

Larry Hnetka Community Builder Award 2018

Mel Lehan



The 2018 Larry Hnetka Community Builder Award goes to Mel Lehan. Through action, passion, and commitment, he has created numerous opportunities for community members to come together, create together, and pursue a common goal for the good of all.

For 40 years Mel has continually and tirelessly worked to build neighbourhood, improve the environment, and to assist the poor and disadvantaged. His actions have affected not only the citizens in his Kitsilano neighbourhood, but also all of the Westside, and even the whole city of Vancouver! He is a community builder.

Because of Mel's commitment, passionate energy, and dedication, he has brought hundreds of volunteers together to participate in dozens of projects. His positive attitude and enthusiasm are so infectious he could get a mole to volunteer!

Mel is definitely a mover and a shaker! He was instrumental in changing St. James United Church into St. James Community Square, bringing a Farmers Market to Kitsilano, and initiating the daylighting of Tatlow Creek. He also organized volunteers to help him gather over 10,000 signatures to help save the UBC Farm.

Mel helped set up the Point Grey Residents Association and also helped to create Neighbour to Neighbour, a coalition of over 50 neighbourhood associations to assist with building their own communities and helping each other.

Mel Lehan played a big part in having the Point Grey Foreshore declared a natural foreshore in perpetuity. He led the battle to save it from being destroyed by a seawall, which would have had a devastating impact on the natural habitat for birds, sea life, and vegetation. Mel was involved in the initial stages of the Kitsilano Car Free Block Parties and played a big role in the rally to save the Hollywood Theatre.

Social relationships and feeling connected through environmental or social issues is what Mel does so well!

**Congratulations to Mel on becoming the recipient of the 2018 Mel Lehan
Community Builder Award!**