

2010 ESS Volunteer of the Year



Joyce McLeod – Kitimat

Joyce McLeod exemplifies the spirit of dedication and caring for her hometown of Kitimat as an emergency social services volunteer. Despite the demands of raising five children, she started out as an administrative assistant to the local Search and Rescue team and eventually became the Deputy Emergency Social Services Director.

Among her many accomplishments and time taken to care for people who have been struck by disaster, Joyce made sure hundreds of searchers were kept from going hungry during a seven-day search on Mount Elizabeth in 2002. Over the years she has also pitched in to help other communities when they were in need, such as Terrace during the floods of 2002 and both Kelowna and Kamloops during the 2003 firestorms. Closer to home, Joyce trained with the Northwest TEAMS group through 2006 and worked in the PREOC during 2007 freshet. With all her practical knowledge, Joyce wanted to share her invaluable experience with communities so she volunteered as an instructor at the Justice Institute of B.C. Joyce also represents her community and region even further on the Emergency Social Services Association Board of Directors and the ESSA Advisory Forum.

Joyce is passionate about her family, which has grown to 17 grandchildren. When she has a spare minute she enjoys creating watercolours, and just like a brush on canvas, Joyce has left her mark on all of those she has touched over the many years.

To honour the commitment of provincial volunteers, Emergency Management BC hosted an awards ceremony in Victoria. June 3, 2010