

**SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE**

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND COUNCILLORS*

**SUBJECT: 2015 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

**REPORT**

The Social Planning Committee submitted a report to the Closed meeting of Council held on 2015 June 15, recommending individuals for receipt of the 2015 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 N. Volkow  
Chair

Councillor A. Kang  
Vice Chair

Councillor J. Wang  
Member

<p>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</p>
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Meeting 2015 Jun 03

## COMMITTEE REPORT

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**TO:** CHAIR AND MEMBERS  
SOCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 2015 May 26

**FROM:** DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

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

**SUBJECT:** 2015 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

**PURPOSE:** To recommend individuals for receipt of 2015 Local Hero Awards and to seek funding approval for the 2016 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 2015:
    - i. George Doering
    - ii. Janice Froese
    - iii. Aliya Jiwa
    - iv. Maureen Kirk
    - v. Lindy McQueen
    - vi. Heather Podrow
    - vii. Clare Stegen
    - viii. Tony Wong
  - b. Invite approved nominees to the 2015 October 5 Council meeting to be presented with their Local Hero Award certificates of recognition.
  - c. Approve expenditures of up to \$3,000 from the 2016 Boards, Committees and Commissions budget for printing and advertising costs for the 2016 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 243 Local

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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*).

**2.0 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES**

As in previous years, nominations were sought for the 2015 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 Council<sup>1</sup>). 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 2015 May 8 and was extended to 2015 May 15 to encourage additional nominations.

As stated in the eligibility guidelines established by the Committee in 2010, a maximum of 12 Local Heroes may be selected in a given year. The awards are intended to recognize individuals who have made contributions to community well-being in Burnaby through volunteer activities for at least five years and in a minimum of two different activities. 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 8 nominees are proposed for 2015 Local Hero Awards.

**George Doering**

For nearly two decades, George has been a community advocate and volunteer. George was an active member of the New Vista Society Executive Board for 18 years, working to ensure that the Society’s housing was progressive and enriched the lives of its residents. He also organizes and teaches workshops on seniors’ health and well-being through the Council of Senior Citizens Organizations of BC. For the past decade, George has also volunteered for the Office of Raj Chouhan at many community events, providing information and assistance to community members. As George’s nominators write: *“George has been a tireless advocate and volunteer all his life. He has been an instrumental member of the Burnaby-Edmonds community.”*

**Janice Froese**

For over two decades, Janice has been engaged in community development and education activities with several organizations in Burnaby. As a member of the Rotary Club of Burnaby Deer Lake, Janice has been actively involved in youth capacity building through her work with the Interact Clubs at Burnaby South and Burnaby Central Secondary Schools, the Rotary Youth Exchange, and the Burnaby Rotaract Club, assisting youth with planning and implementing community projects. She also coordinates the Burnaby Boots for Kids program, which distributes new boots to children to ensure that those in need are prepared for the cold winter months. Through the Burnaby Neighbourhood House, Janice also volunteers as a literacy tutor and sits on the Neighbourhood Small Grants committee, a program that seeks to connect and engage

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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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residents within their community. As Janice's nominators describe: *"Her work has quietly gone unrecognized until now [...]. She is a caring individual with a passion for making a difference in her city and in the world."*

#### **Aliya Jiwa**

Aliya has been an active volunteer for over five years with the Burnaby Art Gallery where she inspires young artists and assists instructors in producing quality art instruction. Aliya helps with material preparation, program set up and cleanup, and provides individual assistance to students during workshops. Aliya's enthusiasm for community engagement is shown in her work with the organization Apathy is Boring, where she is part of a volunteer street team that visits music festivals and community events to encourage youth to vote and get involved in their community, including registering people to vote. As Aliya's nominators write: *"Always a friendly face [...], she has shown herself to be dependable in all types of situations and often spots needs or problems before they arise. She has been a thoughtful and energetic addition to the team."*

#### **Maureen Kirk**

Maureen has been dedicated to enhancing the lives of seniors in Burnaby for over 18 years through her volunteerism with Citizen Support Services. Since 1997, Maureen has been a dedicated volunteer visitor for several local seniors, building meaningful friendships with each of her clients. She also became involved as a volunteer driver for the South Lunch Program and the Gadabouts Bus Outings Program, as well as being a weekly shopping buddy. As Maureen's nominators state: *"Maureen is a generous and kind hearted person who takes great pleasure in assisting others. She is an invaluable member of our team whose mission is to support Burnaby citizens in health and independent living."*

