

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOUR VIREB MEMBERS HONORED AT REALTORS CARE[®] AWARDS LUNCHEON IN NANAIMO

NANAIMO, BC – Four members of the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) received REALTORS Care[®] Awards at a special awards luncheon on February 26 in Nanaimo.

VIREB hosted the event in conjunction with its annual general meeting to recognize members who give back to their communities. Coast Capital Savings sponsored the event for the ninth year in a row.

Nancy Allwarden, Jillian Dashwood, Ian Mackay, and Dawn Walton

received the awards for their dedication to the REALTORS Care[®] philosophy and principles, demonstrated by their generous volunteerism and community service. In recognition of their service, VIREB will donate \$500 to each recipient's chosen charity.

Allwarden, a REALTOR[®] with Discovery Islands Realty on Quadra Island, has worked on many volunteer boards and organizations. An alternate director of Quadra Island Emergency Support Services, Allwarden is also a dispatcher and member of the Quadra Island Fire Department, recently passing her First Responder course. She serves as president of the Old Age Pensioners group on Quadra and as treasurer of the Quadra Photography Club. Allwarden also looks after a colony of feral cats for the local feral-cat group.

For Dashwood, a REALTOR[®] with Royal LePage Nanaimo Realty in Ladysmith, volunteering is a way of life. Playschool and parenting groups, community theatre, emergency-preparedness initiatives, and municipal politics have all benefited from Dashwood's involvement. While serving on Ladysmith Town Council, she helped create the Regional Affordable Housing



*LEFT TO RIGHT: David Armstrong, Coast Capital Savings; Nancy Allwarden; Ian Mackay; Jillian Dashwood; and Shannon Wright, Coast Capital Savings. Missing: Dawn Walton.
PHOTO CREDIT: Artez Photography*

Directorate and Homelessness Committee and today continues to support affordable-housing initiatives in the Cowichan Valley. Dashwood helped establish the Crime Prevention Action Council and a Community Clean-Up team in addition to serving for seven years as a board member of the Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce.

Mackay, who is with Royal LePage Parksville-Qualicum Beach Realty, has used his real-estate knowledge and business experience to help several local organizations with business initiatives. As board chair of Oceanside Hospice Society, he helped secure multi-year provincial funding and initiated a capital improvement fund that has seen significant growth. Mackay has also worked diligently to raise money for the Heart and Stroke Association, Oceanside Homelessness Task Force, Shelter Foundation (Haven House), and the Salvation Army Extreme Weather Shelter. He is currently co-chair of the Salvation Army Property Search Committee.

Walton, a REALTOR® with RE/MAX Nanaimo, is an executive member of the Children's Miracle Network Board of Directors. Walton has helped RE/MAX Nanaimo become the top RE/MAX office in Western Canada with the highest donations. She has also donated many volunteer hours to Habitat for Humanity in Nanaimo and Victoria. Some of Walton's other volunteer work includes Secret Santa Nanaimo, the ScotiaBank MS Bike Ride, Nanaimo Minor Hockey, Muff's Classic Gold Tournament, the BC Summer Games, Vancouver Island Music Fest, and the City of Nanaimo's Community Improvement Program.

Throughout the year, members of organized real estate work together to make a difference in their communities by volunteering time and raising funds for a diverse array of causes and charities close to their hearts. Many of these initiatives fall under the REALTORS Care® umbrella. This guiding principle and brand celebrate the great philanthropic work done by Canadian REALTORS®; real estate boards and associations; and broker offices.

Canadian REALTORS® donated over \$53.8 million to charities in 2012 and 2013.

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ABOUT VIREB

VIREB represents approximately 965 REALTORS® in nearly 90 member offices on Vancouver Island, from the Malahat in the south to the northern tip.

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