

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: 2021 LOCAL HERO AWARD NOMINEES

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Executive Committee of Council submitted the *attached* report to the Closed meeting of Council held on 2021 September 20, recommending individuals for receipt of the 2021 Local Hero Awards. At the Closed meeting, Council received and adopted the report containing this year's Local Hero nominees to be recognized at the 2021 October 25 Council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Dhaliwal
Chair

Mayor M. Hurley
Vice Chair

Copied to: Chief Administrative Officer Director Corporate Services Director Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services Director Planning & Building
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TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF COUNCIL

DATE: 2021 September 22

FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

FILE: 1450 01
Reference: Local Heroes

SUBJECT: 2021 LOCAL HERO AWARD NOMINEES

PURPOSE: To recommend individuals for receipt of 2021 Local Hero Awards.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Committee request Council to:
 - a. approve the nomination of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2021:
 - i. Eric Berkefeld
 - ii. Winnie Cheung
 - iii. Raymond M. Chow
 - iv. Teresa Rasquinha
 - v. Rory Tennant
 - b. recognize the approved nominees at the 2021 October 25 Council meeting.

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 270 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*).

2.0 POLICY CONTEXT

The Burnaby Local Hero Awards program aligns with the policy objectives of the *City's Equity Policy (2020)*, *Corporate Strategic Plan (2017)* and the *Social Sustainability Strategy (2011)*.

3.0 LOCAL HERO NOMINEES

As in previous years, nominations were sought for the 2021 Local Hero Awards through advertisements in the local newspaper, the City website, the City’s social media channels (e.g., City Facebook page and Twitter account, including paid social media advertisements), and community networks (e.g. Burnaby Interagency Council, Burnaby School District, MLAs and MPs). The call for Local Hero nominations opened in 2021 March and the deadline for submitting nominations was 2021 May 10. As per established practice, staff reviewed the submitted nominations and developed a shortlist of nominees who met the selection criteria for Committee consideration.

As stated in the eligibility guidelines established by the Social Planning 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. In 2019, the Committee and Council approved a change to the program to award the Local Hero Awards every two years instead of annually.

After reviewing the submissions in accordance with the established criteria, the following nominees are proposed for 2021 Local Hero Awards:

Eric Berkefeld

For over 10 years, Eric Berkefeld has donated his time and energy to assisting frail and isolated seniors in Burnaby. As a volunteer driver for Citizen Support Services, Eric has used his own vehicle to transport seniors to and from monthly Gadabouts Outings and the weekly Social Lunch program held at Confederation Seniors Centre (currently on hold due to the pandemic). Recognizing that the social aspect of these programs is as essential as the food that is being consumed, Eric takes the time to sit and socialize with each of the seniors as well. With his engaging personality, he is easily able to connect with people. As Eric’s nominators note, *“The liveliest of the lunch tables always had one common denominator – Eric! He was there, making all of the seniors laugh and smile.”*

Eric also devotes his time as a Phone Buddy volunteer with Citizen Support Services. As a Phone Buddy, Eric conducts weekly calls, providing companionship and a supportive listening ear to lonely and isolated seniors in Burnaby. With the increased isolation due to the pandemic, Eric’s wellness check-in calls with the seniors have been welcomed and appreciated more than ever. In addition to the volunteer roles with Citizen Support, Eric continues to assist in other areas of the community as well. During the pandemic, Eric has also dedicated his time to help out at the local food bank. On top of his volunteer responsibilities, he devotes time with the Vancouver Welshmen’s Choir. For years, Eric and the Welshmen’s Choir have generously donated complimentary performance tickets to Citizen Support Services, providing isolated seniors with an opportunity to enjoy an uplifting evening of music and song.

Winnie Cheung

For over 12 years, Winnie Cheung has volunteered her time in various roles and organisations that have created intercultural understanding of heritage and cultural diversity. As a Burnaby resident, she has impacted many community members, organizing events across Burnaby.

