



Daniel Crich

Community Service Award (under age 25)

Daniel Crich is a 17 year old graduate student at Heritage Park Secondary who is being recognized today for his community spirit and youth leadership skills.

During the past 4 years this amazing young man has logged in over 150 hours volunteering with the Leadership Program at Heritage Secondary, over 350 hours coaching U11 and U12 soccer, over 80 hours at the World Police and Fire Games in Vancouver, 160 hours for the opening ceremony of the 2010 Winter Games, and countless hours organizing the Underwear Affair, which raised \$3,000 for cancer research.

Daniel believes that his volunteering experience has played a significant role in determining his choices for the future. He has an intense interest in law enforcement and policing and will be attending the University of the Fraser Valley to achieve a Bachelor of Arts in Criminology.

The District of Mission applauds and commends Daniel for his attitude and the contributions he has made to our community. He is an exemplary role model for all youth to aspire to.



Xenia (pronounced Ksenya) von Rosen

Community Service Award

Xenia von Rosen, also known as Sunny, is being recognized today for her community spirit and volunteerism with the Mission Community Services in their Multicultural Department. Sunny has been volunteering at Community Services for over 10 years and we are told that she is “the” icon of multicultural services and events in Mission.

Sunny is a dedicated and committed volunteer who is passionate about promoting multicultural understanding in Mission and is described as a person who is self motivated, wise, and always willing to work as hard as it takes to get the job done. Whether it’s organizing a multicultural event or organizing a workshop, Sunny does it with a smile on her face. She also tutors ESL students and is a member of the Mission Ladies Hospital Auxiliary where she also volunteers many hours working in their thrift shop on First Avenue.

Sunny is an exemplary volunteer and a valued member of our community.



Julie Hartland

Community Service Award

Julie Hartland is being recognized today for the thousands of volunteer hours she has devoted to animal advocate groups such as the Fraser Valley Humane Society, the Elizabeth Wildlife Centre, and most recently with SAINTS (Senior Animals in Need Today Society). She is described as the hardest working person ever, constantly looking for, and thinking of ways to raise funds to help the animals she so loves. Volunteering is a full time job for Julie. If she's not collecting bottles and cans, she is shopping for supplies, selling 50/50 tickets, or organizing plant sales. She is a fundraiser extraordinaire!

Julie is passionate about animal welfare. If you are an animal in need, Julie will be there for you. Her love and commitment has no bounds and she will work day and night to make sure that her animal friends are safe, healthy, and well cared for.

Julie also loves a clean community. When she's not busy looking after animals, you can find her working with the Mission Adopt-A-Block program picking up litter and making our world a nicer place to live. Julie is an inspiration to everyone she meets and her exemplary community service serves as a role model for all of us to follow. She is an incredibly caring and loving person who gives totally and completely to the causes she cares for.



William (Bill) Grieve

Sports Volunteer of the Year

Bill Grieve, better known as 'Coach Bill' has coached minor hockey in Mission for the past 8 years. His commitment and ability to get the best out of each of his players is what makes Bill one of the best coaches Mission Minor Hockey has ever had. During the past five years, Bill has taken his players to the provincials, and this year, his Midget A Team, brought home a silver medal.

Not only does Bill set objectives for his team, he sets personal goals for each player and helps them achieve these goals. He is an excellent coach and knows exactly how to challenge and get the best out of his players. Because of his leadership, many of Mission's young hockey players have experienced the thrill of playing at the provincial level.

(As Bill was not available to accept his award, his wife, Natalie, graciously agreed to do so in his absence.)



The Reed Family

Citizens of the Year

Normally, the distinguished Citizen of the Year Award is presented to an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary volunteer service in the community. This year, council is doing something different ... they are presenting this award to the Reed Family. Parents Bob and Leslie have made volunteering a family affair, encouraging their children, Emily, Katherine, Dianna, and Thomas to contribute their time and energy to the community in which they live. From fundraising, to serving on boards, to organizing events, to coaching sports, this family is amazing.

For example, Bob has coordinated over 200 charity BBQs in Mission and the Lower Mainland and is the founding member of Ride for Dad and Ride to Live. In 2008-2009 Ride for Dad raised over \$300,000 for prostate cancer education and research. Leslie is a director of the Mission Hospice Society and has been co-chair of their annual Hospice gala for the past 5 years. Although these are just examples of Bob and Leslie's contributions to the community, these are fundraisers and causes that the whole family gets involved in. Emily, Katherine, Dianna, and Thomas are also avid sports enthusiasts and have all volunteered as volleyball and basketball coaches. They also volunteer at the Lions Club Christmas Train. In addition to all of this, Dianna recently traveled to Mexico to help build an orphanage, Emily coached the Mission Special Olympics Swim Team, Katherine is a volunteer referee for basketball in the Fraser Valley, and Thomas, who holds a junior black belt in Karate, now instructs new

members.

