



# The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

August 2008 Edition

## Welcome to this issue of The Connector

*This month we bring you a special issue of The Connector focused on the environment and volunteerism. "Going green" is more and more part of our lexicon, our professed values, and even a marketing advantage for companies. There are new expectations for large events, like the Olympics, around the environmental footprint they leave and increasingly, organizations are stepping back to look at their own environmental practice and what they can do to contribute to the green movement. Volunteers play an integral role in all of this, whether as advocates, providing services, or in building capacity for environmental change. This month, we hope to draw your attention to some resources to support you and your volunteers to go green!*



## Provincially Speaking

## Updates from Volunteer BC

### Volunteer BC Wants Your Stories: Volunteerism in Your Community

Later this year, Volunteer BC will launch its first BC State of Volunteering report. This report will become a cornerstone of Volunteer BC's policy work on volunteerism, and will be a unique effort to create a snapshot in time on volunteerism specific to the BC experience, drawing from both qualitative and quantitative sources. The report will serve many needs - as a guide to the province in its priority-setting around volunteerism, as well as a source of information for researchers, the voluntary sector and Volunteer BC itself. Volunteer BC is seeking to partner with four volunteer centres, representing diverse experiences in different parts of the province, to tell their story on what volunteerism looks like in their community. Selected volunteer centres will undertake their own research and will each prepare a comprehensive case study of the volunteer environment in their community, including major challenges, growth, trends and patterns in volunteers, and resource needs, inspiring stories, among other issues. Selected volunteer centres will receive small grants to undertake this work, which will be completed during the Fall. To request an application form, please contact us at [volbc@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:volbc@vcn.bc.ca) or call 604.873.5877.

## Green Volunteering

### An Introduction...

### Getting Started: Orienting the Environmental Volunteer

Planetvolunteer.net, a website all about "Volunteer & Participation Opportunities in Environment, Sustainability, Conservation and Green Living" has an on-line tip sheet on environmental volunteering in Canada which includes sections on where to find environmental volunteer opportunities, volunteer coordination, and a good introduction to volunteering and the voluntary sector: [http://www.planetfriendly.net/volunteer/environmental\\_volunteer.html](http://www.planetfriendly.net/volunteer/environmental_volunteer.html)

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*Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth.*

- Muhammad Ali

### Introducing... EVERGREEN: Where Volunteers Go Green

Evergreen is a national non-profit environmental organization with a mandate to bring nature to our cities through naturalization projects. Evergreen motivates people to create and sustain healthy, natural outdoor spaces and gives them practical tools. Volunteering at Evergreen offers a great opportunity to address environmental issues while making a positive impact. Since 1991, over 90,000 volunteers have contributed to their mission. Volunteers at Evergreen help out with hands-on events like planting, stewardship and community gardening or with projects, special events and office work, and they also have special packages for corporate group volunteering. Learn more: <http://www.evergreen.ca/en/>

### Recommended Resource:



**Growing Opportunities:  
A Social Service Agency's Guide to Garden Programming**

A practical, step-by-step guide for social service delivery organizations who want to bring the benefits of food growing and communal gardening to their clients and their broader community. Download it from [www.evergreen.ca](http://www.evergreen.ca)

**Volunteers Needed! Event for Prostate Awareness Canada: White Rock, Kelowna and Victoria**

Prostate Awareness Canada is seeking volunteers for Kelowna, Victoria and the White Rock area. Volunteers will be helping with selling tickets, setting up tables, and with getting the venue ready in September for all three locations. Volunteers are guaranteed to have a great time! Prostate Awareness Canada is also looking for donations for their Silent Auction. Tickets are on sale now. If you can volunteer, help find volunteers, or donate a silent auction item, please contact Ginger Gagnier at Prostate Awareness Canada: [ggprostateawarenesscanada@gmail.com](mailto:ggprostateawarenesscanada@gmail.com)

**Volunteers Needed! Regular Drivers Needed for the Freemason Cancer Car Programme**

The Freemason Cancer Car programme is in dire need of volunteers. This important programme operates daily: Monday - Friday 7:00am - 5:00pm on a two shift basis (7:00am-12:00pm or 12:00pm-5.00pm). Cars are provided to volunteers. The programme's office located at the rear of 575 West 10th Ave., Vancouver. If you can volunteer, or can help find volunteers for this programme, please contact Mel Scott at 604 872 2034 or [scottshouse@telus.net](mailto:scottshouse@telus.net) for further details.

**Parent Support Services Seeking New Office Space in the Lower Mainland**

Parent Support Services Society is on a quest for a more affordable workplace that better meets their needs, preferably housed with or near a "sister" agency. They would like to explore opportunities for shared resources, increased efficiencies and improved public access, and need the following: option for access to a large meeting space for workshops, parenting circles, training, meetings; a minimum of four separate offices ; a room or area for reception, office equipment, resources; reception could be shared; capacity to expand/accommodate for new programs or students; storage room/space and kitchen; needs to be accessible for mobility impaired as well as near public transit; near (walking distance) sky train station is preferred. Need affordable parking; elevator if above ground floor; safe; visible; family friendly; windows that open; somewhere somewhat central and along the sky train route (Vancouver, New Westminster, Burnaby) would be ideal. If you know of any opportunities, please contact Carol Ross at 604 484 6606 or [office@parentsupportbc.ca](mailto:office@parentsupportbc.ca).

