burnaby Public Library. Between 2007 and 2012, he acted as a Library Trustee. Since completing his term – the maximum permitted without a break – Ernest has remained involved as a particular champion of Home Library Services, ‘My First Language’ collections, and Teen Services. Indeed, Ernest was a key advocate for the establishment of Teen Services with a dedicated Teen Library. As Ernest’s nominators describe: *“He is a passionate advocate for the library [...] and we are certain that ‘love’ is the best word to describe his association with Burnaby Public Library and by extension the Burnaby community.”*

Ceilidh Millar

Since 2009, Ceilidh has been a passionate volunteer working in the area of teen bullying and suicide prevention. As a BCIT student in 2009, she founded and began delivering her own anti-bullying education initiative called ‘End Bullying through Peer Advocacy’. She is also an active member of Rotary Youth and a spokesperson for Kids Help Phone (Western Region). As well, Ceilidh acts as a volunteer journalist for Youthink Magazine. This Burnaby-based publication is written by young people for young people and features articles on topics important to youth. In addition, Ceilidh recently spearheaded a joint video campaign project on cyber bullying between BCIT and Burnaby North Secondary students called ‘Stand Up, Speak Out’. Ceilidh has also received other honours for her work including the BCIT Distinguished Alumni Award. As Ceilidh’s nominators describe: *“Her work shows all of us how to create caring and compassionate environments, making a better community for everyone.”*

Teresa Morton

Teresa has worked tirelessly for 6 years with the Canadian Mental Health Association – Burnaby Branch in multiple capacities. Of note is her work to develop and build the My Artist’s Corner (MAC) initiative from a program to a non-profit of its own. MAC provides a space for persons living with mental health concerns to develop healing and community through art. Teresa organizes meetings, helps provide tools, recruits volunteer instructors, and fosters budding artistic talent. As well, Teresa volunteers with the ECHO Program as a program assistant. ECHO is a rehabilitation program providing a range of services to support individuals living with a mental illness who have experienced social isolation. As Teresa’s nominators state: *“She is incredibly thoughtful, inspiring, selfless and genuine – her dedication and commitment to the community has proven invaluable.”*

Susan Nugent

Susan has been an active volunteer for over 10 years with many different organizations in Burnaby including the Edmonds Community Centre, Burnaby Fall Prevention and Burnaby Hospice. Through her work with these organizations she focuses on helping seniors stay active, healthy and connected with their community by organizing activities such as dance groups and fall prevention workshops. As Susan’s nominators describe: *“Susan is constantly and consistently busy 5 to 7 days a week while volunteering in the community, as a dedicated and steadfast volunteer.”*

Carol Rush

Carol has been a vital part of the Burnaby Village Museum community for over 20 years, where she has worked as a volunteer docent and as a member of the ‘rescue and restoration’ team for both Tram 1223 and the Carousel. As well, Carol acted as Honorary Reeve of the Museum in 2010. She has also been active over this period with the Burnaby Historical Society and regularly organizes fundraising

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and educational events for the group to make sure that local history is preserved, appreciated and understood. As Carol’s nominators write: *“She has spent her entire adult life volunteering in Burnaby for the preservation of history and for the benefit of children and education. Her love and passion in the community has a far reaching effect.”*

Arlene Sawchuk

For over 20 years, Arlene has volunteered countless hours with Burnaby Citizen Support Services. During her service, Arlene has managed the phone grocery program, ensuring that grocery orders are correctly delivered to isolated seniors in Burnaby. This attitude of giving extends to other areas including acting as a volunteer driver for seniors, assisting with fundraising events for many local non-profit organizations, and knitting toques for the Union Gospel Mission and other agencies. As Arlene’s nominators write: *“Arlene is someone who goes about her everyday life doing something kind for everyone she meets in a very quiet, unselfish manner. It is therefore with gratitude that she is recommended as a Local Hero.”*

Yun-ik Schallert

For over 8 years, Yun-ik has been an active volunteer with the Korean Senior Citizens Society and the Korean Veterans’ Association. Among other duties at the Burnaby-based Senior Citizens Society, Yun-ik organizes continuing education programs, assists with meal preparation for special occasions, and hosts multi-cultural events with seniors of other cultural backgrounds. With the Veterans’ Association, Yun-ik is a member of the Board of Directors and is in charge of development events and programs for veteran members. As Yun-ik’s nominators write: *“She has worked hard to improve the quality of life for many Burnaby residents, and has helped many newcomers adapt to the local community. Her dedication is important to recognize.”*

Peggy Woodruff

Peggy has been a dedicated volunteer in the Burnaby community for over 20 years in a range of roles. For example, for over 10 years she has been involved with the Burnaby Edmonds Lions Club where she assists the club to participate in Edmonds community events and raise money for donation to local schools. As well, she is a founding member of the Burnaby Association for the South-East Side (BASES), which was formed in 2010 to develop, fund, promote and deliver activities, services and programs that encourage the positive social development of people who live and work in the local community. This includes recently opening a thrift store in the Edmonds area that raises money for social programs. As Peggy’s nominators write: *“Peggy’s warmth and dedication to her work has touched so many lives in the Burnaby community.”*

3.0 ASSESSMENT

Based on the established selection criteria, the foregoing 10 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

2014 marks the eighteenth 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

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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 2014:

1. Farida Bano Ali
2. Flavia Crema
3. Ernest Maitland
4. Ceilidh Millar
5. Teresa Morton
6. Susan Nugent
7. Carol Rush
8. Arlene Sawchuk
9. Yun-ik Schallert
10. Peggy Woodruff

It is further recommended that the Committee request Council to invite approved nominees to the 2014 October 20 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 2015 Local Hero Award program. As occurred successfully in 2013 and 2014, staff will also again work to align 2015 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 2014 August, with subsequent consideration at an Open meeting in early 2014 September. With Council approval, successful nominees would be notified, and the awards presented at the 2014 October 20 Council meeting.

Lou Pelletier, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

RM:sla

Attachment

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