

The Committee is pleased to announce the **5 Golden Star Awards** for 2015 are:

Bowen Island Community School, Bowen Island, BC. Contact: Sarah Haxby, "Grandfriends Program".

The Grandfriends program is celebrating twenty years of creating special connections between students and members of our community. Grandfriends participants are fifty-five years or older, but do not have to be grandparents, and do not have to have a grandchild at the school. The program runs during class time in the community school, and at S.K.Y. (Seniors Keeping Young) at the Bowen Court Seniors' Co-housing hall. The Community school Coordinator works with teachers and parent and senior volunteers to facilitate the program.

Seniors and students take turn presenting stories, poems, and presentations as well as collaborating in activities such as singing the national anthem, arts, science and kinetic-skills activities.

Students learn to use a variety of communication skills, to learn empathy, listening skills, respect and the basic elements of community building. Students practice respect, serving tea, and gain confidence by being listened to and working on activities with the Grandfriends.

Prize money to be used for future program growth and activities.

Cordova Bay Elementary School, Victoria, BC. Contact: Kelly Urarii, "iGeneration at CBay"

Cordova Bay 55 Plus Association is a non-profit seniors' activity organization that is housed in Cordova Bay Elementary School in Victoria, BC. As a result of sharing the same building a strong relationship has grown over time between the K-Grade 5 students, teaching staff and seniors, ages 55-90 years. Together they have enjoyed seasonal celebrations, games, cooking classes, crafts, family history, physical education, digital photography, knitting as well as a multi-year program called Handy Grandies in support of African grandmothers via the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The result of the various student-senior collaboration is a strong sense of share community supported by mutual understanding and respect.

The prize money will be used to support future intergenerational projects at the school, including supplies for baking, arts and crafts, camera maintenance, and technology support.

Maple Creek Middle School, Port Coquitlam, BC. Contact: Harriette Chang, "Real Acts of Caring"

The intergenerational connections students at Maple Creek Middle have made with senior members of their Port Coquitlam Community have been life changing and invaluable. Students are discovering that reaching out to seniors has opened their minds and changed how they see and interact with their community. The program has also positively impacted how students are perceived in the community.

The program is helping raise a generation of young people who may not grow up in a village but have the opportunity to learn from and share experiences with elders through acts of caring and kindness.

The prize money will be used to continue to bridge the connection between seniors and students in Port Coquitlam

New West Homelearners, New Westminster, BC. Contact: Sue Dyer, "Reclaiming the New Westminster Waterfront: Intergenerational Arts Programs for Schools"

The program commenced in 2012 and involved Grade 5/6 students from homelearners program. The pilot involved a guided waterfront walk with a retired longshoreman, Joe Brecks. Students compared photos from the past with pictures they took. Art classes taught by Sue Dyer focused on what the students thought the waterfront would look like in the future.

The 2nd project was conducted in 2013 and involved Matthew Sol's Grades 3 and 4 students at F.W. Howey Elementary School. Following similar lines to the 1st project, longshoremen retirees, Joe Brecks, Gerry White and Brian Ringrose shared "lived experiences". The children and the longshoremen collaborated on a wide variety of art projects.

Another project in 2013, involved Grade 120 students in Pat Dyer's social studies students at New Westminster Sec. School. Students worked with longshoremen to create shore documentary films exploring the history of the working waterfront. Longshoremen (Joe Breaks, Gerry White, Brian Ringrose, Ken Bauder, Dean Johnson, Ron Novlett) shared stories with the students. These short films were viewed and celebrated by current working members of the Longshoreman's Union.

Student work has been displayed at the various locations such as : New West Home Learners site, F.W. Howey Elementary, New West Secondary School, New Westminster City Hall, Community Arts Centre (Coquitlam). The next display will be at the New Westminster Museum July-Oct. 2015.

The program is planned to continue beginning in May 2015 with grade 5/6 students in Chris Weber's class at Tweedsmuir Elementary and also in New Westminster School Districts Universal Designs for Learning Team.

The prize money will be applied toward art supplies, student transportation and resources.