The Reeds have raised the bar for family volunteerism in Mission and are to be commended for their dedication and service to the community.



Lee Kwidzinski

Arts and Culture Service Award

Lee was born in Mission and raised in Kamloops. In 1996 she returned to Mission and for the past 14 years has been a driving force in the community arts scene, volunteering her time and talents as a choreographer and dance instructor at the Fraser Valley Youth Dance Theatre. In a typical week, Lee will volunteer in excess of 20 hours working with the dancers and producing public performances to raise money for various charitable causes.

Aside from performing at small local community venues like schools and seniors' homes, Lee and her dancers, have successfully staged 3 large scale productions at the Clarke Theatre, including "Rocka My Soul" that raised over \$5,000 for orphans in Sri Lanka; "Jailhouse Rock" which raised over \$5,000 for the local Lion's Club; and "Emotion Elders in Motion" in which stories from Mission's seniors were brought to life on stage.

"In the Company of Elders", Lee's latest effort, was created in the fall of 2008 and is still running. This inter-generational ballet program brings together under-privileged youth

who cannot afford dance classes and residents of Pleasant View Care Home. This program recently received provincial recognition from the BC Care Providers and was honoured with the “Human Spirit Award”.

Lee is an exemplary volunteer and her contributions to Mission are very much appreciated.



Mission Heritage Association Volunteers

Arts and Culture Service Award

Led by visionary Norma Kenney, a group of passionate Mission residents formed the Mission Heritage Association in 1980 for the purpose of creating a heritage park in Mission. This dedicated group took on the daunting task of lobbying the government to have the former St. Mary's site dedicated as parkland. In 1985, this 44 acre site was officially declared parkland.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Fraser River Heritage Park and it is very fitting that the hundreds of volunteers who have worked tirelessly to transform this site into a world class park be formally recognized and thanked for the jewel they have created. Anyone who visits the park can clearly see how much work and how many hours go into tending the gardens and enhancing the facilities. Over the years, this park has become the arts and cultural centre of Mission. Events such as the Envision Twilight Concerts, Canada Day Celebrations, the Folk Music Festival, Old Car Sunday and the Lady of Lourdes Pilgrimage would not exist if it wasn't for the thousands of hours these dedicated volunteers contribute. Year after year, they work diligently to keep the park beautiful and take on projects such as the ongoing restoration of the

heritage orchard. There is not an inch of the park that does not bear the stamp of countless hours of volunteer work, dedication, and love.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these volunteers who have made the park what it is today.

(Bill McAuley accepted the award on behalf of this amazing group of volunteers.)



Kulwinder 'Ken' Herar

Arts & Culture Service Award

Ken Harar is a newspaper columnist who has been writing about cultural diversity issues in the Mission/Abbotsford area for the past 15 years. He also writes for other publications throughout the Lower Mainland, including the South Asian Link. His articles are informative and thought provoking. In 2007 his work was recognized when he was named Champion of Diversity at the annual Fraser Valley Cultural Diversity Awards organized by Abbotsford Community Services. Born and raised in Mission, Ken's family has deep roots in Mission's Indo-Canadian community.

Through dialogue with his readers, Ken is able to promote understanding by emphasizing the importance of integrating all cultures to build one healthy community. For example, Ken organized and promoted an annual essay writing contest for students on the subject of building an inclusive community. He has also captured the imagination of Mission high school students by talking to them directly about cultural diversity and inclusiveness. His voice offers hope for those who experience isolation, misunderstanding, and racism.

Ken is described as a young energetic thinker who is working hard to bring a positive

change for better understanding and building cross-cultural relations. He is also described as a “bridge-builder”, attending multicultural functions, youth clubs, and business meetings to spread the value of tolerance, diversity, and compassion.



Jean Kask

Against the Odds Achievement Award

Despite a lifelong battle with mental illness, Jean Kask is being honoured today for her volunteer contributions to the community and the world. She was first diagnosed in 1975 with manic-depression, now called Bi-Polar Affective Mood disorder. This disorder is characterized by periods of extreme energy, vitality and enthusiasm, to the point where they only require a few hours sleep, and take on far too many tasks. These periods of mania are followed by periods of deep depression, often lasting weeks or months.

