

Heroes get an office

BILL ROBINSON FOR THE STAR

Thanks to an Agreement funded in whole or part through the Canada-British Columbia Labour Market Development Agreement, the Hidden Heroes Education Society has recently been able to open an office with a staff of four working to further develop and promote the Our Hidden Heroes elementary school program to schools across BC and beyond.

Today I want to celebrate the staff we were able to hire thanks to this federal and provincial government

support. These people all qualify as Hidden Heroes in the workplace, ordinary people who consistently do small things that make a difference; ordinary people who consistently find and activate the best in themselves and each other.

Shelly Schultz was the first person I interviewed and hired.

Last year, among many other recent accomplishments, Shelly recruited and managed the hundreds of volunteers required by the VEX last year. She is our Office Manager and Special Events Coordinator.

Diana Frajman is our Marketing and Promotions Manager. Diana comes to us with strong management and marketing skills having managed a large retail store for many years, a store that received international recognition.

Melisa Trough is just returning to the "outside the home" workforce after two years of maternity leave. She brings a strong environmental background and eight years experience working with children and teachers on the Lower Mainland.

Lisa Mitchell is the last person to join the team. As well as having the most infectious laugh this side of the Atlantic Ocean and enthusiasm to match, her expertise lies in team and relationship building.

Each member of this team has an absolute commit-

ment to and enthusiasm for bettering our program and, even more important, an exciting ability to acknowledge and inspire each other.

They are also quick to laugh. Together they make this a great place to work.

One of the first people I interviewed was Jim Chutka. Jim has an impressive background in media and public relations. When we first met, he told me he had applied for a position with the provincial government but was told it would be months, perhaps even a year before the position would be filled. Six weeks later, soon after he had started working with us and taken the lead to build our new web site, he was offered the job and had to leave us.

For most that would have been the end of their commitment, but not for Jim. He loves the Our Hidden Heroes program, and he wants to stay involved.

So now working on his own time, he is in the final stages of completing the web site and he has agreed to join our board of directors as a volunteer. We are all impressed with his commitment.

For more about Hidden Heroes, go to www.ourhiddenheroes.org. To nominate a Hidden Hero, e-mail bill@ourhiddenheroes.org.