



Press Release

HONOUR OUR LOCAL STARS: NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER!

Port Coquitlam, BC – January 17, 2012... Most of us know people who volunteer in Port Coquitlam. They're generally just as busy as the rest of us, yet they still find time to help make their community a better place.

Nominations are now being accepted for the annual City of Port Coquitlam Volunteer Recognition Awards – part of the City's annual "thank you" to local volunteers. This year's awards theme is Volunteers: The Stars of our Community.

"Our volunteers provide a great service to our community with no expectation of reward," noted Mayor Greg Moore. "It's important that we recognize them for the stars that they are – and nominating them for a Volunteer Recognition Award is a great start."

Nominations will be accepted until Friday, Mar. 9 in seven categories: Arts, Heritage & Cultural Awareness; Caring & Safety; Environmental Protection & Enhancement; Sports & Recreation; Youth Programs; U21 (youth under age 21); and the new Lifetime Volunteer category, created in 2011 by City Council.

Nominees can be any age and do not have to live in Port Coquitlam. They cannot have previously received a Volunteer Recognition Award from the City, and must meet at least one of these criteria:

- their unpaid volunteer contributions provide extraordinary help or care to families or groups in Port Coquitlam,
- they continually commit their time, talent and energy, without pay, to improve the quality of life in Port Coquitlam, or
- they have been voluntarily involved in a program or project that has had a lasting benefit for Port Coquitlam and its residents.

FortisBC (formerly Terasen Gas) has again stepped forward to sponsor the awards and the Volunteer Recognition Awards and Tribute evening, to be held April 17 at Riverside Secondary School during National Volunteer Week.

All nominees will receive a commemorative pin and certificate, along with an invitation to the tribute. The gala event will feature entertainment, refreshments and the presentation of the Volunteer Recognition Awards. Award recipients will receive a personalized etched glass trophy and will have their names added to the volunteer "Honour Roll" at City Hall.

Since the awards were created in 1997, 79 local volunteers have been added to the Honour Roll.

Nomination forms are available online at www.portcoquitlam.ca/volunteer as well as at City Hall (2580 Shaughnessy Street), Port Coquitlam Rec Complex (2150 Wilson Centre), Hyde Creek Recreation Centre (1379 Laurier Avenue) and Terry Fox Library (2470 Mary Hill Road).

The City offers the following tips for nominators:

- For a successful nomination, take the time to coordinate supporting materials in addition to filling out the nomination form. The nomination form includes ideas about what to include.
- The awards are intended for individuals – nominations for couples will not be considered.
- Visit the Volunteer Recognition Awards page at www.portcoquitlam.ca/volunteer for more information and a sample nomination.

For more information, visit www.portcoquitlam.ca/volunteer, call 604.927.5410 or email info@portcoquitlam.ca.

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