

## **Renate Sutherland to Receive 2017 Community Spirit Award**

The City of Parksville is pleased to announce Renate Sutherland as the recipient of the 2017 Community Spirit Award as part of the Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards. Renate was chosen by the Council of the City of Parksville and the award is sponsored by the City.

For many years, Renate has contributed her talents to help others and to improve the quality of life of the Oceanside region. Mayor Marc Lefebvre said, "Renate exemplifies the spirit of this award through her wholehearted commitment to the community and her tireless dedication to the not-for-profit world. Council is pleased to announce Renate as the recipient of the first Community Spirit Award."

Oceanside has been Renate's home for the past 36 years. She first joined Society of Organized Services in 1992 as volunteer coordinator, continuing her career with positions at both the United Way and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC and Yukon before rejoining SOS in 2008 as executive director. Since 2008, the organization's programs have grown immeasurably, reaching many impressive milestones.

As SOS executive director, Renate has been dedicated to the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness both as task force co-chair and as regional coordinator for the homeless shelter. During this same time, Renate was co-chair of the Oceanside Health and Wellness Network and worked on the End of Life Care Working Group resulting in the opening of hospice beds at Trillium Lodge.

Renate's passion for helping people is not limited merely to her career and becomes even more evident in her remarkable list of personal volunteer endeavours. Although retired, Renate continues her work with the Oceanside Task Force on Homelessness, devoted to providing housing for those most vulnerable.

This award will be presented on March 15 at the Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards Gala. For more information about the event, please contact the Parksville & District Chamber of Commerce at 250 248-3613.

###

For more information:

Mayor Marc Lefebvre  
250 954-4661; [mayor@parksville.ca](mailto:mayor@parksville.ca)

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications  
250 954-3073; [dtardiff@parksville.ca](mailto:dtardiff@parksville.ca)