

Michelle Stilwell Honoured by City of Parksville

On Sunday, September 23, 2012, Michelle Stilwell was presented with the honour of the first ever "Key to the City of Parksville".

In partnership with the RBC, the City hosted a community event on September 23 to honour RBC Olympian and Paralympic gold medalist Michelle Stilwell for her outstanding achievements. Sunday, September 23 had been proclaimed as "Michelle Stilwell Day in Parksville" by Parksville Council.

On behalf of the City, Mayor Chris Burger recognized Michelle as a Parksville resident and presented her with the "Key to the City of Parksville". Although this is the first time the City has bestowed this honour, the practice of presenting a ceremonial "key to the city" dates back to medieval times. The tradition is meant to confer trust and honour and symbolizes the freedom of the recipient to enter and leave the city at will, as a trusted friend of the residents of the city. Because there are no longer gates to unlock, the key is a symbolic honour and is also known as Freedom of the City which indicates that the recipient has the right of entry to everything in our city.

A few months ago, through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and the office of the Governor General of Canada, there was a call for nominations for the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medals. Michelle's nomination was submitted by former Mayor Ed Mayne and Lilian Mayne and endorsed by Council as the nomination from the City of Parksville. This award honours the achievements of Canadians by recognizing citizens who have made a significant contribution in the lives of Canadians.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal was presented by Prime Minister Harper this past Wednesday in Ottawa; however the City was able to "re-present" the medal to Michelle on Sunday.

"It is our honour to recognize Michelle as one of this City's shining stars and to acknowledge her dedication and commitment to sport and athleticism as a true inspiration to others," said Mayor Chris Burger.

Photos from the event may be viewed on the City's Facebook page at <http://facebook.com/cityparksville>

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For more information:

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