



Hamilton Mundialization Committee

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Announcement of the Recipient of the World Citizenship Award for 2005

Hamilton, ON – April 6, 2005 - The Hamilton Mundialization Committee is pleased to announce the recipient of this year's World Citizenship Award. Anne Pearson, a resident of the Dundas neighbourhood of the City of Hamilton, has been named World Citizen of the Year 2005. She was nominated for her activities in promoting interfaith and intercultural understanding, and sincere respect and appreciation amongst Hamilton's diverse communities.

Dr. Pearson has an educational background in religious studies. She teaches part-time at McMaster and Wilfrid Laurier universities. She has also lectured on issues related to women's rights and peace in both the religious and political contexts. She also works as a community volunteer mediator and facilitator.

Anne Pearson has served as co-chair of the Hamilton Interfaith Group since 1998, and has helped to increase its visibility and level of activity. This group has organized an annual lecture series, interfaith booth and dialogue, and the successful Festival of World Sacred Music and Sacred Storytelling Festival in Hamilton.

She was invited to serve on the working committee of the "Strengthening Hamilton's Community Initiative" and was an animator in promoting interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect. She was enlisted as a Board Member for the Hamilton's "Citizen Protection Project" and "Community Dispute Resolution Services". She is a Chair of the Interfaith Advisory Committee to the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Dr. Pearson is an active member of Hamilton's Bahá'í community, serving on the local elected administrative body for over 14 years, and also as an elected delegate to the Canadian Bahá'í National Convention. Through this involvement, she has supported the Bahá'í International Community's efforts promoting international understanding, has helped host international youth volunteer visitors to Hamilton, and has been a voice for Bahá'is being persecuted in Iran. In addition, Dr. Pearson has served on the executive of the North American Association for Bahá'í Studies.

It was for her ongoing demonstration of the qualities of a World Citizen that Anne Pearson was nominated. Her tireless efforts have promoted not mere tolerance, but rather sincere appreciation amongst Hamilton's diverse communities. We congratulate her on being named recipient of the World Citizenship Award for 2005.

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The Award Presentation ceremony will take place on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 in the Council Chambers of Hamilton City Hall at 5:30 p.m. The award includes a bronze medallion mounted on a plaque. A reception will follow.

Previous winners of the award include: Tony DiSilvestro (2004), Morteza Jafarpour (2003), Gary and Joy Warner (2002), Lt.-Gen. (Ret.) Roméo Dallaire (2001), Alan F. Phillips (1998), Joanna Santa-Barbara (1996), Graeme MacQueen and Paul Dekar (1994), Sister Helen Kobelsky (1992), Leonor Sorger (1991), Agdhas Javid (1990), Sheila Davis (1989), Hanna and Allan Newcombe (1988).

This year's finalists included:

- Khursheed Ahmed
- Anne Pearson

The ceremony is hosted by the Hamilton Mundialization Committee, a council-mandated advisory committee of the City of Hamilton whose function, fundamentally, is to facilitate and support peace initiatives and the twinning relationships between Hamilton and its nine twin-cities around the world. Our commitment is based on the belief in the interdependence of people around the world, and that future peace and progress are dependent on co-operation, goodwill and understanding. The Mundialization Committee is a member of the Roundtable on Strengthening Hamilton's Community Initiatives.

NOTES TO MEDIA:

There will be an opportunity to meet Anne Pearson, as well as other nominees and participants, at 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, in Room 219 at Hamilton City Hall, shortly before the actual presentation ceremony.

This text has minor revisions over a previously released version. Please use this one.