As a founder and volunteer of the Pacific Canada Heritage Centre – Museum of Migration Society (PCHC-MoM), Winnie was instrumental in forming partnerships with other organizations such as the Burnaby Village Museum and the Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Center, carrying out many events for Burnaby residents. As part of these partnerships, Winnie organised the “Across the Pacific” exhibit (2019-2020) at the Burnaby Village Museum that provided three guided tours for Cantonese and Mandarin speaking elders. During COVID-19, Winnie organised various virtual workshops, online webinars, festivals, conferences and meetings for PCHC-MoM, which were open opportunities for Burnaby residents to attend.

In Winnie’s capacity as director (and now advisor) of the Vancouver Asian Heritage Month Society (VAHMS), she took part in organizing the annual explorASIAN festivals. The VAHMS creates greater public awareness and appreciation of the rich diversity of Pan Asian communities in Metro Vancouver and attracts Burnaby residents to local family friendly cultural events. Since 2009, many of the events held as part of the explorASIAN festival took place in Burnaby such as the Sumi-e art exhibit, flower arrangement shows, and artist talks.

Lastly, Winnie is a community member at the Simon Fraser University Institute for Transpacific Cultural research and an associate at the Morris J. Wosk Centre for Dialogue. Her nominators note that Winnie, *“has provided leadership to establish and sustain many projects that value diversity in conversations for better understanding.”*

Raymond M. Chow

Since 1984, Raymond Chow has been a dedicated volunteer with St. John Ambulance in Burnaby. St. John Ambulance supports the health, safety and quality of life of community members by providing quality first aid training and first aid services at community events. Raymond has risen through the ranks of St. John Ambulance, starting as a cadet. In 1993 he formed and led the SFU Division which has since merged with Burnaby’s Adult Division 30. Raymond is currently the Divisional Superintendent of St. John Ambulance Burnaby Division 389c, also known as the Florence Burwell (Burnaby) Cadets, where he supervises 105 volunteer members. Raymond volunteers his time to carry out and maintain a program which provides Burnaby youth with opportunities for social and personal development through leadership training, volunteer service and participation in community events (e.g. Hats Off Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies). The youth program has also included CPR-a-thons, where youth demonstrate their first aid skills and promote first aid awareness at venues such as Brentwood Mall and Metropolis Town Center.

During the pandemic, Raymond has guided the Burnaby Division to offer weekly virtual meetings and a monthly Speaker Series to keep adult and cadet members engaged, inspired and safe. As Raymond’s nominators state, *“Mr. Chow has selflessly contributed thousands of volunteer hours*

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to help improve the health, safety and quality of life of the community through the services and programs provided by St. John Ambulance in Burnaby."

Teresa Rasquinha

Teresa Rasquinha is one of several Burnaby residents who created Ryan's Rainbow Emergency Food Outreach, a volunteer-run food security program based out of the Cliff Avenue United Church. The program is supported by other local groups including the Burnaby Food Hub organized by the Burnaby Neighbourhood House. Teresa started volunteering at Ryan's Rainbow in 2007. In 2017 she took over as the lead organizer and has expanded the program as well as the number of volunteers. Ryan's Rainbow volunteers collect food donations weekly, spend hours sorting out the donations, and deliver food boxes to local seniors, individuals and families in need every Thursday. Teresa's nominators state that she goes above and beyond in her dedication to supporting local families. Her commitment to getting to know the community is inspiring, from including treats for families with young children to birthday cakes for seniors. Her nominators add, *"Teresa spends 2-3+ days a week to prepare for the work - it's really countless volunteer hours out of a good heart. Last year, she even added another delivery on December 22nd right before Christmas so families could have more during the holiday break. We're honoured to work with her and see firsthand her compassion, kindness, and dedication."* In addition, Teresa often helps connect the individuals and families she serves to other support services.

