

## Community Information & Volunteer Centre

### Capital News: Volunteer Centre Column 2012 March 8

#### **Civic and Community Awards inspiring**

Are you feeling a bit discouraged? Do you keep plugging along but feel like it is 'same old, same old'? Looking to be encouraged and inspired?

Well then, I invite you to attend the City of Kelowna Civic and Community Awards gala on Thursday, April 19, 2012 at the Kelowna Community Theatre. It just might be the best \$25 you have spent in a long time.

As you enter the door, you are greeted by a buzz of friendly chatter and laughter. People are milling around the food and beverage tables selecting tasty treats.

Mounted on the walls around the foyer are photos with descriptions of each finalist in all 10 categories. You can begin putting faces to names and sharing comments with the person next to you.

"I am in awe of these teens," was the phrase I heard over and over at last year's gala. This piqued my interest so I selected bio highlights for the Young Female and Young Male of the Year. Here is what I gleaned.

The female winner, Danielle Heinzelmann, raised thousands of dollars for local and international causes, organized students to serve at Kelowna's Gospel Mission and gather truckloads of warm clothing, founded the RSS Social Justice Group, and attended the Canadian conference for student leadership.

"It's a rare day when Peter Davidson hasn't volunteered for something," read the bio. There are numerous councils and committees at KSS, jazz band, choir, orchestra, Kelowna Actors Studio, Rotary, Scouts, District Student Council, national entrepreneurship and Canadian student leadership involvements.

Finalists in each of the other eight categories had similar stories. They share their time, skills, experience and money because they care about people and are passionate about life.

Learn about finalist for this year's gala on the City of Kelowna website [www.kelowna.ca](http://www.kelowna.ca). Tickets are available for \$25 by phoning 250-469-8811.

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