

## 2009 ESS Volunteer of the Year



**Brenda Young, Langford**

Brenda Young has long been an inspiration to the Langford ESS team. Since co-founding the team in 1996, she has directed her tireless energy toward guiding other volunteers, both as ESS Director for Langford and as a key supporter in volunteer management. Brenda has also shared her abundant knowledge with the rest of Greater Victoria as chair of the ESS Director's monthly meetings and an Alternate ESSA Representative, as well as by helping neighbouring municipalities set up their own teams. However, Brenda's work also goes beyond planning. She has been a Personal Disaster Assistant or Level One Responder for the West Shore communities since she became involved with ESS and continues to carry her pager to this day. Since 1997, Brenda has also been an active member of the Vancouver Island Mobile Support Team, serving as Director for the past four years, and has responded most notably to the Salmon Arm fires of 1998 and the Fire Storm of 2003. During her many dedicated ESS years, Brenda has shown unprecedented energy, knowledge and compassion.

Dedicated volunteers like Brenda are always there to meet the challenge as BC's public safety lifeline. More than 1,300 highly-skilled men and women are volunteers serving in five programs: Search and Rescue, Emergency Social Services, Air Search, Amateur Radio and Road Rescue. They respond to an average of 6,000 emergencies annually.

To honour the commitment of provincial volunteers, the Provincial Emergency Program hosted an awards ceremony in Victoria. April 24-26, 2009.