



## **Victoria's Leadership Awards 2010 Nominees**

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### **The University of Victoria Community Leadership Award**

#### **David E. Burns**

From 1997 to 2009, David Burns was Executive Director of Greater Victoria's Child and Family Counselling Association (CAFCA), a frontline, community-based counselling and support organization. David supervised 40 child, youth and family counsellors and managed an annual budget of \$1.3 million; he worked tirelessly to build bridges linking UVic, CAFCA and other community agencies. Under David's leadership, CAFCA created the CAFCA Integral Solutions Society (CISS) to facilitate such services as family mediation and teen family counseling. As CAFCA Executive Director, David was fundamental in establishing the non-profit South Island Training Initiative Society (SITI) which provides low-cost, accessible training to community agencies in Greater Victoria.

#### **Thomas Adam Downie**

As the Assistant Director of UVic's Campus Security Services and the Staff Sergeant in charge of the Saanich Reserve Police, Tom Downie wants you to feel safe and secure. Throughout Tom's 23 years with the Reserves, he has consistently put in 400 to 500 hours of volunteer time each year, creating an organization that responds quickly and appropriately to local police and community needs. At UVic Tom supervises Security Officers, leads and assigns investigations and develops and maintains crime prevention programs. The strong connection he has built between the University and the community helps prevent crime and keeps everyone safe.

#### **Lydia Kasianchuk**

Lydia Kasianchuk has contributed to arts and culture in Victoria for over thirty years. Lydia directed a study leading to the first Arts Policy for Greater Victoria, served as the Region's first Arts Manager and as a member of the British Columbia Arts Council. She produced Victoria's only multi-cultural radio program, initiated courses in Continuing Studies at UVic and for a decade led a cultural tour to Ontario for the University. Lydia was Arts Leader of the Year in 1993, was nominated as a Woman of Distinction in 1997 and in 2001 was named an Honorary Citizen of Victoria. She is currently the Manager of the Lafayette String Quartet.

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## **The Rotary Community Leadership Award**

### **Deedrie Ballard**

A dedicated business person in the Victoria community since 1973, Deedrie is one of the city's top realtors. Her extensive volunteer work has included service on Boards with The Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, St. Margaret's School, The Commonwealth Games Board of Governors, Lions Club Timmy's Telethon, Children's' Miracle Network, CNIB, Royal McPherson Theatre Foundation, and Greater Victoria Hospitals Foundation, having raised many 100's of thousands of dollars.

Currently in her third year as President of the Victoria Symphony Society, Deedrie has led successful fund raising and sponsorship initiatives for the Symphony, and has brought new coherence to Board activities. The Order of St. John also benefits from her commitment, especially in raising funds to support the integration of homeless persons into the community.

### **Gordon Benn**

Devoting time to community, Gordon Benn regularly undertakes pro bono legal work for non-profits, and spent many years coaching youth sports. He joined the Victoria Symphony Board in 2002 and was President from 2003-2007. Under his leadership, the Symphony eliminated its deficit and maintained three years of surpluses.

Gordon is a Past President of two Victoria area Rotary Clubs, and after just two years as a member, he is now Vice President of the Saanich Peninsula Hospital Foundation Board. Gordon was awarded a Victoria Bar Association "Volunteer Award" in 2008 for "significant effort in a volunteer capacity".

### **Matt MacNeil**

Matt is a self-made businessman.

He found his niche in the service industry in 1981 when after his first day as a server, he was placed in a management position. His role as manager extended into diverse situations and places, but by 1987 he was ready to start his own business. In time he became the owner of 6 bars in Calgary and one in Banff.

In 1991 he and his family moved to Victoria and settled in Oak Bay.

Since then, he has opened The Dublin Gate, Penny Farthing Pub, Irish Times Pub in the historic Rattenbury -Bank of Montreal Building and most recently the Bard and Banker Pub. As the first Chair of the Downtown Victoria Steering Committee he was a founding member of the Downtown Victoria Business Association.

## **Charlayne Thornton-Joe**

Charlayne is an active participant in the community. She is a past Board Member for the Women's Transition House, a past President of the Inter-Cultural Association and a past Director for the Lion's Society for Children with Disabilities. She was also a Director of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association, and has been a member of Victoria Chinatown Lioness Club for over 15 years, many times serving as President.

Since 2002 she has been on Victoria City council. She chaired the steering committee for the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness, and Addictions, and is currently a member of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. Charlayne helped to instigate what is now known as the Extreme Weather Protocol.

She is a recipient of awards such as the Y Woman of Distinction, Zonta Woman of the Year, and a City of Victoria Honorary Citizen Award.

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## **The Vancity Youth Award**

### **Leyland Cecco**

Leyland currently studies in Eskisehir Turkey. His central focus is on the roles of both secularism and Islam within Turkish politics. His community involvement is on a global level, is diverse in nature and within many different organizations. Leyland was an active participant and fund raiser for a girl's school in Malawi and is currently involved with an education enrichment facility which seeks to help underprivileged children in Turkey.

### **Jonathan Morris**

Jonny Morris is an emerging leader in youth suicide prevention and campus mental health, committed to anti-stigma work and social justice. A volunteer with NEED Crisis and Information Line for the past nine years, Jonny has delivered suicide and depression awareness presentations to thousands of high school students. Blue and Gold Award Winner, Jonny is leading the way in advancing a provincial vision of mentally healthy campus communities. Johnny teaches in the School of Child and Youth Care and serves as a Director for the BC-Schizophrenia Society – Victoria Branch.

