
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: June 6, 2007
File No.: 5280-12
To: City Manager
From: Environment Division Supervisor
Subject: **2007 Mayor's Environmental Expo and Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award Winners**

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receive the attached report detailing the Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award Winners for 2007.

Background:

The Eighth Annual Mayor's Environmental Expo took place from May 24th to 26th at Mission Creek Regional Park. Approximately forty exhibitors set up informative and interactive booths. Twelve hundred elementary students went through the Expo on Thursday and Friday. The majority of students participated in the environmental trivia quest which facilitated their environmental learning of local businesses, non-profit groups and government. Approximately one thousand public also enjoyed the Expo.

A new dimension was added to the Eighth Mayor's Environmental Expo through the Voices of Nature with Holly Arntzen and the Dream Band. Holly Arntzen and Kevin Wright were artists in residence at Watson Road Elementary during the week of the Expo. This culminated with a professional concert at our local theatre with over 200 students and then another professional performance at the Expo with the other 200 students. Students learned a strong environmental message through songs, essays, poems, pictures and dance.

This delivery of environmental education through upbeat, stimulating professional music was a great addition. The teachers, parents, staff, Expo exhibitors, and the public were all amazed at how Holly and the Dream Band captured the students imagination and enthusiasm towards the environment. These "environmentalists of tomorrow" and their parents will always remember the concert and the Expo and its related environmental message. Glenmore Elementary has already committed to be the main school for the 2008 Voices of Nature at the Mayor's Environmental Expo.

In conjunction with the Mayor's Environmental Expo, the annual Mayor's Environmental Achievement Awards were presented. The Environmental Achievement Awards recognize dedicated local individuals, groups and businesses that are environmentally friendly. Award winners received plaques acknowledging their achievements at the Celebrate the Environment Wine and Cheese on Thursday, May 24th at the Laurel Packinghouse.

The winners for 2007 were as follows:

- Most Environmentally Innovative Business – Holiday Park Resort
- Most Environmentally Dedicated Group – Ocoala Fish and Game Club
- Most Environmentally Dedicated Individual – Judie Steeves
- Most Environmentally Friendly School – Quigley Elementary
- Most Environmentally Friendly Commuter – Eric Bilodeau
- Most Environmentally Friendly Yard – Carol Suhan and Wayne Carey

The awards are based on nominations received from the community; winner selection is based on the highest level of environmental dedication, perseverance, accomplishment and achievement as judged by a committee of previous award winners.

FINANCIAL/BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS:

Funding for the Mayor's Environmental Expo was through the Environment Division budget at 308-0-8116 (\$14,500) and through Expo sponsorship. Sponsors included: Energy Management Committee, Fortis BC, Terasen Gas, RDCO, Tolko, UBC Okanagan, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ecoscape Environmental, Golder Associates, Kelowna Toyota, Kelowna Joint Water Committee and EBA Engineering.

INTERNAL CIRCULATION TO:

Director of Works and Utilities, Environment and Solid Waste Manager, Transportation Demand Supervisor.

LEGAL/STATUTORY AUTHORITY: N/A

LEGAL/STATUTORY PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS: N/A

EXISTING POLICY: N/A

PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS: N/A

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS: N/A

EXTERNAL AGENCY/PUBLIC COMMENTS: N/A

ALTERNATE RECOMMENDATION: N/A

Michelle Kam
Environmental Technician

Todd Cashin
Environment Division Supervisor

Attachments: Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award Winners Report

cc: Director of Works and Utilities
Environment and Solid Waste Manager
Transportation Demand Supervisor

Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award Winners Report

Winner: Most Environmentally Innovative Business Initiative – Holiday Park Resort

Holiday Park Resort is the winner of the "Most Environmentally Innovative Business Initiative". Nominated by Karen DiLullo, from Waste Management of Canada, Holiday Park Resort has a history of making positive environmental decisions and has always had the mandate to tread gently on the earth. Their industrial laundry is operated with no chlorine, and they purchase colored linens to help in the process of using fewer chemicals. Holiday Park Resort chips and composts all branches and cuttings and leaves and grass are collected weekly from 570 sites. In addition to composting, Holiday Park Resort regularly recycles all recyclable materials. They have been offering community gardens for the past 25 years. Holiday Park Resort educates children and families about the painted turtles which are native to the lake and area. These turtles are protected by park personnel and it is Holiday Park Resorts' policy to respect them and watch over their waters. Holiday Park Resort also maintains the small island off the shore of the park which was created as a shelter for birds and it is kept up by volunteers. They take care in disposing of all metals, batteries and wood products and send blacktop and concrete to be recycled. They also have a re-use program including a "book exchange box" allowing reading materials to be shared, and the 5 gallon ice cream pails from the general store are given to residents for kitchen waste composting buckets.

Honourable Mention: Crown Packaging

Crown Packaging endorses the philosophy of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Recover. With this goal in mind, it uses recycled paper in as many products as possible, without compromising quality and safety. Crown Packaging has supported the Regional Waste Reduction Office by providing its parking lot and loading dock area at no charge for eight waste reduction events within the last four years. These events include four hazardous waste roundups, three e-waste collection events and most recently, a composter sale. Their generosity has saved local taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars and made it so much easier to organize and host events of this magnitude. To date more than 200,000 litres of hazardous waste and 150 tonnes of e-waste have been collected and 1,300 composters have been sold from this site.