Twin Rivers Elementary School, Castlegar, BC. Contact: Renie Evdokimoff, "Grey Buddies"

Students and seniors have been involved in a wide range of activities throughout the ten year history of the program. Activities have included a "Living History" project in 2007 where students interviewed seniors and did a biography of their lives. This project used community seniors as an information source to create living history. This required students to think outside the box and work cooperatively with each person. This project was given to each senior to share as their part of living history and was shared with staff and a copy was placed in the library. As well, the class has worked in conjunction with the

Royal Canadian Legion promoting remembrance for many years through the annual poster/poem contest. Students learned more about what life during war was like. Recently the class received an award from the local legion for many years of program participation.

The day-to-day activities involve weekly visits with our grey buddies at Talarico place, where students play cards, play chess, do puzzles or just learn about what life was like before. Some special events have taken place where seniors taught guitar to students, as well as students assisted on a regular basis, with email communication to family. Students have shown seniors how to use the computer and have helped with communication for a senior suffering from a stroke by using a keyboard to spell out communication.

The "Grey Buddies" have been special guests at Remembrance Day Assemblies and students have entertained the senior citizens at Talarico Place with their singing in both English and Russian.

The prize money would be used to purchase children's literature with a focus on relationships with students and seniors, or books reflecting local history and /or a class ipad to enable FaceTime with "Grey Buddies".

The Legion Gold Star Award for 2015 is:

Kelowna Secondary School, Kelowna, BC. Contact: Graeme Stacey, "In the Classroom and Beyond: Remembering and Honoring Canadian World War 11 Hong Kong Veterans"

Mr. Graeme Stacey, a History teacher at Kelowna Sr. Sec. School, witnessed tremendous value, in having students work with Veterans and Seniors who put a face to history and create connections between events of the past with today's students

Textbooks do not always do justice to the history of the Canadian Hong Kong Veterans (HKV), they are "aging faster, and dying sooner" (Only thirty Veterans from this battle are still alive as of 2/07/2015). Having students meet and interact with Hong Kong Veterans leaves lasting impressions. The greatest lessons in the class have been those in which students were able to directly meet, listen to, and ask questions of Veterans.

Unfortunately, with the passing of the last Kelowna HKV there are no HKVs left in the Kelowna. To keep the authenticity and realism associated with HKV alive we have had to seek other measures to make this story personal for students. We have been fortunate to work directly with

2nd Lieutenant Lee Naylor (Ret'd), the son of a Hong Kong veteran to tell the story of HKV in a way that leaves a lasting impression and exposes them to an often forgotten chapter of history. The program of has students use primary source materials provided by the Hong Kong Veterans Commemorative Association (<http://www.hkvca.ca/index.htm>), have students contact HKV family members across Canada to conduct interviews, and write to Veterans themselves. Students communicate this story by utilizing diaries, photographs, biographies, documentaries, and other primary sources that shed light on HKV, what they endured, and how they and their families endeavor to have their story remembered.

The success and impact of having Mr. Lee Naylor come to the classroom and the urgency to keep the memory of these Canadian Veterans alive enables students to share perspectives and insights in the classroom, to their peers, outside of the classroom, and the community. The story of the Hong Kong Veterans reinforced the need to continue the remembrance of this important chapter in Canadian history. Mr. Lee Naylor's visits to KSS bridges the gap for students and makes meaningful connections with the Social Studies 11 Curriculum.

Prize Money to be used for travel costs, supplies and resources for the program

Presentations of the trophies and the cheques have been made to all six recipients. Pictures and articles for all 6 winners will be published throughout the coming year in "Postscript"

For 2015-2016, due to the costs involved, we will **not be mailing out posters** advertising the Golden Star Awards. The Committee is hoping that **Branches will "get the word out"** about the awards, by requesting the local unions to include information about the awards in their newsletters and by encouraging active teachers to check out the BCRTA website for application information.

In 2015-2016, the **5 BCRTA Golden Awards will be increased to \$1500.00**. The Legion has also been asked to increase the Legion Golden Star award to \$1500.00 and will discuss this at their October Board meeting.

Charan Gill, Chair, Excellence in Education Committee