Centre on Aging – 2014 Valued Elder Recognition Award (VERA)

The nominees for the 2014 Valued Elder Recognition Award (VERA) were honoured on Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at the Salvation Army Citadel in Victoria during the annual International Day of Older Persons Lecture.

The Centre on Aging honours the United Nations' International Day of Older Persons and the Government of Canada’s National Seniors Day on October 1st with the presentation of the Valued Elder Recognition Award (VERA). The award, first presented in October 2000, recognizes and honours individuals who over their lifetime have given exemplary service to helping others in the Capital Regional District. Award recipients are further acknowledged with a plaque at the Centre on Aging offices.

Thank you to our 2014 VERA nominees, for all you give to the community.
L-R: Bill Buckle, Jean MacKenzie, Nindi Sehmi, Americk Bhandar.
Our honoured VERA nominees and recipient:

Americk Bhandar (R) with her nominator, Theresa James-Bates

Americk Bhandar – nominee

2004 – present Burnside Community Centre
1994 – 2004 Women in Need

Nominated and supported by:

Geraldine Bulosan, Burnside Gorge Community Association
Dorothy Cook, Burnside Gorge Community Association
Correen Coons, Burnside Gorge Community Association
Theresa James-Bates, Burnside Gorge Community Association

“She is much loved by the staff, volunteers and program participants. She gives so much of herself and asks so little from all of us.” – Supporter

“She always steps in and helps.” – Supporter

“I...am honoured that I have been able to stand by her side and learn from her knowledge of life and experiences.” – Supporter
William (Bill) Buckle – nominee

1989 – present   BC Schizophrenia Society
1989 – present   Friends of Music Society
1973 – present   Kiwanis Club of Victoria

Nominated and supported by:

Linda Sproule-Jones, Friends of Music Society
Spencer Manning, Friends of Music Society
Hazel Meredith, BC Schizophrenia Society
Marilyn Beckett, BC Schizophrenia Society
Willard Dunlop, Kiwanis Club of Victoria
Fred Jauck, Friends of Music Society & Kiwanis Club of Victoria
Reverend Ronald Nelson, Lutheran Church
June Pryor, BC Schizophrenia Society
Renate Varwig, BC Schizophrenia Society

“What has always impressed me is that Bill’s apparent purpose in life is to help other people, particularly those in need. “ – Supporter

“When I first came to know Bill, I was stuck by his passion to see people living with serious mental illness live rich and full lives.” – Supporter
“Bill Buckle has been a consistently dedicated volunteer worker in the many community service tasks he has undertaken. In my experience as a co-worker with Bill, he is friendly, capable, has a positive attitude and is always willing to offer help when asked.” – Supporter

Jean McKenzie (L) with nominator Lisa Putman-Mort

Jean E. McKenzie – nominee

- 1996 – 1997 World Curling
- 1995 – present Strata Council
- 1994 – 1995 Commonwealth Games
- 1991 – present Volunteer Victoria

Nominated and supported by:

- Lisa Mort-Putland, Volunteer Victoria
- Connie Izard, Volunteer Victoria
- Julia-Anne Morris, Volunteer Victoria

“We are proud to nominate Jean for a VERA and to recognize her strength, kindness, and resilience.” – Supporter
“A friend to all, Jean exemplifies the ideal volunteer.” – Supporter

“Jean is patient, dedicated, kind, and willing to be adventurous in her learning. She is the ideal role model for being a lifelong learner, graceful elder, and supporter of our community.” – Supporter

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Nindi Sehmi (R) with nominator Sunil Bhatia

Narindra (Nindi) Sehmi - recipient

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Range</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998 – 2000</td>
<td>Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995 – 1996</td>
<td>Saanich Heritage Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>1980 – present</td>
<td>KOS Sikh Temple Volunteers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1978 – 1998</td>
<td>India Canada Cultural Association</td>
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<tr>
<td>1976 – 1986</td>
<td>Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria</td>
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Nominated and supported by:

Sunil Bhatia, India Canada Cultural Association
Gordy Dodd, Dodd’s Furniture
“No matter the time or place, Mr. Nindi Sehmi devotes all his efforts to serving the community of Victoria.” – Supporter

“He is a widely-respected and a foundational character in the development of multiculturalism in Victoria.” – Supporter

“Nindi has shown that he has the strong ability to multi-task as he has always juggled numerous volunteer efforts, always looking for ways to tie the community surrounding him better and stronger.” – Supporter

Thank you to all our nominees for all you give to our community!