Rory Tennant

Rory Tennant has been a volunteer with Burnaby schools for 23 years. Up until this year, he has volunteered two full days (12 hours per week) at Stride Avenue Community School and Aubrey Elementary School. In 1997, he started volunteering with BC Hydro's community outreach program with Stride Avenue Community School. Upon retiring in 2006, he continued his volunteer work. Rory supports primary and intermediate students with reading, writing and math skills and assists classroom teachers with the preparation and organization of classroom materials. At Stride Avenue Community School he also supported students in the breakfast and hot lunch programs and took part in community events such as multicultural and community outreach dinners and Sports Day. Rory's nominators note his ability to connect with children and support them in what they need most. His nominators add, *"Roy manifests many qualities of a hero. He is kind, patient, compassionate, reliable, hard-working, and an exemplary model. He is welcoming by nature and students are eager to seek support from him both academically and socially. Rory understands the importance of building meaningful relationships with students so they can feel safe, valued, and ready to learn. He always treats children with respect and as a result he gains their respect in return."*

4.0 ASSESSMENT

Based on the established selection criteria, the foregoing five 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.

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5.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

2021 marks the 24th year that Burnaby has recognized Local Heroes. As in previous years, the quality of submissions and calibre of nominees is high.

It is recommended that the Committee request Council to approve the nomination of the following individuals for receipt of Burnaby Local Hero Awards in 2021:

- i. Eric Berkefeld
- ii. Winnie Cheung
- iii. Raymond M. Chow
- iv. Teresa Rasquinha
- v. Rory Tennant

It is further recommended that the Committee request Council to recognize the approved nominees at the 2021 October 25 Council meeting. After Council's recognition is received, information on the award recipients will be posted on the City's website.



