The nominees for the 2013 Valued Elder Recognition Award (VERA) were honoured on Wednesday, October 1, 2013 at the Salvation Army Citadel in Victoria during the annual International Day of Older Persons Lecture. The recipient of the 2013 VERA is Carol Pickup.

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.

2013 recipient Carol Pickup (R) with her nominator, Lyne England
Carol Pickup – recipient

Service to the community:

1980 – 1981 Victoria General Hospital Foundation
1986 – 1987 Hospice Victoria
1993 – 1996 Saanich Volunteer Services
2005 – present Friends of the Library
2006 – 2008 South Island Health Coalition
2008 – 2010 The Land Conservancy
2008 – present Seniors Entitlement Service
2009 – 2011 Saanich Peninsula Health Association
2011 – present Farmlands Trust
2011 – present Civic Orchestra of Victoria

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