Centre on Aging – 2013 VERA Nominees

The nominees for the 2013 were adjudicated and the awards presented on Tuesday, October 1, 2013 at the Salvation Army Citadel during the International Day of Older Persons (IDOP) Lecture.

VERA 2013 NOMINEE HIGHLIGHTS

SHEILA M. BLAKE
1973 – present Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival
1970s – present Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria
1978 – 1987 Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
1978 – 1987 Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
1980 – 1990 Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society
1989 – present Belfry Theatre
1999 – Present Theatre Inconnu

Nominated and Supported By:
Clayton Jevne, Theatre Inconnu
Tara Gilroy-Scott, Belfry Theatre
Bob William, Community Arts Council of Greater Victoria

“Her ability to contribute collaboratively with all in our organization is an inspiration to us all.” – Supporter

“She has boundless energy and enthusiasm for any challenge, and eagerly jumps into any challenge which benefits arts and culture in our community.” – Supporter

“Sheila is a prime example of how even as we age we can fill our lives with meaning, give back to our community and fully embrace the values which are most important to us.” – Supporter

VAUGHN EDWARDS
1989 – 1995 Sea Cadets
2003 – Present Government House, Rose Garden
2004 – 2009 Government House, Archives

Nominated and Supported By:
Jeromy Brownridge, Government House
Linda Langwith, Friends of Government House
Brian A. Rogers, Friends of Government House
Catherine Spencer, Friends of Government House
“Vaughn is...an excellent ambassador, often seen chatting with visitors or on hand to discuss the roses with VIP guests of the House.” – Supporter

“This gentleman has quietly served his community and, at the same time, created an inner city garden for all to enjoy.” – Supporter

“Vaughn is also very much a people person. There are many visitors to the gardens at Government House, and he always takes the time to answer their questions and to make them feel welcome.” – Supporter

**CAROL PICKUP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Organisation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980 – 1981</td>
<td>Victoria General Hospital Foundation</td>
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<td>1986 – 1987</td>
<td>Hospice Victoria</td>
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<td>1993 – 1996</td>
<td>Saanich Volunteer Services</td>
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<td>2005 – present</td>
<td>Friends of the Library</td>
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<td>2006 – 2008</td>
<td>South Island Health Coalition</td>
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<td>2008 – 2010</td>
<td>The Land Conservancy</td>
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<td>2008 – present</td>
<td>Seniors Entitlement Service</td>
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<td>2009 – 2011</td>
<td>Saanich Peninsula Health Association</td>
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<td>2011 – present</td>
<td>Farmlands Trust</td>
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<td>2011 – present</td>
<td>Civic Orchestra of Victoria</td>
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**Nominated and Supported By:**

Lyne England, Greater Victoria Seniors  
Bonita Smith, Civic Orchestra of Victoria  
Wendy Strong, South Island Health Coalition  
Susan Zerb, Saanich Volunteer Services

“A true ‘friend to seniors’, Carol works with compassion as a personal advocate for those who need help. She also promotes partnerships with volunteer organizations that are interested in an array of issues related to seniors’ welfare, health care services and public facilities.” – Supporter

“Mrs Pickup’s keen sense of responsibility, energetic approach to her work and ability to give attention to detail no doubt comes from her years of service to others. She has been a tireless advocate for others since her retirement.” – Supporter

“...I am aware of how difficult it must be for seniors without a relative to advocate on their behalf, and sincerely hope that Carol can be recognized for the countless hours of work she puts in on behalf.” – Supporter
DIANE SYMES
1989 – 2012  Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
1992 – present  Government House, Gardens
1999 – present  Belfry Theatre
2007 – present  First Metropolitan United Church

Nominated and Supported By:
  Jeromy Brownridge, Government House
  Nairn Hollott, Friends of Government House
  Catherine Spencer, Friends of Government House

“Diane is not only pleasant and dedicated, but has been an extremely reliable member of the Friends for many, many years. It is because of people like Diane that we are able to sustain this spectacular Estate and maintain a strong and positive presence in the community.”
– Supporter

“Her able stewardship of the garden and its hardworking, cheerful volunteer group makes an invaluable contribution to the Gardens.” – Supporter

“When Dr. Lam, Lieutenant General for British Columbia at that time, suggested that there be formed a society of volunteers to help with the gardens of Government House, Diane Symes was one of the first to sign up. She is supervisor of one of the gardens, has worked in the gardens and brought them to their current beauty ever since.” – Supporter