

Our mission is

To develop well-informed leaders who are passionately engaged in building a vibrant community.

Unleash Your Inner Leader

Alumnus Laura Walsh carries the Leadership Victoria torch

By Jennifer Blyth
Black Press

Laura Walsh is well known to Greater Victorians as a tireless force first within the BC Cancer Foundation and more recently at the helm of the foundation's *Inspire the World* campaign.

A graduate of the University of Victoria and Moscow State University, and a Certified Fundraising Executive, Walsh has a proven track record in fundraising and public relations, was recognized as one of Vancouver Island's "Top 40 Under 40" and received the inaugural Alumni Award during the 2010 Victoria Leadership Awards.

She was also a learner with Leadership Victoria in 2004-2005.

"I was at a point professionally and personally where I wanted a learning experience but didn't want to seek a formal program through a university or college," she reflects. "I was intrigued by the format of Leadership Victoria and the 'learning by doing' aspect."

Leadership Victoria aims to develop well-informed leaders who are passionately engaged in building a vibrant community. Led by a diverse group from the business, government, education, and the non-profit sectors, Leadership Victoria members "share a profound belief that

the health of our community depends intimately on the quality of its leadership," explains Ivan Watson, alumnus and Leadership Victoria's Communications Director.

"We also believe — based on many decades of research and investigation — that the ability to lead is not necessarily innate. Leadership can be taught and leadership can be learned. This means communities can and must take responsibility today for fostering the leadership they will need tomorrow. As board members, coaches, mentors and program partners we put our collective skills and experience to work for the development of Victoria's emerging generation of leaders." To achieve that, Leadership Victoria delivers a challenging, life-enriching, nine-month action/study program that enhances the skills of emerging leaders by immersing them in real-world community issues. Through the rich sharing of ideas, experiences, resources and networks, current leaders pass the torch of leadership to participants who, in turn, become informed, active citizens and well-rounded contributors to the community.

Since 2000, the work of more than 200 Leadership Victoria alumni has created a living legacy of more than 33 community action projects. And those graduates have gone on to assume leadership roles in business, government and the volunteer sector.

What stays with Walsh today is the wonderful experience of "diverse people working together on common problems



Laura Walsh received the inaugural Leadership Victoria Alumni Award during a special ceremony at the Fairmont Empress Jan. 28.

— it's what makes things happen and creates community," she says.

In turn, Walsh remains active with Leadership Victoria, helping with the fundraising component of the curriculum, for example.

After seven years as Senior Director of Development for the BC Cancer Foundation, Walsh is now Campaign Director for its \$10 million *Inspire the World* capital campaign, aiming to transform cancer care and research through a significant expansion of the Agency's Vancouver Island Centre. Despite her work and family demands, Walsh actively mentors young people and provides volunteer service and leadership to numerous organizations and associations throughout Greater Victoria.

"Laura is the ideal graduate of Leadership Victoria," Watson observes. "Not only did she hone her impressive leadership skills, experience and expertise during the program, but she continues to make a strong impact in the community after graduation."

Nearly 200 graduates of Leadership Victoria have their own inspirational stories to share. The organization is currently accepting applications for its 2010-2011 program and encourages applicants from a diversity of backgrounds and careers who share a passion for community leadership and a commitment to transformative personal change.



Members of each Leadership Victoria cohort actively participate in monthly Community Learning Days which focus on a particular community theme, as well as on the fundamental skills of community leadership.

Just the FAQs

Q: What is Leadership Victoria?

A: Founded in 2000, Leadership Victoria is a community-based, voluntary organization committed to developing, supporting, recognizing and honouring outstanding community leaders. Over the last decade, it has become the "go to" organization for community leadership in Greater Victoria, graduating more than 200 leaders from diverse backgrounds who continue to work to improve their community.

Q: What programs are offered?

A: Three main programs include: The core nine-month experiential-based learning program; the annual Victoria Leadership Awards, in partnership with the Victoria Foundation, University of Victoria, Vancity and Rotary Clubs of Victoria; and an annual leadership symposium providing an opportunity for key people to gather and challenge conventional wisdom on pressing social issues.

Q: Why is community leadership so essential?

A: Leadership Victoria believes the community's future is in our hands. Because community leadership can be taught and learned, as a community we are accountable for developing emerging leaders and ensuring the current generation passes on its skills and wisdom to promising new leaders. As the community faces many challenges, experienced, trained leaders are required more than ever to tackle those challenges head on.

How you can get involved

For more information or to apply to the program please contact:

- 306 - 620 View St.,
Victoria, BC V8W 1J6
- Jack Shore, Executive Director,
250-386-2269 ext. 31 or email
jack@leadershipvictoria.ca
- Visit www.leadershipvictoria.ca

Want to learn more?

Attend one of Leadership Victoria's coming information sessions, April 8 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Victoria Foundation Conference Room, 130-645 Fort St., and April 28 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Room C130, David Strong Building, University of Victoria

Unleash your inner community leader!

Enroll today for the transformational learning experience of your life!

Visit our website and sign up now for our Community Leadership program or attend one of our upcoming information sessions;

5pm April 8 at the Victoria Foundation - 130-645 Fort Street

5pm April 28 in room C 130 in the David Strong Building at the University of Victoria

For more information visit us at www.leadershipvictoria.ca or call Jack Shore at 250.386.2269

Building Leaders. Building Community.



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