



INFORMATION BULLETIN

February 23, 2016

Hearts of the Community event celebrates Peninsula volunteerism

Prominent resident receives Lifetime Service award; Stelly's volunteer wins \$1000 scholarship

SIDNEY, BC – Beacon Community Services and 250+ guests today celebrated outstanding community service at the Oscars of the local volunteer world – the annual Hearts of the Community Volunteer awards ceremony. Award recipients included former Sidney Councillor Kenny Podmore, recognized with a Lifetime Service Award for spearheading a wide array of fundraisers and volunteer causes, and Stelly's student Katrina Jones. Jones was presented with a \$1,000 Beacon Community Services scholarship for Outstanding Youth Volunteer.

Hearts of the Community Awards for Excellence in Volunteer Service were presented to: Marilyn Maggiora; Frank Watson; Beacon Community Services Volunteer Visitors; and the ORCCA Dental Clinic Society.

Award nominations (submitted by the public) were judged by representatives from School District 63, the three Peninsula municipal councils, and award sponsors Beacon Community Services and the Peninsula News Review.

All nominated volunteers were recognized and honoured during the public ceremony and community luncheon, which was held at the Mary Winspear Centre. The audience of over 250 community members was also treated to performances by the Stelly's Secondary Vocal Jazz Class, led by instructor Norbert Ziegler.

Beacon and the *News Review* host the event as a thank you to community volunteers. The event also acknowledges volunteers' significant role in shaping Beacon Community Services.

Established by Saanich Peninsula volunteers in 1974, Beacon Community Services has evolved to become one of BC's largest non-profit social services organizations. 1200 staff and 550+ volunteers now serve thousands of clients in the Greater Victoria and outer Gulf Island areas, including through programs and services in: Child, Youth and Family Services; Counselling and Mental Health Services; Employment and Training Programs; Affordable Housing and Assisted Living and Licenced Dementia Care; Adult/Senior's Recreation Services; Volunteer Services; and Home Support and other health care services.

To learn more about Beacon Community Services visit: www.beaconcs.ca

Media Contact:

Kerry Readshaw

Phone: 250 778-1993

Email: kreadshaw@beaconcs.ca