



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **VOLUNTEERS HONOURED AT THE HEARTS OF THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER AWARDS IN SIDNEY**

VICTORIA – For the past 12 years, Beacon Community Services and the Peninsula News Review have been promoting volunteerism by engaging the Saanich Peninsula community in a celebration of outstanding individuals who give their time in the service of others. First, nomination forms are distributed throughout the community seeking the names and stories of volunteers in 6 categories: Service to Seniors; Service to Families and Children; Overall Service to the Community; Outstanding Youth Volunteer; Community Service or Project by a Group and Lifetime Service Award. Then municipal, school district and business leaders come together to review and select an award recipient in each category. And finally, all the nominees are honoured at the Hearts of the Community Volunteer Awards Ceremony and Luncheon.

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, 350 members of the community gathered along with special guests from Provincial and Municipal government and School District 61 at the awards ceremony at Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney. While honouring the nominees and sharing the inspiring stories of their service to the community, guests were treated to exceptional musical performances by Stelly's School Jazz Vocal and Guitar students.

This year the group of exceptional volunteers represented a wide range of supports we rely on as a community: marine rescue, restorative justice, girl guides, environmental, archival, seniors visiting, music therapy, youth leadership, food bank services, services for immigrants, community events, and patient advocacy. Beacon Community Services' CEO, Isobel Mackenzie never fails to be moved by the heartwarming stories of giving this event highlights, "The services provided by these volunteers and others like them are vital to the safety, health and wellness of our community," said Mackenzie. "It makes it very difficult to choose an award recipient, but really easy to feel good about honouring them and the work they do."

Award recipient for Overall Service to the Community, Bill Dean sums up volunteering this way, “If you have plenty, you should always give plenty,” he says, ““Everybody needs help in some form or other. It gives you inner self satisfaction. You can help somebody.”

Find more information, including profiles of each of the 2010 Hearts of the Community Volunteer Award recipients on our website at: [www.beaconcs.ca](http://www.beaconcs.ca).

- 30 -

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