



# The Connector

*A Volunteer BC Newsletter*

**February 2008 Edition**

## **Welcome to this issue of The Connector**

We are pleased to share with you a special issue of *The Connector* dedicated to the theme of youth engagement in volunteerism. Youth volunteers bring a fresh and energetic perspective to voluntary organizations and programs and yet young people--and voluntary organizations-- often report how challenging it is to find the 'right' volunteer fit. Fortunately, there is a wealth of resources out there to help organizations to meaningfully take advantage of the skills, views and enthusiasm that youth in your community have to offer. We have aimed to use this issue to bring together some of those resources.

## **Provincially Speaking**

*Updates from Volunteer BC*

### **Volunteer BC: Changes to our Board of Directors**

The Board and staff of Volunteer BC wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the years of service contributed by Michael McCoy of Touchstone Family Services in Richmond, who stepped down as President in January. Volunteer BC benefitted greatly from Michael's leadership of the organization and wishes him the best of luck as he devotes his energy to continuing to lead Touchstone Family Services. We are also grateful for the work of out-going board member Bruce Rozenhart, who also left the board in January. At the same time, we are pleased to announce changes to our executive team at Volunteer BC: We welcome Justin Ho as our new Board President, Barb McLellan as our new Vice-President, and Lawrie Portigal as our new Secretary. Kelina Kwan continues in her role as Treasurer.

### **National Volunteer Week: Share Your Plans**

National Volunteer Week will take place from April 27<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup> this year. Let us know what you have planned and we will publicize your events, campaigns or other initiatives in The Connector and on our website. Volunteer Canada's theme for NVW 2008 is *from compassion to action*. Stay tuned for more news on NVW from Vol BC in the March issue of the Connector and find tools on Volunteer Canada's website such as promotional materials and a media toolkit to help you maximize the reach of your campaign: <http://volunteer.ca/nvw>



Volunteer Week April 27 - May 3, 2008 is fast approaching. Let Cabam help you with your gift needs. Cabam is a Canadian owner operated company that has been in business for 14 years.

They specialize in selling stock Volunteer Recognition gifts year round. They pride themselves in offering quality products at affordable prices. To order call tollfree at 1-888-359-7386 or visit the web page [www.cabam.ca](http://www.cabam.ca) for a fax or online order form.

## **Centre Stage**

*News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends*

### **Volunteer Agency Eyed in Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows**

*By Rhonda O'Grady, Community Volunteer Developer, Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows Community Services*

A number of Lower Mainland communities have acquired community centres to support volunteerism in their hometown. Now, Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows are one-step closer to also realizing a dream to have a central agency for volunteers. In 2005, a forum of non-profit groups met to discuss ways to share ideas and resources and to network on volunteer issues. This group formed a volunteer coordinators interagency committee and together they have accomplished a number of projects, including a volunteer job fair and workshops on creating a volunteer centre. "The interagency is excited to be one step closer to having a volunteer centre. It will provide an invaluable service to the community," says Debbie Kennedy, chair of the group. Currently, the interagency is working with Maple Ridge-Pitt

Meadows Community Services' new community volunteer developer to start a fund development subcommittee that will create a sustainable work plan for the volunteer agency. Volunteer groups are encouraged to get involved with this project. For more information, contact Rhonda O'Grady at (604) 467-6911, local 420 or at [rgrady@alumni.sfu.ca](mailto:rgrady@alumni.sfu.ca).

## **Volunteer North Shore's 2008 Focus on Youth and Volunteerism**

*By Nancy Hollstedt, Manager, Volunteer North Shore & Community Planning, North Shore Community Resources*

Over the next 12 months Volunteer North Shore, a service hosted by North Shore Community Resources, will publish six issues of its Volunteer Action newsletter. The focus for Volunteer Action in 2008 will be on youth and will attempt to explore the many dimensions of youth and volunteering. Each issue will look at the statistical and research side of the following topics related to youth: demographics, volunteer recruitment, retention, recognition, diversity and technology. Although the newsletter is targeted to Vancouver's North Shore Community, a broader perspective from youth will be solicited. The newsletter can be found on the North Shore Community Resources website:

[www.nscr.bc.ca](http://www.nscr.bc.ca).

## **Do You Know a Potential Volunteer Youth Ambassador?**

Information Services Vancouver is looking for teens and young adults (aged 17 and older) who enjoy public speaking to visit schools, youth centres, and youth events in and around the Lower Mainland to spread the word about the Youth Against Violence Line (YAVL). The 24-hour help line is for young people who are affected by youth violence or crime. They can call to report violent incidents and criminal activity - *before* or *after* the event - and get help with other issues such as gangs, bullying, and harassment, secure in the knowledge that their call will be treated in the strictest confidence and they remain anonymous.

