Centre on Aging – 2012 VERA Recipients

The 2012 VERA Award was awarded to Andy Anderson, Lorraine Collett and Irene McDonald on October 1st at the Salvation Army Citadel during the International Day of the Older Person (IDOP) Lecture.

Andy Anderson

Volunteer Highlights:
Oak Bay Volunteer Services; RCMP Veterans Association: Past President, Chair of National AGM; Rotary International: Past President of Oak Bay, Sidney by the Sea and Brentwood Bay Clubs; Better Business Bureau of Vancouver Island: Chair of Board of Directors; BC Fruit Testers Association; Thrifty Foods Sendial Program; Tourist Information Officer, Level 1; Sidney Lions Food Bank; SHOAL Centre.

Nominated and Supported by:
Rosie Bowman, President, Victoria RCMP Veterans Association
Susan Brice, Director, Victoria Silver Threads Service
Beverley Elder, Administrator, Sidney Lions Food Bank
Joan Firkins, Zone 25 Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator
Wendy Halliday, Rotary Club
Joan Halvorsen, Executive Director, Oak Bay Volunteer Services
George Lawson, Central Saanich Police Department
Judy Wiggins, Manager, SHOAL Centre

“Andy’s generous contribution of time has been instrumental in the success of the food bank in our community. Never once has he been too busy to give us his full time and attention. … His attitude towards clients and fellow volunteers is always respectful and upbeat.” – Supporter

“Because of Andy’s lifetime of exemplary service within our Community, the number of people who volunteered to support this nomination, were as varied in age as in experience. Andy is one of those people
whose positive attitude, combined with his incredible work ethic, draws people in. He is a mentor who leads by example. And he loves to have fun!"
– Supporter

Lorraine Collett

Volunteer Highlights:
1986 – Present City of Colwood Intermunicipality Advisory Committee on Disability Issues
1988 BC Summer Games Victoria
1989 – 1994 Greater Victoria Hospital Society, Gorge Road Hospital: Recreational Therapy
2003 – 2006 VIHA Royal Jubilee: Aphasia program trainer
2003 – 2011 Youth Custody Centre
2004 – Present Victoria Women’s Transition House: Assistant to shelter manager
2007 – Present Colwood Heritage Commission
2007 – Present Glengarry Hospital/Gorge Road Hospital: Recreational Therapy
2011 – Present VIHA-Victoria General Neurological Unit

Nominated and Supported by:
Dianne de Champlain, Victoria Women’s Transition House, Volunteer Program Coordinator
Elsie Hanson, Youth Custody Centre, Coordinator of Volunteers
Valeria MacGillivary, VIHA Speech Pathologist, Supervisor of Aphasia Program
Kathy Nies, Royal Jubilee Hospital and Gorge Road Hospital, Manager, Volunteer Resources
Fred Ruiz, Victoria Women’s Transition House, Shelter Manager
David Saunders, Past Mayor of Colwood

“Lorraine has dedicated her retirement life to volunteering in several organizations. Lorraine has not sought recognition, and has quietly contributed well over a thousand hours of her time to Victoria Women’s Transition House, and many hundreds of hours in several other organizations.” – Supporter
“Lorraine is one of those individuals that you meet in your life time that truly inspires people in the community. … Lorraine was one of our hardest working volunteers… Always a smile on her face and willing to put others in front of herself.” – Supporter

Irene McDonald

Volunteer Highlights:
1990s – to Present Canadian Club of Victoria: Past President and Board Member Lifelong Member First United Church, Victoria
1986 – 2011 Braefoot Place Strata: President
Over last 20 years Canadian Cancer Society, BC and Yukon Division: Chair of various committees Capital Regional Family Services:
Volunteer counsellor/mentor; other volunteer activities related to education

Nominated and Supported by:
Jim Knock, Board Member, Canadian Club - Victoria
Sheila MacDougall, Cancer Society
Dr. Allan Saunders, Lead Minister, First Metropolitan United Church
Beverley Wilden

“Irene has volunteered where she saw a need, not for a high profile. When she, or an organization, identified a need, she organized people, developed educational programs or helped raise funds to meet that need. … She is a shining example of a life well lived to the benefit of her community.” – Supporter