Despite her struggle, and with the support of friends, family, and God, Jean has found a way to channel her episodic energy into endeavors that benefit the community. She is the coordinator of volunteers for the Mission Blood donor clinics; she is a member of the Mission Memorial Hospital Auxiliary and co-ordinates volunteers who accompany residents from the Extended Care Unit on bus outings. She has a love of flowers and volunteers to provide bouquets for community groups and her church each week. She is a very active member in Mission's Community in Bloom Committee and is a key organizer for their annual fundraising garden parties. She is also an active member of several other community groups and organizations in Mission, Abbotsford, and Vancouver. In addition to this she recently traveled to Thailand to assist a team of

dentists sent by the Rotary Club to do voluntary dentistry in orphanages and villages.

Jean is an example of someone who has found a way to use her disability for the good of the community.



Sandy Forward and her dog Murphy

Special Accomplishment Award

Sandy Forward and her bright eyed gentle dog Murphy are being recognized today for the many hours they volunteer at the Mission Memorial Hospital bringing comfort and joy to patients in the acute ward and at the Christine Morrison Hospice. Sandy and Murphy also volunteer between 10 to 30 hours a week at the Circle F Horse Rescue Centre in Matsqui, where Murphy brings his sister Shasta along to work with the horses.

Murphy is a four year old Golden doodle ... a cross between a golden retriever and a standard poodle. He is incredibly smart and takes his job very seriously and responsibly. Whether he is sitting with a patient at their bedside, or receiving hugs from a family member, Murphy's calm and healing presence benefits everyone he meets. Murphy is also very intuitive and is able to sense very quickly whether or not patients want to meet him, or prefer to be left alone.

Murphy graduated at the top of his class at the St. John's Ambulance Dog Therapy Program where he learned to work around hospital equipment, elevators, and crowds.

Sandy also had to take courses and attend a training program in order to volunteer with Murphy. In addition to bringing smiles and receiving hugs from patients and families, Murphy has also won the hearts of staff throughout the hospital. Rumour has it that doggie treats are stashed all around the place, just waiting for Murphy to visit!



Steelhead Community Association

Special Accomplishment Award

The Steelhead Community Association is being presented today with a Special Accomplishment Award in recognition of the tremendous task they undertook when they decided to turn their dream of having a local community hall and meeting place into a reality.

This enormous task was undertaken by a dedicated group of residents in the Steelhead area. Local disasters such as the windfall of trees, lengthy power outages, loss of telephone services, and bad snow storms have cut residents off from the outside world. As a result of these events, it became very clear that the community needed a place where residents could meet to join forces and help each other.

The community spirit which has been building as the community hall nears completion is amazing. Fundraising activities such as Easter egg hunts, burger and beer fundraisers, selling cookies and chocolates, bottle drives, chopping and selling firewood

are some examples of how this great group of people got together to raise money for their community hall. Council is very appreciative of this significant undertaking and the benefits that a community hall will bring to already tight knit community.

(Mark Diamond, chair of the Steelhead Community Association, accepted the award on behalf of the Association.)



Mission and District Soapbox Derby Association Special Accomplishment Award

The Mission and District Soapbox Derby Association is being recognized today for the amazing job they have done re-establishing the Annual Soapbox Derby. As many of you know, the derby initially started in the 1950's by the Mission and District Lions' Club. After 25 years of dormancy, the Soapbox Derby was brought back to life in 1998 by a group of dedicated volunteers, community organizations, and local businesses. In an era when all other communities have seen their derbies die out, Mission's derby has been strengthening and growing. This innovative and committed group of volunteers have worked tirelessly to improve the Soapbox Derby every year. Last year, the association decided that they would help any child who wanted to race. Together they funded and built cars so that any child, regardless of their financial ability, or whether or not they had a car to race, was able to race.

The public may only see the Soapbox Derby on race day, but each derby takes a year to organize – and if it rains on race day, it needs to be planned all over again.

Organizers give up hours recruiting racers, volunteers, and sponsors. Their homes and garages are filled with t-shirts, signs, trophies, and derby cars. They know more about stacking and moving hay bales than any human being should ever need to know. Even when one of their leaders and founders, Dave Adams, passed away suddenly before race day, the show went on.

Indeed, it takes a special breed to set up this event, but these volunteers always do it with smiles on their faces. And if you ask them if it's all worth it, they'll tell you, "As soon

as you see those kids grinning at the finish line, we consider ourselves to be paid in full.”