Winner: Most Environmentally Dedicated Group – Oceola Fish and Game Club

The Oceola Fish and Game Club (OFGC) has a long and established record of making outstanding contributions to the protection and management of the environment – particularly in the areas of conservation, habitat protection, partnership development, and education and awareness. Each year OFGC members put in hundreds of volunteer hours working on these initiatives. OFGC has spent the last 20 years protecting and enhancing the Wood Lake kokanee population. From 2001-2006 the club received over \$250,000 in funding and in-kind support to develop management plans, collect data and undertake stream restoration projects. For the past 8 years the Club has been developing the Winfield Creek Wildlife Habitat Preserve; this project won the 2007 BC Wildlife Federation conservation project of the year award. The club is currently working on a plan to manage water levels on Ellison (Duck) Lake to better provide water for downstream water users. This year, the club is planning to construct a Kokanee information kiosk and viewing area along Middle Vernon Creek.

Honourable Mention:**BC Sustainable Energy Association (BCSEA)**

The Okanagan Chapter of the BC Sustainable Energy Association is a dominating force in helping local people make energy saving and environmentally positive choices. BCSEA continues to promote action oriented initiatives including cycling access to the UBCO campus from Rutland and downtown, and the City of Kelowna's bicycle rack installation program for commercial buildings. The BCSEA hosted the Okanagan portion of David Suzuki's speaking tour in February 2007. In addition, the BCSEA continually provides information about coal fired electric plants planned by the province, the 2007 Provincial energy plan, green products and alternative energy options.

Honourable Mention: Most Environmentally Dedicated Group –**Joe Rich Watershed Monitoring Committee**

The Joe Rich Watershed Monitoring Committee is concerned with the upstream challenges of Mission Creek, its delta at Okanagan Lake and kokanee habitat. Having a Special Management Area already declared for Joe Rich, the main goals of this committee are to consult with logging companies regarding impact on Mission Creek and to protect and maintain a trail network in the Joe Rich community. This committee has presented a unique plan to the Regional District of Central Okanagan for improvements to the upper areas of Mission Creek to mitigate flooding and gravel and sediment impacts. The Joe Rich Watershed Monitoring Committee played a role in having Mission Creek declared a Heritage River and committee members have assisted in improvements to Joe Rich Creek in agricultural areas.

Winner: Most Environmentally Dedicated Individual –**Judie Steeves**

Judie Steeves has been writing about the natural environment since she first wrote about the degradation of the Coquitlam River for the Columbian newspaper in the early 1970s. Judie has continued to write an outdoors column, titled "Trail Mix" in the Capital News, which originally began in 1994. She is co-author of Okanagan Trips and Trails, a guide book to local trails and natural features which was written in 1999 and updated and re-published just last year. Judie Steeves also received the Environment Minister's award in 1998. She has been a director of the Peachland Sportsman's Association for more than 14 years, and is involved in a variety of habitat enhancement projects and events encouraging the young and the disabled to enjoy fishing and the outdoors. Judie has also been on the board of the Central Okanagan Land Trust for six years while being a supporter of most local "friends of" groups. Judie has also been guiding nature tours for a fund-raiser supporting restoration work at Fintry Park.

Winner: Most Environmentally Friendly School –**1st place: Quigley Elementary**

Under the guidance of Joanne Swain and with the participation of all of the teachers and students, Quigley Elementary was able to clinch the coveted title of The Greenest School in the Central Okanagan. This title is for the winner of the year long School Eco-Challenge contest that is hosted by the EECO Heroes (Environmental Educators of the Central Okanagan – City Environment and Transportation Demand Management, Water Smart, Regional Parks and Regional Waste Reduction Office). Their extensive recycling efforts, participation in the Kokanee in the Classroom program, anti-idling promotion, waste free lunches, walk to school program, 20 minute community makeover and

environmentally focused field trips all led to the \$1000 prize and ice-cream for the entire school. Quigley's dedication to environmentally focused learning will give their students a foundation of knowledge from which they can mould their behaviours and their surrounding environment toward a more sustainable future.

2nd Place: Casorso Elementary

Under the leadership of Paola Piasentin, Casorso Elementary was able to succeed in becoming the second Greenest School in the Central Okanagan. This fantastic effort was a result of recycling, reusing and reducing to minimize the school's footprint on the environment. Casorso Elementary won the BC Playoffs for the Terasen Gas Environmental Mind Grind challenge.

3rd Place: Glenmore Elementary

Under the direction of Peter Maryschuk, Glenmore Elementary achieved a respectable third place finish in this year's School Eco-Challenge through extensive use of the three R's (recycle, reuse, reduce), participation in the Environmental Mind Grind, school clean-ups, walking school bus and environmentally focused field trips.

Winner: Most Environmentally Friendly Commuter – Eric Bilodeau

Eric Bilodeau cycle commutes from his home on Lombardy Square near downtown Kelowna to Bylands Nurseries in Westbank, an 11 km. trip one way. Eric has been commuting by bike, six days a week, rain or shine, for eight months of the year for the past two years. For the previous five years, Eric commuted seven km. for eight months of the year. On his day off, Eric doesn't feel quite right if he doesn't get on his bike, so he does the groceries and other trips around town using his bicycle as well.

Winner: Most Environmentally Friendly Yard – Carol Suhan & Wayne Carey

Carol Suhan and Wayne Carey have shown that a beautiful yard can be created using environmentally friendly techniques. They use attractive xeriscape plants which thrive well in the Okanagan. All their yard and kitchen waste is used to create healthy compost for their garden while they spread Glenmore grow and Ogogrow on their lawn. They have a rechargeable mulching lawnmower which grasscycles to provide a natural fertilizer for their lawn. Carol and Wayne have not used any pesticides or chemical fertilizers on the lawn for over 15 years. In 2005 they only watered the lawn seven times and last year they watered their lawn only a dozen times, prompting crews to check their house three times to look for a broken water meter!