

OUTSTANDING CANADIANS ON THE PENINSULA

On July 1, the City of White Rock honoured three exceptional individuals that have helped make White Rock a successful, vibrant and harmonious community through the White Rock Outstanding Canadians on the Peninsula Legacy Program.

Nominations were received in the spring from the general public and a selection committee focused on the volunteer contributions each nominee made on the establishment, success, health, wellbeing and liveability of White Rock.

At the Canada Day by the Bay celebrations, Mayor and Council honoured Elizabeth Keeling (posthumously), Ellen Kennett and Joe O'Malley as Outstanding Canadians on the Peninsula.

About the 2011 Outstanding Canadians on the Peninsula

Elizabeth Keeling

After extensive study at the Toronto Conservatory of Music, Elizabeth settled in White Rock in 1950. By 1951 she had already introduced weekly story hour for children at the White Rock Library.

Elizabeth's house at the corner of Fir and Columbia soon became a centre of artistic and cultural activity. Over the next 50 years she was involved in and often initiated the establishment of every arts/culture club in White Rock including:

- The White Rock Choral Society
- The White Rock Overture Concert Society
- The Peace Arch Weavers Guild (later Peace Arch Weavers and Spinners)
- The White Rock Historical Society
- The Elizabeth Foundation (now the Peninsula Arts Foundation)
- The White Rock Museum and Archives

In addition to opening her home for many events, Elizabeth provided generous financial support to any cause that caught her interest. Elizabeth passed away in 2003.

Ellen Kennett

Ellen jumped into serving her community in 1954 when she first came to White Rock, starting a legacy of volunteer service that has lasted over 50 years with the following organizations:

- The Peace Arch Hospital Auxiliary
- The Peace Arch Hospital Board
- The Peace Arch Hospital and Community Health Foundation in White Rock

It was during Ellen's service on the Peace Arch Hospital Board that the Peace Arch Hospital and Community Health Foundation was formed – and she served as Board Chair of the Foundation for two years.

Today, at the age of 81, Ellen is still volunteering with the Peace Arch Hospital and Community Health Foundation and the Peace Arch Hospital Auxiliary

In 1989 Ellen was named Semiahmoo Peninsula Citizen of the Year and in October 2010 she was awarded the Friend of the Foundation's Award of Distinction – the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Joe O'Malley

Joe taught at White Rock Elementary School for 35 years (1970 – 2004). During that time he spent thousands of hours over and above his classroom time coaching soccer, volleyball and track and field. Often, after a long day of teaching and coaching, Joe would return to school after dinner to host floor hockey.

During this time he also organized numerous volleyball tournaments and track meets and always encouraged other coaches to bring lots of students with them to participate. He never wanted to turn any child away and made room for everyone.

Under Joe's leadership, White Rock Elementary school won the Barry Morley Memorial Track and Field Championships – Large Schools Division so many times that they presented the trophy to the school and bought a new one!

Although Joe is retired from full-time teaching today, he hasn't let that slow him down. He still teaches one day a week for the Surrey School District and substitute teaches. During this time he also continues to coach the White Rock Elementary School track & field teams and their girls' volleyball teams.

Thank you Elizabeth Keeling, Ellen Kennett and Joe O'Malley for making White Rock an even better place to live!



TAKE A LOAD OFF

There are some new benches around town! Older benches have been upgraded and new benches have been added to strategic locations throughout the city. Now you can stop for a break along Johnston Road or take in the breathtaking ocean view along Marine Drive.

If you are interested in dedicating a plaque on a new bench, please contact the Department of Engineering and Municipal Operations at 604.541.2181 for purchasing information.

WHITE ROCK TO HAVE FIRST EVER SYPEROXYGENATION SYSTEM IN CANADA

During summer 2011, Metro Vancouver, in coordination with the City of White Rock, will be upgrading the White Rock Pump Station located near Marine Drive and Oxford Street. These upgrades will involve the installation of a new odour and corrosion treatment system called SuperOxygenation. This mixes pure oxygen with sewage to help reduce or eliminate odours. It will also reduce maintenance and repair costs, and eliminate the need to use additional chemicals to treat odour and corrosion.

When complete, White Rock will have the first ever SuperOxygenation system in all of Canada!

For further details on this project, please contact the Metro Vancouver Information Centre at 604.432.6200.

NEXT WEEK

July 11

Land Use and Planning Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

All meetings at White Rock City Hall, 15322 Buena Vista Ave. unless otherwise noted