(Remco Bergman, president of the Mission and District Soapbox Derby Association, accepted the award on behalf of the Association.)



Mission Search and Rescue

Crime Prevention and Community Safety Award

The members of the Mission Search and Rescue Team are being recognized today for the extraordinary volunteer service they provide to Mission and area residents. This highly trained group of dedicated men and women assist in the recovery of lost or injured persons and are ready on a moment's notice to go to work. Whether it's recovering an injured ATV rider who's fallen over an embankment or heading out in the middle of the night to recover the body of a missing boater, these volunteers are willing ready, and able.

In addition to working with the RCMP, Fire Department, and other agencies, they also provide public information and education programs to schools, youth organizations and other interested groups.

This non-profit society was created in 1981 and has grown into a team that any city would be proud of. Over the years they have worked hard to increase their fleet of rescue equipment which includes 2 rescue trucks, a command truck, a high powered jet boat, a hard bottom inflatable boat, and an argo amphibious vehicle.

The Mission Search and Rescue team consists of approximately 25 active members and although they are volunteers, the life saving service they provide requires that the standards of Unpaid Professionals be maintained when assisting Municipal, Provincial and Federal agencies.

(Dan Elliot, SAR president, and Gary Swan SAR vice-president, accepted the award on behalf of the team.)



Rhona Jacobsen

Lifetime Achievement Award

Rhona Jacobsen has been a volunteer in Mission since the 1950's. She is being presented today with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of the decades she has volunteered with organizations such as the Legion, the Hospital Auxiliary, Pathfinders, the Heritage Park Association, and the Mission Museum. She is also a lifetime member of the Old Age Pensioners' Association and Lifetime Learning. This incredible lady will be 90 years old in July and yet she continues to serve the community. One of her most recent projects was working with BC Transit to improve Mission's transit system for seniors and residents of Mission.

On October 11, 1941 Rhona married Ernie Jacobsen. Almost immediately Ernie went overseas to fight in the war as a medic in the Army Medical Core. While he was away, Rhona and her infant son moved to Matsqui. While she was waiting for her husband to return home safe and sound, she spent hours and hours knitting sweaters and socks for the Red Cross. In 1946, after Ernie's safe return from the war, they moved and settled in Mission.

Anyone who knows the Jacobsens' is likely very familiar with Ernie's amazing rose garden. And just to be clear, we are not talking about your every day run of the mill rose garden ... they had 701 rose bushes! When Ernie passed away in 2001 Rhona generously donated 300 of Ernie's roses to the Fraser River Heritage Park where they continue to be enjoyed by park visitors.

Rhona is a true lifelong volunteer and an inspiration for all of us. For almost 60 years she has been actively contributing to the well being of our community. When asked why she does it, she simply states that it's "because I like helping others".



Margaret Clifton

Lifetime Achievement Award

Margaret Clifton has lived in Mission for 30 years and over this time she has volunteered thousands of hours to numerous groups and organizations. She is the type of person that loves what she does and is quite happy working quietly behind the scenes. Recently retired, the pages in Margaret's Day-Timer are filled with one volunteer commitment after another. One of her interests is helping people improve their language skills and for the past several years she has led English conversation groups, helping individuals improve their English and communication skills.

Margaret is also a great supporter of the Mission Adopt-A-Block program and for 8 years she has been a steady and reliable volunteer. She is also a long time volunteer at the Women's Resource Society helping women get their lives back on track. Not one to sit idle, Margaret is also a fantastic knitter and is a member of several knitting circles including the Revolutionary Knitting Circle who make items, sell them, and donate all funds to various charities. Margaret is also an avid runner, cook, and gardener, and one day a week she even finds the time and energy to help her young friend Jamie Hayes look after her 9 month old twins. Jamie cannot say enough about Margaret and describes her as an incredible role model, an amazing person, and, most importantly, someone who has helped her become a better mom.



Cindy Kelly

Lifetime Achievement Award

Did you know that Cindy Kelly was one of the original pioneers of Mission Adopt-A-Block Society in 1994? She has been there from the beginning, nurturing and shaping Adopt-A-block into what it is today and she continues to this day serving as president on the board of directors. This lady, who already had a busy life working for the Fraser Valley Health Authority and taking care of her family and home, continues to carry the litter control torch in the District of Mission. Her husband, Martin, also deserves recognition for the role he has played in support of this important program. With a mop on his head and wearing a beautiful pink dress, Martin transforms himself into “Auntie Litter” advocating for the program and educating people about litter control.

