

MP awards Diamond Jubilee medals to local citizens

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Randall Garrison, MP – Esquimalt Juan de Fuca, on May 19, presented 30 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals to recipients who live in Esquimalt/Juan de Fuca and have made significant contributions to their community and Canada.

“These 30 individuals have dedicated much of their life to make the community of Greater Victoria and Canada a better place.” said Garrison. “I am proud to present these Medals on behalf of the Queen in recognition of her 60 years as Queen,” he continued.

The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal was created to celebrate Her Majesty’s accession to the Throne 60 years ago. This commemorative medal is a tangible and lasting way to pay tribute to Canadians whose achievements have benefited their fellow citizens, Victoria and Canada. It provides an opportunity to look back and recognize those who make Canada what it is today, and to look forward and recognize youth who are actively involved in our country’s future.

The medal recipients were recommended to Member of Parliament Randall Garrison by a small committee of community volunteers. Over 50 nominations were received after a March advertising campaign to inform the community of the medals.

Recipients at Sooke Ceremony:

Chief Russell Chips, Beecher Bay First Nation.

Chief Marvin McClurg, Pacheedaht First Nation.

Chief Gordon Planes, T’Souke First Nation.

Chelsea Kuzman, Port Renfrew volunteer Fire Chief at age 20. Leads by example and is respected and admired for her leadership and skills as Chief. Youth.

Bill Meikle, founding member Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue. Still monitors radios and phone calls to JdF SAR from his home.

Elida Peers, long serving volunteer, historian and curator Sooke Regional Museum. A lifetime of community commitment, volunteerism and leadership. Supports multiple Sooke organizations and agencies.

William (Bill) J. Stephenson, record breaking 62 year service to Sooke Fire Rescue. Volunteer, fire chief, mentor, and leader of Sooke Fire Department through out those six decades of service.

Maywell Wickeim, Sooke volunteer with San Juan Ridge trail, T’Souke First Nation and numerous other community organizations up and down Vancouver Island. Family creed: “Give what you can, and take only what you need.”

John Wilson, long time Sooke community volunteer and activist.

Vickie Weber, founding member of Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue. Long term supporter and volunteer in developing Juan de Fuca Search and Rescue.

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