



Community Cultural Leaders Recognized

April 1, 2009- In March two of Nanaimo's cultural leaders were recognized for their enhancement of local culture at the annual Nanaimo Cultural Awards. The first award presented was for 'Excellence in Culture' which recognizes an organization or individual that has achieved regional and/or national recognition in the field of arts and culture. The second award is for 'Honour in Culture' which celebrates an individual, group or corporation that is known for their dedication and support of the development of the cultural fabric which identifies the community.

Carmella Luvisotto was presented with the award for 'Excellence in Culture', for her efforts in music education. Carmella is the Director of the Wellington Jazz Academy. The academy has prepared hundreds of students for competitions at all levels.

The 'Honour in Culture' was awarded to Camela Tang. Mrs. Tang has been involved in supporting and promoting arts and culture within the community for over twenty years. She was instrumental in bringing the Nanaimo Arts Centre and Nanaimo Centre Stage into the Downtown Nanaimo Arts District. Camela was also instrumental in securing Nanaimo's title as a Canadian Cultural Capital in 2008.

Award winners were selected by the Cultural Committee and then referred to the Parks, Recreation and Culture Commission for endorsement. The awards were presented by City Council members at an event held on March 11th at Beban Park. Ms. Luvisotto and Mrs. Tang each received a professional portrait which will hang in the Margaret Strongitharm Gallery at the Port Theatre. Gary Peters donated his professional photographic services. For more information please contact Bob Kuhn, Manager Recreation and Culture Services, 250 755 7512.

-30-

Images Attached:

- 1) Carmella Luvisotto (jpg)
- 2) Camela Tang (jpg.)

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