



NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY AWARDS CEREMONY HONOURS PENINSULA VOLUNTEERS

VICTORIA – The Saanich Peninsula saw its own version of the Oscars today, but the focus was on volunteers instead of celebrities and on community service instead of movies. Sponsored by Beacon Community Services and the *Peninsula News Review*, the 13th annual Hearts of the Community Volunteer Awards honoured 22 nominees in six award categories for volunteer service on the Saanich Peninsula.

Nominations came from community members and award winners were decided by a panel of municipal, school district and community leaders. Awards were presented in front of more than 300 guests at a public ceremony and luncheon today. Talented musicians and actors from Stelly's Secondary School entertained the guests.

"It was a heartwarming event, filled with community spirit and a strong appreciation for the diverse services that volunteers provide every day," says Beacon Community Services CEO Isobel Mackenzie, extending congratulations to all award nominees. "Today we particularly recognized 22 volunteers and awarded six, but thanks is due to each and every community volunteer. We all benefit from their selfless dedication to others."

Recipients of this year's Hearts of the Community Volunteer Awards are:

- Grade 11 Parklands Secondary student Alli Rickson for Service to Seniors;
- Gary Lenz for Service to Families and Children;
- Sally Turner for Overall Service to the Community;
- Jack MacAulay for Lifetime Service;
- The "Neighbours" group for Community Service or Project by a Group; and
- Grade 12 Stelly's Secondary student Sam Weber for Outstanding Youth Volunteer. Weber's award also included the \$1,000 Ardena Simpson Hearts of the Community scholarship.

For profiles of the 2011 Hearts of the Community Volunteer Award recipients, please see www.beaconcs.ca.

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