#### **Lindy McQueen**

Lindy is a tireless volunteer who has dedicated her time and energy to several organizations in the community in which she grew up. Lindy's volunteerism spans a breadth of activities, from welcoming new congregation members at the Gordon Presbyterian Church, to organizing community events, to delivering education and awareness about public safety and local foods. Most recently, Lindy founded the Edmonds People in Residence Association, which provides opportunities for neighbours to get to know each other and work together on a variety of community projects. As Lindy's nominators write: *"Lindy is interested in people; in her neighbours, in helping people be part of their own community and enjoying the best of Burnaby."*

#### **Heather Podrow**

Heather has been a dedicated volunteer for 13 years, working with palliative care patients and their families, as well as being a docent at the Burnaby Art Gallery. In addition to supporting palliative care patients at the George Derby Centre, Heather also focussed on connecting with residents and veterans who had few or no family visits. As a docent, Heather has delivered quality school programming, as well as assisting with exhibition openings. As Heather's nominators describe: *"She has a calm and kind presence which many [...] are drawn to. She is a*

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*compassionate person to the 'nth' degree [...]. There seems to be no one person that she wouldn't hesitate to move towards helping."*

**Claire Stegen**

Claire has been an active volunteer in Burnaby throughout her adult life. Since 2004, she has volunteered countless hours with the Deer Lake United Church doing a variety of activities, including organizing the preparation of lunches for people who are homeless, organizing children's camps, and fundraising to provide food and programming at the Burnaby Youth Hub. As Claire's nominators state: *"Claire is truly one who constantly is working for others in her kind, gentle way. She is a role model for everyone involved in the community, always working to make our community a better place."*

**Tony Wong**

For over a decade, Tony has been a vital part of the Alpha and Sperling Parent Advisory Committees, filling various roles during this time. At Alpha, he took over the role of Treasurer and spearheaded numerous fundraising efforts for the school, while assisting with each year's Dry Grad Committee and judging Science Fair exhibitions. Tony has also served as the Chair of the District 1 Community Policing Advisory Committee for over seven years. He volunteers at the community policing office and community events to raise awareness about public safety and crime prevention. He also served on the Mayor's Task Force on Graffiti. As Tony's nominators describe: *"His gentle, approachable demeanor makes him an amazing addition to our PAC and Alpha community. Both in and beyond the school environment, in a very quiet and understated way, Tony has made, and continues to make, many valuable contributions to community well-being in Burnaby."*

**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**

2015 marks the nineteenth year that Burnaby has recognized Local Heroes. As in previous years, the quality of submissions and calibre of nominees is high. 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 2015:


- 1. George Doering

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- 2. Janice Froese
- 3. Aliya Jiwa
- 4. Maureen Kirk
- 5. Lindy McQueen
- 6. Heather Podrow
- 7. Clare Stegen
- 8. Tony Wong

It is further recommended that the Committee request Council to invite approved nominees to the 2015 October 5 Council meeting to be presented with certificates of recognition. After the awards presentation, staff will 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 2016 Local Hero Award program. Staff will also continue to work to align 2016 promotional activities with the civic Environment Awards program, the time period of which overlaps with the Local Hero Award program, in order to save on advertising and printing costs.



Lou Pelletier, Director  
PLANNING AND BUILDING

CS:sa  
*Attachment*

cc:	City Manager Director Engineering Fire Chief OIC - RCMP City Clerk	Deputy City Managers Director Finance Director Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Chief Librarian
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APPENDIX 1  
LOCAL HEROES 1997 - 2014