E.W. Kozak, Director
PLANNING AND BUILDING

WC/MM:sla:sa
Attachment

cc: Chief Administrative Officer
Director Corporate Services
City Clerk

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LOCAL HEROES 1997 - 2019

1997 (7)	2001 (11)	2004 (20)	Anna Rowden	Keanna Driedger	2014 (10)
Barbara Brady	Roxy Abemethy	Joy Ayers	Tina Schipper	Sharon Freeman	Farida Bano Ali
Don Brown	Beverly Adams	Hakam Bhaloo	Hazel Simnett	Fatehall Jetha	Flavia Crema
Beth Chobotuck	Tracie Buzza	Olive Fera	Sasha Tewari	Jack Kuyer	Ernest Maitland
Don Copan	Dennis Baker	Gino Fera	Ryan Brandlmayr	Tammy Ozero	Ceilidh Millar
Edie Fisher	Joane Came	Sandra Fesiuk	Paul Legge	Wanley Poh	Teresa Morton
Maddie Greenlay	Paulene Hall	Gillian Gallison	Cham Toor	Deepak Prasad	Susan Nugent
Barb Peabody	Christina Lupien	Lois Godfrey		Wendell Ratcliffe	Carol Rush
	Judi Marshall	Helen Hamilton	2007 (20)	Mohammed I. Shamsi	Arlene Sawchuck
1998 (9)	Louise Towell	Joanna Illerbrun	Jennifer Atchison	Millie Wylie	Yun-Ik Schallert
Ray Abemethy	Sandy Twinn	Michelle Leong	Pushpa Cheema		Peggy Woodruff
Allison Dalgleish	Marguerite Wallace	John McQuade	Donna Dawson	2010 (10)	
Bharti Ervik		Shirely Mortimer	Eman Elmasri	Jonathan Van Aggelen	2015 (8)
Lilac Jung	2002 (19)	Kevan Oxley	Barbara (Barb) Harris	Ray Allen	George Doering
Faye Ku	Elizabeth Briemberg	Lou Ryan	Gregg Harris	Elsie Dean	Janice Froese
Ruth Loland	Steve Cairns	Haminder Saghera	Jon Hernandez	David Gates	Aliya Jiwa
Anita Loy	Millie Canessa	Liza Shoda	Mary Hernandez	Shirley Hill	Maureen Kirk
Melody Marbach	Kenney Chan	Carolyn Sinclair	Mary Horton	Darlene James	Lindy McQueen
Sharon Mudrakoff	Jack Cyr	Tom Stewart	Rainy Kent	Carole Kaye	Heather Podrow
	Harvey Elder	Lisa Thomson	Rehman Lalji	Kathy Tietjen	Clare Stegen
1999 (14)	Richard Harvey	Lisa Wong	Aly Lalji	Tony Tsang	Tony Wong
Georgie Cole	Ethel Hawthorne		Elizabeth (Liz) McEwan	Violet Zaytsoff	
Marjorie Deschner	Reg Hawthorne	2005 (18)	Wanda Mulholland		2016 (4)
Gloria Inglis	Vivian Henderson	Marilyn Cooper	Susan Papadionissiou	2011 (7)	Khalid Boudreau
Effie Kennedy	Gail Klarer	Linda Corin	Patrice Pratt	Darlene Gering	Hazel Caley
Erna Kozak	Kenny So Ying Leung	Bill Corson	John Speckman	Stephen Hughes	Brenda Felker
Marion Krause	Nick Lutz	Frances Dickson	Pak-Kwan Tam	Vicky Ma	Annette Vowles
Nick Kvenich	Eleanor MacQueen	Diane Dobie	Chiu-Lin Tam	Raymond McKay	
George McLean	Merv Magus	Begum Ebrahim	Margaret Widmer	Jim McQueen	2017 (6)
Scott Robertson	Regina Ogmundson	Kate Evans		Sonia Purewal	Tazul Ali
Ken Ryan	Hugh Robertson	Theresa Johannsen	2008 (19)	Nellie Wong	Joe Gallo
Rudy Spense	Norm Sandercock	Patrick Johnson	Grace Mui		Giovanna Lore
Don Steen	Bernice Wiseman	Allan Joyce	Stephanie Jaeger	2012 (8)	Delmar Rens
Barbara Stewart		Vicki Kreuzer	John Johnston	Karen Corcoran	Daniella Revitt
Tim Zimich	2003 (20)	Irene Kyle	Rosemary Meech	Thea Juett	Bernie Richter
	Jeannette Aadland	Larry Lynn	Norman Roberts	Maria Motta	
2000 (11)	Keith Beedie	Fergus McCann	Gloria Kravac	Vivian Pinter	2018 (3)
Mark Angelo	Gladys Brundrett	Pearl Price	Laurie Sheehan	Michael Raynor	Susan Anthony
Lillian Chalmers	Parvin Chami	Josie Romero	Myrtle Linden	Linda Saunders	Rosemary Cooke
Glenice English	Gillian Chan	Gloria Tom Wing Staudt	Diane Gillis	Tanaya Shaw	Jane Lee
Phillip Henderson	Paul Colvin	Gail Yip	Anne Baker	Marilyna (Marilyn) Soligo	
Grace Jo	John DeForest		Irene Harvalias		2019 (6)
Les Lee Lowe	Jeanne Fike	2006 (19)	Margaret (Peggy) McClean	2013 (8)	Sameer Aslami
Barbara Lussier	Maureen Francois	Amanda van Aggelen	Nelly Noort	Verna Adamson	Marianne Buesink
Tony Mauro	Ruth Gautschi	Pat Beaucamp	Ernie Bodie	Georgette Leduc	Mary Gates
Doreen Player	Lina Hu	Delia Benig	Bob (Robert) Khun	Dr. Carol Matusicky	Kathy Richardson
Joyce Rosteron	Pak Wing Kan	Ardell Louise Brophy-Fitzpatrick	Frankie Cena	Gulshan Megji	Donna Short
Carol Roycroft	Carol La Croix	Allia Chatur	Sam K. Naicker	Verlma Pallen	Dianne Stevenson
	Jay McGarva	Bonnie Davies	Ken Best	Larry Smith	
	Rajinder Pandher	Liz Dill	Shayma Akhi	Ken Tunnicliffe	
	Eric Seto	Doreen George		Melanie Walkus	
	Norman Song	Rhodora Horgan	2009 (13)		
	Margaret Van Soest	Gerry Juzenas	Stella Castillo		
	Greg van Euw	Margaret Koster	Merrilyn Cook		
	Deb Yaschuk	Jim Lawrence	Sidney Cumbers		