Learn more here: [http://www.vcn.bc.ca/isv/volunteer\\_ambassadors\\_enevsoct07.html](http://www.vcn.bc.ca/isv/volunteer_ambassadors_enevsoct07.html)

## **A Model in Young Leadership: VRIS' Youth Now Programme**

Vol BC member Volunteer Richmond Information Services (VRIS) runs a unique youth leadership programme called Youth Now. Youth Now is designed to "harness the leadership potential found in our community by training young adults, who are high school graduates and under the age of 26, to serve as board members for local non-profit organizations". The programme has two main components: a leadership development program for high school graduates under the age of 26 who are looking to make an impact in their community; and, an opportunity for non-profit organizations to strengthen their boards through the infusion of younger community leaders. Read more about this innovative approach to engaging the passion and talent of youth: [http://www.volunteerrichmond.ca/VolunteerCentre/youth\\_now.asp](http://www.volunteerrichmond.ca/VolunteerCentre/youth_now.asp)



## **Plugging In**

*Navigating what's new or hot on-line and in technology*



## **Help Youth Find Volunteer Opportunities: Send them to the Youth Volunteer League**

The Youth Volunteer League is an on-line database of volunteer opportunities for youth, organized by province. The site also contains articles on youth and

volunteerism, links and other resources and is set-up to be youth-oriented in language and style, aimed mainly at the highschool age group. Check it out: <http://www.yvl.ca/>

## **All the Resources Rounded Up: E-Resources for 'How-to' on Youth & Volunteering**

Energize, Inc., an international training, consulting and publishing firm specializing in volunteerism, has a compiled list of resources on youth volunteering, ranging from free e-books to helpful articles on recommended websites. Topics covered include children and youth volunteering, family volunteering, school-based volunteering and more. Start browsing here: <http://www.energizeinc.com/art/subj/youth.html>

## **In Print / Audio**

*Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You*

## **A Starting Point for Engaging Youth: Volunteer Canada's How-To Guide**

Youth volunteers bring a fresh and energetic perspective to voluntary organizations and programs and yet young people--and voluntary organizations often report how challenging it is to find the 'right' volunteer fit. Volunteer Canada's 'how to' manual, "Volunteer Connections: New Strategies for Involving Youth", provides hints, sample job descriptions, and general guidelines about working with youth. The manual also offers strategies and suggestions to develop youth-friendly volunteer opportunities, and covers everything from recruitment to recognition. Download the PDF version for free or order a print copy: <http://volunteer.ca/en/volcan/youth/involving>

## Did You Know?



The 2004 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating indicated that 55% of youth aged 15-24 volunteer. This represents the greatest involvement in volunteering of any other age group in Canada.

(Source: [http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/pdf/CSGVP\\_Highlights\\_2004\\_en.pdf](http://www.givingandvolunteering.ca/pdf/CSGVP_Highlights_2004_en.pdf) (page 36).

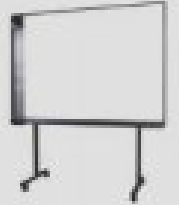
**Contributed by:** Nancy Hollstedt, North Shore Community Resources

## Back to the Classroom

### *Learning opportunities to build a stronger sector*

### **Special Event: Be the Change Symposium - March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

Be the Change Symposium - a citizens' guide to Climate Change will take place from 9:30am - 4:30pm on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Canadian Memorial Church, located at 15<sup>th</sup> & Burrard in Vancouver. A highly engaging, multi-media, interactive workshop, skillfully weaving together information, activities and an emerging story shared by world visionaries such as Brian Swimme, Paul Hawken, Matthew Fox, Lynn Twist, Van Jones and others. Facilitators present a practical and sustainable program for citizens concerned about Climate Change, launching *Be the Change Action Circles* for on-going participation. Registration at Canadian Memorial 604-731-3101. \$45 in advance, \$50 at door. For more information, contact Kate Sutherland at [katevan@telus.net](mailto:katevan@telus.net) or visit [www.bethechangeearthalliance.org](http://www.bethechangeearthalliance.org)



## Opportunities

### *Funding, Capacity-Development and More*



### **A Resourcing Focus on Youth: The McCreary Youth Foundation**

The McCreary Youth Foundation aims to work in partnership with community and philanthropic organizations, government and the private sector to develop and fund programs and policies that can make a tangible difference in the lives of B.C.'s young people. For current funding opportunities, please visit: <http://www.myfoundation.ca/current-funding.html>

### **Nominate a Youth in Your Community: TD's Community Leadership Scholarship**

Valued at more than \$1 million per year, the TD Canada Trust scholarships honour and reward 20 exceptional high school students who have the vision and dedication to help solve problems in their community. Each scholarship is valued at up to \$60,000 and includes full tuition at any accredited university or college in Canada, \$5,000 a year toward living expenses, and a guaranteed offer of summer employment at TD Canada Trust for up to four years. Learn about past recipients and watch for the announcement of the next round of applications:

[www.tdcanadatrust.com/scholarship](http://www.tdcanadatrust.com/scholarship).

### **Youth Helping Youth: The Vancouver Foundation's Youth Philanthropy Council**

The Youth Philanthropy Council is a volunteer Advisory Committee of the Vancouver Foundation, aimed at mixing knowledge, networks and philanthropy and with the goals of ensuring that "youth play a meaningful role in creating Vancouver 'hoods, schools and communities that are better places and spaces for youth." The YPC are looking for new donors, new youth volunteers, and new grant applicants. Learn more here:

<http://www.vancouverfoundationnpc.ca/about/ypc>

## Going Global

### *News from civil society beyond our borders*

### **Building Youth Volunteer Power Internationally**

Youth Challenge International builds the skills, experience and confidence of young people by involving them in substantive overseas international development projects in partnership with local youth-serving organizations.

Learn more here: <http://www.yci.org/>



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