<b>1997 (7)</b> Barbara Brady Don Brown Beth Chobotuck Don Copan Edie Fisher Maddie Greenlay Barb Peabody	<b>2001 (11)</b> Roxy Abernethy Beverly Adams Tracie Buzza Dennis Baker Joane Carne Paulene Hall Christina Lupien Judi Marshall Louise Towell Sandy Twinn Marguerite Wallace	<b>2004 (20)</b> Joy Ayers Hakam Bhaloo Olive Fera Gino Fera Sandra Fesiuk Gillian Gallison Lois Godfrey Helen Hamilton Joanna Illerbrun Michelle Leong John McQuade Shirely Mortimer Kevan Oxley Lou Ryan Harminder Saghera Liza Shoda Carolyn Sinclair Tom Stewart Lisa Thomson Lisa Wong	<b>2006 (19)</b> Amanda van Aggelen Pat Beaucamp Delia Benig Ardell Louise Brophy-Fitzpatrick Alia Chatur Bonnie Davies Liz Dill Doreen George Rhodora Horgan Gerry Juzenas Margaret Koster Jim Lawrence Anna Rowden Tina Schipper Hazel Simnett Sasha Tewari Ryan Brandlmayr Paul Legge Cham Toor	<b>2008 (19)</b> Grace Mui Stephanie Jaeger John Johnston Rosemary Meech Norman Roberts Gloria Kravac Laurie Sheehan Myrtle Linden Diane Gillis Anne Baker Irene Harvalias Margaret (Peggy) McClean Nelly Noort Ernie Bodie Bob (Robert) Khun Frankie Cena Sam K. Naicker Ken Best Shayma Akhi	<b>2011 (7)</b> Darlene Gering Stephen Hughes Vicky Ma Raymond McKay Jim McQueen Sonia Purewal Nellie Wong
<b>1998 (9)</b> Ray Abernethy Allison Dalgleish Bharti Envik Lilac Jung Faye Ku Ruth Loland Anita Loy Melody Marbach Sharon Mudrakoff	<b>2002 (19)</b> Elizabeth Briemberg Steve Cairns Millie Canessa Kenney Chan Jack Cyr Harvey Elder Richard Harvey Ethel Hawthorne Reg Hawthorne Vivian Henderson Gail Klarer Kenny So Ying Leung Nick Lutz Eleanor MacQueen Merv Magus Regina Ogmundson Hugh Robertson Norm Sandercock Bernice Wiseman	<b>2005 (18)</b> Marilyn Cooper Linda Corrin Bill Corson Frances Dickson Diane Dobie Begum Ebrahim Kate Evans Theresa Johanssen Patrick Johnson Allan Joyce Vicki Kreuzer Irene Kyle Larry Lynn Fergus McCann Pearl Price Josie Romero Gloria Tom Wing Staudt Gail Yip	<b>2007 (20)</b> Jennifer Atchison Pushpa Cheema Donna Dawson Eman Elmasri Barbara (Barb) Harris Gregg Harris Jon Hernandez Mary Hernandez Mary Horton Rainy Kent Rehman Lalji Aly Lalji Elizabeth (Liz) McEwan Wanda Mulholland Susan Papadionissiou Patrice Pratt John Speckman Pak-Kwan Tam Chiu-Lin Tam Margaret Widmer	<b>2009 (13)</b> Stella Castillo Merrilyn Cook Sidney Cumbers Keanna Driedger Sharon Freeman Fatehali Jetha Jack Kuyser Tammy Ozero Wanley Poh Deepak Prasad Wendell Ratcliffe Mohammed I. Shamsi Millie Wylie	<b>2012 (8)</b> Karen Corcoran Thea Juett Maria Motta Vivian Pinter Michael Raynor Linda Saunders Tanaya Shaw Marilena (Marilyn) Soligo
<b>1999 (14)</b> Georgie Cole Marjorie Deschner Gloria Inglis Effie Kennedy Erna Kozak Marion Krause Nick Kvenich George McLellan Scott Robertson Ken Ryan Rudy Spense Don Steen Barbara Stewart Tim Zimich	<b>2003 (20)</b> Jeannette Aadland Keith Beedie Gladys Brundrett Parvin Chami Gillian Chan Paul Colvin John DeForest Jeanne Fike Maureen Francois Ruth Gautschi Lina Hu Pak Wing Kan Carol La Croix Jay McGarva Rajinder Pandher Eric Seto Norman Song Margaret Van Soest Greg van Euw Deb Yaschuk		<b>2010 (10)</b> Jonathan Van Aggelen Ray Allen Elsie Dean David Gates Shirley Hill Darlene James Carole Kaye Kathy Tietjen Tony Tsang Violet Zaytsoff	<b>2013 (8)</b> Verna Adamson Georgette Leduc Dr. Carol Matusicky Gulshan Megji Verlma Pallen Larry Smith Ken Tunncliffe Melanie Walkus	<b>2014 (10)</b> Farida Bano Ali Flavia Crema Ernest Maitland Ceilidh Millar Teresa Morton Susan Nugent Carol Rush Arlene Sawchuck Yun-Ik Schallert Peggy Woodruff