### **Chantal Orr**

Chantal is a recent business graduate from The University of Victoria. She sits on the Board of Directors for the International Student Environmental Network and was Co-Chair for the 2009 World Student Environmental Summit, hosted this past June at UVic. In 2007-2008, she was Communications Director of the Business Sustainability Club and in June 2008 participated in the first annual World Student Environmental Summit in Kyoto, Japan. She is also a competitive athlete, and has played varsity soccer for University of British Columbia Okanagan and Stirling University. Chantal is the recipient of Jeffrey Mallet Leadership Award and the 2009 Business Co-op Student of the Year Award.

## **Lee Richardson**

Lee is the founder and owner of Richardson Sport, operating Sportball programs in Victoria and in the Lower Mainland. He has completed academic studies in Primary Education and Environmental Science (B.Sc. - Royal Roads University and B. Ed. - York University). Lee has worked as a teacher, ski school director, Sportball Franchise Owner and staff trainer for community centers. He has developed an environmental awareness camp called EcoQuest and currently is an active Account Executive with the United Way, Vice President of Centennial Day Care Society and the Vice Chair for B2B Networking Group. Recently Lee has also become the Vice Chair of The Vancouver Island Royal Roads Alumni Association and an Ambassador for Chamber of Commerce.

## **Joshua Schmidt**

Joshua Schmidt is an entrepreneur and world traveler who brings his passion for sustainability, social change, and thriving communities to all his endeavors, and is always seeking ways to connect people and ideas in the interest of positive development. Whether it is helping a company reduce its greenhouse gas emissions with Small Feet or aiding rural communities in India gain access to the education & tools needed to alleviate poverty and move agricultural practices towards organic crops, Joshua's focus stays clear: assisting in community development to help local businesses and populaces thrive!

## **Katie Shaw**

Katie Shaw is a highly respected youth mentor, social justice advocate, researcher and facilitator. For nearly a decade she has worked in a variety of community-based NGOs focusing on youth engagement, capacity-building and collaborative community development. She is the Programs Director for LifeCycle Project Society and works actively with BC Healthy Communities. Katie believes in the power of collaboration and for people from all backgrounds to be resilient leaders for social change. She holds a B.A. in Sociology from the University of Victoria and is currently completing a M.A. in Community Leadership and Adult Education. An active community leader, Katie serves on the board of the Women's Sexual Assault Centre and the City of Victoria's Public Environment and Infrastructure Committee.

## **Matthew Norman Ward**

Matthew Ward completed a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science at the University of Victoria (2005, 2008) and is a published author and academic leader in the area of molecular evolution. He will complete a Diploma of Public Sector Management in April 2010, and is currently working in the field of Mental Health and Addictions for the Vancouver Island Health Authority (tertiary psychiatric rehabilitation and assertive community treatment). Matthew is also a very experienced teacher and tutor through his work as a laboratory instructor, MCAT educator and Prep101 lecturer/manager. In all, he has taught over 1000 undergraduate students in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year physics, chemistry and biology, and in turn, consistently receives great evaluations from his students. Finally, Matthew is a member of the BC rugby referees panel and is currently one of the top rugby officials on the island.

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## **The Leadership Victoria Alumni Award**

### **Lee Herrin**

Lee Herrin was born in North Vancouver. He moved to Victoria to attend UVic and completed a BA before moving to Toronto to earn a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University. He returned to Victoria in 1997 and within a year joined BC Stats, the board of Fernwood NRG (then the Fernwood Community Centre Society), and started the Victoria Fruit Tree project. Lee recently left government to become the Executive Director of Fernwood NRG, a neighbourhood-based organization dedicated to urban sustainability. His commitment to leadership has grown over the past 10 years, and he graduated from Leadership Victoria in 2007.

### **Shawn Steele**

Born and raised in Victoria, Shawn is passionate about community based positive development. Shawn founded and chaired the Prodigy Group, affiliated with Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce. He is a founding member and Chair of the Prospect Lake Preservation Society. He is past Director of the Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce Board and as a Director on the National Golf Course Owners Association Advisory Board.

The Leadership Victoria learning experience provided Shawn with new skills that he uses when facilitating planning retreats and facilitating community meetings. In the New Year, Shawn will work with Harbourside Rotary, initiating a Community Action Project with a combination of Leadership Victoria Alumni and Rotary Members. He serves on the newly formed Leadership Victoria Alumni Committee and hopes to engage Leadership Victoria Alumni to continue in participation with positive community development. Shawn is the General Manager at Prospect Lake Golf Course.

### **Maja Tait**

Maja was born and raised in Alberta. Her formative early years instilled both an appreciation for small town values as well as an insatiable curiosity to see the world beyond immediate borders. Maja lived in Japan and Calgary before moving to Vancouver Island in 1997.

The Leadership Victoria experience challenged Maja to expand her skills set and embrace change. In addition to her ongoing career in commercial property management, Maja has always been a dedicated community volunteer. This former Toastmaster graduated from the Leadership Victoria program in 2006 and was elected to Sooke's Council in the 2008 municipal elections. Maja has served numerous organizations in the Greater Victoria area and is now a member of Lions International in Sooke.

## **Laura Walsh**

A graduate of The University of Victoria and Moscow State University, and a Certified Fundraising Executive (CFRE), Laura Walsh has a proven international track record in fundraising and public relations and was also recognized as one of Vancouver Island's 'Top 40 Under 40'. After seven years as Senior Director of Development for the BC Cancer Foundation Laura is now Campaign Director for the Foundation's \$10 million *Inspire the World* capital campaign. Despite her work and family demands, Laura actively mentors young people and provides volunteer service and leadership to numerous organizations and associations throughout Greater Victoria.