

## Gretchen Eckel Gosse Community Service Award

Presented to YWCA Edmonton personnel for exceptional community service, the *Mrs. Gretchen Eckel Gosse Community Service Award* recognizes:

- excellence of work in either the voluntary sector or profit sector, and
- the positive impact of the individual's work or contribution in the local and/or global community, profession, or field of endeavor.

Gretchen Gosse was a feisty woman who had a long history of volunteering in the many communities in which she lived, including St. Thomas, St. Catharines, Edmonton, Windsor, Toronto, Montreal, and Regina. She also had a long history with the Young Women's Christian Association of Edmonton that dates back to the mid 1930's when the then Miss Gretchen Eckel worked as the Girls' Work Secretary. After leaving Edmonton in 1937, Miss Eckel worked at a number of other YWCAs in central and eastern Canada. It was at the YMCA/YWCA of Windsor that she met her husband-to-be. With her marriage to the YMCA man, Hamilton Gosse, her volunteer career blossomed. It is a family joke that Mr. Gosse often had to remind his employer of forty years he was the one that was actually hired - not Mrs. Gosse.

Mrs. Gosse did not stop there in her volunteerism as she had more to give. She was proud to be a graduate of the University of Western Ontario, Class of 1935, majoring in English and History, and she especially cherished her memories of having served as President of the University of Regina Women's Club. This club provided scholarships for post-secondary students and fundraised to support these scholarships.

With her dedication to her faith and to the Anglican Church Mrs. Gosse served on church boards and ladies fellowship groups. She was proud to have been the first President of the All Saints Anglican Church Women's Group in Regina, a community where she lived for thirty years.

Mrs. Gosse was born on December 5, 1912 and passed away on March 22, 2007. She was a shining example of community-mindedness and selfless service; a woman who, in her words "just helped out" wherever life took her. Along the way she made her positive mark on those who were touched by her enthusiasm and efforts to make a better world – one act and one place at a time.

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### Nominations

The nomination process and forms are on the YWCA website, [www.ywcaofedmonton.org](http://www.ywcaofedmonton.org)

### Nominee Qualifications

The award is open to both women and men who at time of nomination, are full time, part time or seasonal staff or contractors of YWCA Edmonton, and have completed their probationary period.

Nominees must commit to attending the YWCA Staff Recognition event.

### Nomination Deadline

Nominations must be received no later than 12 noon on Friday, November 14, 2008 by Randall Jackson, Executive Assistant, YWCA Edmonton 100, 10350 – 124 Street, Edmonton, AB T5N 3V9. For additional further information, contact Randall at 423-9922 ext 234, [randall.jackson@ywcaofedmonton.org](mailto:randall.jackson@ywcaofedmonton.org).