

**Beach women honoured for making a difference
Women of Distinction praised for hard work**

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Longtime community volunteer and local historian Gene Domagala was smitten Wednesday evening surrounded by some of his favourite women. As the main organizer of Community Centre 55's inaugural Women of Distinction Awards, Domagala had the honour of selecting and congratulating some of the community's best female movers and shakers, affectionately dubbed Gene's Queens.

"These women have done better than any male I can think of," he told a packed room of guests at the Balmy Beach Club.

"They're the backbone of our community. They go beyond the call of duty."

Domagala said the recipients came from all walks of life and although nearly 200 were nominated, he faced the daunting task of choosing only 37 outstanding women.

Bob Murdoch, Community Centre 55's executive director, accompanied the recipients to the front to receive a gift and special certificate thanking them for their tireless efforts to make the city and the country a better place to be and for their contribution to the well being and future of the community they serve.

It also highlighted their leadership and commitment to excellence.

Mirror columnist and well-known Beach volunteer Glenn Cochrane served as the evening's master of ceremonies, offering delightful insights about each recipient.

"Good evening ladies. Men, you're on your own tonight," Cochrane said before beginning the roll call of award recipients, which also included a surprise honoree: Domagala's wife of 41 years, Pat.

The recipients of the inaugural Women of Distinction accolade are:

Sheila Blinoff, Linda Blogg, Joan Brent, Marion Bryden, Sandra Bussin, Sheila Cary Meagher, Sue Choi, Jennifer Cline, Jean Cochrane, Kathie Collins William, Nancy Culver, Catherine Dunphy, Amy Gaudaur, Evonne Hossack, Edna Houston, Margie Hunt, Helen Iliodimitis, Dianne James, Angela Kennedy, Joanne Knox, Frances Lankin, Angela Miller, Maria Minna, Barbara Myrvold, Marie Perrotta, Caroline Pitre, Margery Plummer, Charlene Provan, Lisa Rochon, Paris Quinn, Carole Stimmell, Anne Butler Swan, Debbie Visconti, Yvonne Walmsley, Barbara Weissman, Leslie Woo and Hong Zhao.