For 14 years, Cindy has been the glue and the inspiration behind this small but very important program. You might say that she ‘had a dream’ ... and because of her and other likeminded people, her dream of a litter free community is now supported by over 140 family households and 25 community groups who are committed to regular clean-ups of their neighbourhood and other selected areas. Not only are they participating in a great cause, they are setting an example for all of us on the importance and benefits of becoming environmentally responsible. Because of Cindy and these dedicated volunteers, Mission is a more beautiful and healthier place to live.



Mission and District Lions Club

Long Term Distinguished Service Award

The Mission and District Lions Club is being honoured today for their 60 years of service to the community and the countless acts of philanthropy they have bestowed to various individuals and organizations in the District of Mission. This dedicated group of men and women have worked quietly behind the scenes raising money to help those less fortunate. If there is a need, they are there to lend a hand and are always helping out by either donating money or purchasing items such as wheelchair lifts, ramps for the handicapped at their homes, hearing aids, special computers, etc. As with other Lions Club, one of their greatest causes is collecting eye glasses for distribution to those who could not otherwise afford them. They also support many local groups including the Mission Memorial Hospital, Pleasant View Care Home, Mission Search and Rescue, the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Cancer Society, the Kidney Foundation, and the annual Soap Box Derby. One of their biggest and most popular events is their December 25th "Dinner for the Lonely". This special dinner is held at the ABC Family Restaurant and members of the club voluntarily give up a few hours of their own Christmas to make someone else's a little happier.

As of July 1st this year, the Mission and District Lions Club will unfortunately cease to exist. The members are getting on in years and can no longer continue. The District of Mission has benefited greatly from their generosity and they will be missed. Council

would therefore like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt “Thank You” and to recognize life members Barb and Buster Beaton and Dave and Erna Friesen. Other long serving members worthy of recognition include Richard and Marilyn Butchart, Terry Gidda, Mike Donnatelli, Ted Driscoll, Bill McDonald, George Millett, Bob and Ruth Myers, Wendy Wenberg, Rosina Swyck, Richard and Pamela Wigley, and the late Dave Adams.

Our community is a better place because of the Mission and District Lions Club.

(Life members, Buster Beaton and Dave Friesen, accepted the award on behalf of the club.)



Dennis Derrough (pronounced Darrow)

Freeman of the City Award

Dennis Derrough has lived in Mission all of his life. He and his wife Jean raised their children here and for 41 years he was the successful owner of Pioneer Dodge on First Avenue.

This humble and genuinely kind man has dedicated much of his energy and time to improving and giving to the community. Over the years he has given generously and quietly to the residents of Mission. He is also a great supporter of many groups and organizations including the Kinsmen Club, the Chamber of Commerce, and Ducks Unlimited. For the past six years Dennis and his wife have been serving breakfast, always with plenty of smiles and chats, twice a month to the residents of Pleasant View Care Home. For over 10 years he has also been an active member of the Mission Community Foundation and currently serves as a member of the board and as chair of the distribution committee. He was also a member of the Mission Memorial Hospital Board of Directors for 10 years before it was regionalized, and served as Chair of the Board from 1987 to 1989.

Dennis is described as a man who always puts Mission first. His calm yet determined nature fosters collaboration and participation in every situation. He is an inspirational

and exemplary citizen who considers it a privilege to serve his community. The District of Mission appreciates and values this model citizen and wish to honour him with the highest recognition that can be bestowed to a citizen.



Thomas O'Beirne

Freeman of the City Award

Thomas O'Beirne moved to Mission in 1962 where he and his wife Joyce raised their family in Silverhill. As long time President of the Southwest Mission Ratepayers Association, he has been an exceptional advocate on behalf of Mission, especially for our rural neighbourhoods. His leadership style is consistently statesmanlike, informed and respectful. He was the driving force behind many projects including the construction of Fire hall # 3, building a picnic shelter at Wren Park, the building of tennis courts in Silverhill, bringing water to Silverdale School, and the re-roofing of Silverhill Hall. For several years, Thomas was also a member of the District of Mission Heritage Commission where his wise and quiet influence assisted the commission in its heritage pursuits. Thomas is a consummate contributor who puts community first and inspires other to do the same.

As a neighbour, Thomas also stands out. His Irish eyes are, indeed, always smiling and he is quick to help others in need. Under his governance, the Southwest Mission Ratepayers Association is a true community group; raising funds for scholarships and children's groups; honouring veterans; celebrating special occasions with those in the community; reaching out to people who are sick and sending condolences to families who are grieving. Thomas defines the concept of community and Mission is a stronger and better community because of him.