

Citizens, businesses get kudos for green efforts

City of Burnaby hands out its environmental awards at Sunday reception

BY JANAYA FULLER-EVANS, BURNABY NOW JUNE 5, 2010

It's not easy being green, but that's not stopping some residents and groups in Burnaby.

Organizations and individuals are being awarded this Sunday for their notable efforts to help the planet.

The City of Burnaby's environment committee has picked three winners for the 2010 Environment Awards.

The Community Stewardship award is being presented to Jennifer Atchison for her extraordinary commitment to the environmental stewardship of Stoney Creek and the Stoney Creek Watershed.

Atchison, a founding member of the Stoney Creek Environment Committee, said she was very honoured by the award.

"I'm very, very pleased," she said, adding that all the winners are very excited.

Ten years ago she accepted an environmental award from the city on behalf of the committee, but this year it is her individual efforts that are being recognized.

The awards give environmental organizations an opportunity to see what other groups are doing, Atchison said.

"It brings other volunteers in touch with the other things going on in Burnaby."

Things have changed since Atchison help found the committee in the mid-'90s, she said.

Major corporations and government agencies - Metro Vancouver, Kinder Morgan, Terasen Gas and B.C. Hydro - are willing to meet and discuss what is best for the watershed.

"It's such a huge, huge change from the beginning," she said.

But, she added, there is always more to be done. "The battle never stops," Atchison said, laughing.

The other two primary recipients were Brentwood Park Elementary School, given the 2010 Environment Award in Youth for its environmental participation and education initiatives.

The 2010 Environment Award in Communications went to the Wildlife Rescue Association of B.C. for its environmental outreach and education in Burnaby and throughout the Lower Mainland.

The City of Burnaby also awarded two environmental stars, to be presented at the reception on Sunday.

The star in the planning and development category goes to Coro Strandberg and Phillip Legg for constructing an environmentally friendly home in Burnaby, and the star in the business stewardship category goes to Simon Fraser University's sustainability coordinator, Candace LeRoy, for her work with SFU's sustainability ambassadors program.

This year's recipients really stood out, according to Coun. Dan Johnston, chair of the environment committee. He explained the committee didn't give out as many awards as in past years, but really focused on exceptional efforts.

The City of Burnaby Environment Awards and Environmental Stars will be presented at a reception on Sunday, June 6, at noon at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Pavilion. The reception wraps up the city's environment week.

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