**Calling All Volunteer Centres: Volunteer Canada's On-Line Survey 2008**

Volunteer Canada is asking all volunteer centres to participate in an online survey over this summer to gain a better understanding of current realities for volunteer centres and to create a national profile. This profile will help Volunteer Canada comprehend the scope of the centres' infrastructure, programs and services, which ultimately help them to effectively design training and other activities geared to increasing volunteerism in Canada. The online survey will be translated, programmed and hosted on the [Harris/Decima](#) survey server (3<sup>rd</sup> party). Volunteer centres will be contacted by Harris/Decima (by email and/or by phone) over the summer. To learn more about this survey, contact Don Lapierre, Sr. Manager, Programs and Voluntary Sector Relations at [dlapierre@volunteer.ca](mailto:dlapierre@volunteer.ca) or call 1-800-670-0401, ext. 234.



In Print / Audio

*Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You*

**BIOCAP Releases Bioenergy Guide for BC**

The BIOCAP Canada Foundation and the BC Government just released a new information guide on bioenergy options in BC, to assist small communities, aboriginal groups, municipalities and industry in developing biomass energy opportunities and technologies. Last year the BC Government announced an aggressive clean energy plan that commits the province to generating at least 90% of its total power generation from clean or renewable energy. Biomass, as a "carbon neutral" resource, can make a major contribution towards this goal. The flexible energy source can also provide clean fuels for transportation and heating. An Information Guide on Pursuing Biomass Energy Opportunities and Technologies in British Columbia provides a wealth of information on: available bioenergy options and technologies; requirements and potential hurdles of each technology; existing and potential markets; and sources of funding and financing. The Guide provides a step-by-step plan for developing a biomass energy project, including information on how to find consultants and technology suppliers. Prepared by ENVINT Consulting with support and input from BIOCAP, BC Ministry of Forests and Range, BC Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum and the Northern Development Initiative Trust, the Guide is available for download at the bottom of this page <http://www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca/bioenergy/>

**Guide to Funding and Resources for BC Local Governments: Energy and Climate Change**

The Community Energy Association has released the Funding Your Community Energy & Climate Change Initiatives, a guide to funding and resources for local governments. <http://energy.smallcommunityinfrastructure.ca>

## Resources and Opportunities for Volunteers at Environment Canada

Environment Canada's Volunteers website contains news on volunteer opportunities for people from every walk of life, covering the diversity of Canadian environmental concerns: water, wildlife, weather and environmental actions and enables visitors "to become part of Environment Canada's team of citizen scientists". Learn about Project FeederWatch, a national volunteer program where birds are identified, counted, and reported to monitor changes in the size and distribution of winter bird populations and other programs: [http://www.ec.gc.ca/volunteers-benevoles/index\\_e.cfm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/volunteers-benevoles/index_e.cfm)



### Opportunities

#### Funding, Capacity-Development and More



#### The Alcan Prize For Sustainability: Nominations Now Being Accepted

The Alcan Prize For Sustainability is a \$1 million prize that recognizes organizations demonstrating a comprehensive approach to addressing, achieving, and further advancing economic, environmental and/or social sustainability. Additionally, grants valued at \$15,000 are awarded to the remaining nine shortlisted organizations, with the specific intention of investing in certifiable training and capacity building for the organization. Nominations are welcomed from small, medium and large organizations, based anywhere in the world, that have been incorporated and operating for a minimum of five years, and who can demonstrate impact on at least two dimensions of sustainability - economic, environmental and/or social development. Preference will be given to organizations that are successfully advancing all three sustainability goals. The deadline for submissions is **September 12, 2008**. For more information, and to submit a nomination, visit: <http://www.prixalcanpourladurabilite.com/>

#### Honor the Earth Grants for Environment, Sustainability, and Youth

Honor the Earth issues grants in the program areas of Environmental & Energy Justice; Building Sustainable Communities; and Youth. Honor the Earth, in partnership with the Tides Foundation, awards grants solely to organizations that are led and managed by Native peoples. Priority is given to grassroots, community-based organizations and groups with a lack of access to federal and/or tribal funding resources. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Please read the descriptions for each of the program areas below before applying.

Visit <http://www.honorearth.org/> for more information on how to apply.

#### BC Clean Air Research Fund: Grant Opportunities

The B.C. Clean Air Research (B.C. CLEAR) Fund promotes excellent research by funding transformative, internationally significant research of strategic importance for the management of air quality in British Columbia. This fund supports the B.C. government commitment to clean air. All basic and applied research projects related to air quality management issues within British Columbia are eligible for support by the B.C. CLEAR Fund. Specifically, the fund supports research relevant to B.C. that will help understand the nature of air quality, the physical processes involved (atmospheric, emissions, transformations), their effects on the environment and humans, and how they are effectively managed. The Fraser Basin Council administers the Fund. Proposals that have funding support (ideally up to two-thirds of the total project cost) from other partners will be given preference for B.C. CLEAR Fund support. However, proposals that do not have support from other partners will still be considered on their individual merits and the potential for future partner funding. As a general guide, the annual B.C. CLEAR funding will not exceed \$25, 000 for a single project, although this maximum can be increased at the discretion of the steering committee.

[www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/programs/clear.html](http://www.fraserbasin.bc.ca/programs/clear.html)

#### Did You Know?



*In research carried out with volunteer surveyors for the Atlas of Breeding Birds of Ontario, "a sense of purpose" and "commitment" were found to be the most influential factors for both initial and on-going volunteerism for the project.*

**Source:** An Analysis of the Motivations of Volunteers in a Short-Term Environmental Project, Ordubegian & Eagles



Excellence In Volunteerism To Build A Better British Columbia

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