

Leadership Victoria unleashes the community's inner leaders

What makes a great leader? How do we learn these skills? And how do we ensure that leaders work collaboratively, across sectors while mentoring emerging talent?

Leadership Victoria recognizes, honours, and facilitates the many roles that strong leaders play in building a better community.

Though practical experience, Leadership Victoria delivers a challenging, action/study program that helps prepare emerging leaders. The nine-month program builds upon foundational leadership skills and in the process develops an awareness of opportunities for leadership in the context of our own community and regional issues. Many former participants have gone on to accept senior leadership roles in business, government and the voluntary sector.

Leadership Victoria has grown from an advisory group within Volunteer Victoria to a CRA-registered charity that is part of a national network of like-minded organizations. Since 2001, Leadership Victoria has offered its hands-on, learning program that takes a look at the learners' personal approach to community.

To date, Leadership Victoria has created more than 36 local community action projects that leave a lasting and tangible legacy throughout the region. Results have included upgrades to our parks, urban neighbourhoods and school playgrounds, enhanced capacity of non-profits to work collaboratively and a vibrant network of well-informed and dedicated leaders working across all sectors.

For example, cooperation with the SeaChange Marine Conservation Society saw the development of the Gorge Waterway Discovery Centre – a place for the community to explore environmental education and initiatives that focus on the connection between forest, wetland, stream and marine environments.

Another initiative of the program saw the launch of Street Feet. Together with Victoria Cool Aid Society, participants developed Commu-

nity Action Partnerships with the Mayfair Dental Clinic and the Salvation Army Thrift Stores. The team worked to resolve storage challenges at Streetlink and provide ongoing donations of clothes and hygiene products.

Other successful projects include Homeless Families (in participation with Victoria Native Friendship Centre), Making Connections (through Volunteer Victoria) and Graffiti Cleanup (in partnership with Lansdowne School), to name a few. Community projects allow the program participants to work collaboratively and build group development and participatory decision-making. The projects make tangible contributions and provide insight into the challenges, needs and assets of Greater Victoria communities.

Leadership Victoria boasts some pretty impressive successes. To date nearly 200 learners have completed the program. Of the 2008 alumni, 77 per cent are leaders in their workplace and 74 per cent volunteer an average of 120 hours per year – well above Victoria's annual average of 75 hours.

On February 16, 2011 Leadership Victoria will once again recognize another remarkable group of nominees for the Victoria Leadership Awards. These Awards are a partnership between Leadership Victoria, the University of Victoria, the Rotary Clubs of Greater Victoria, and the Victoria Foundation. Categories include recognition of community leadership, lifetime achievement, youth and alumni.

If you know an outstanding community hero, now's your chance to recognize them in one of six prestigious award categories. Nominations for Victoria's Leadership Awards are now being accepted for the 2011 awards ceremony. Nomination packages are available online at www.leadershipvictoria.ca or directly from Leadership Victoria call 250-386-2269. All nominations must be received by 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 30.



Jody Bauche, Irene Guglielmi and Yasmin Rampuri – 2010 Alumni from the "Art of Re-Gifting" Community Action Project

Sara Wegwitz – 2009 Alumna from the "Rainbow Kitchen" Community Action Project.

Rosie Croft, Shawn Steele, Wendy Robinson, Sara Wegwitz, Joanna Morton, Jason French – 2009 Alumni from the "Rainbow Kitchen" Community Action Project.



When the economy is up, we grant. When the economy is down, we grant.
How? By working smarter.

Established in 1936, the Victoria Foundation has built a lasting endowment fund that has served our community well. In 2009, during unprecedented economic times, we continued to grant to non-profit organizations. We also found innovative, successful ways to add value beyond granting such as our Community Advisors, a valuable resource for non-profits. At the Victoria Foundation, working smart is the result of our experience – nearly 75 years of it.

To learn more about the Victoria Foundation, please call Sandra Richardson, CEO, at 250-381-5532. www.victoriafoundation.bc.ca



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