



The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

July 2008 Edition

Welcome to this issue of The Connector

Volunteer BC is gearing up for an exciting year ahead. Our new strategic plan is oriented around the theme of "Forward Centred", and includes exciting, new ways in which we will support you, our membership. If you haven't renewed your membership, you will definitely want to do that right away, in order to take advantage of the numerous opportunities coming your way. You will have the chance to learn more at our upcoming AGM, September 12th, which we told you about in our last issue, and where you will also have the chance to interact with Volunteer Canada and learn about their tools for your organization.

Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC

Funding and Partnership Opportunity: Murals for 150 Years of Volunteerism in BC

Volunteer BC is submitting a proposal to the BC Government for support in creating murals in several communities in BC which celebrate the legacy of volunteerism in that specific community, as part of BC's 150th anniversary celebrations. Selected participating organizations will receive a grant up to a maximum of \$10,000 for the mural project in their community, including some staff support time. Volunteer BC will support each partner with acquiring funding and with project implementation, and will coordinate the project provincially. We are aiming for communities to launch their murals by December 5th, International Volunteer Day. We still have room for one or two more communities, and we'd like to represent as many regions in the province as possible. Please contact us *before July 10th* if you would like to participate: volbc@vcn.bc.ca and CC to: Lauryn.oates@gmail.com



The Volunteer Centre Opportunity Listings Tool

Since 2006, Volunteer BC has partnered with VolWeb.ca, to bring their free tool, the Volunteer Centre Opportunity Listings Tool, to volunteer centres across the province. The Tool helps volunteer centres and their members manage their volunteer positions - all online, quickly and easily. To help build capacity within BC's volunteer sector, 2010 Legacies Now partnered with several volunteer centres around the province to build a tool that increases access to volunteer opportunities for residents. The Tool gives a volunteer centre's member organizations the ability to create a new volunteer position, change information on a posting and remove positions that no longer need filling. For potential volunteers, each volunteer centre's custom website provides up-to-date information and the ability to search open positions based on interests and availability. Currently, the Volunteer Centre Opportunity Listings Tool is being used in six communities throughout BC: Deltassist Volunteer Services, Surrey Community Services Society, Volunteer Abbotsford, Volunteer Chilliwack, Volunteer Richmond, Volunteer Victoria. The Tool is currently coming to volunteer centres in Cranbrook, Fort St-John, Maple Ridge, Penticton and White Rock. In August and September, we will be looking at requests from new communities to implement the Tool. For information on how your community's volunteer centre can get involved with this free service, or to arrange for a demo this Fall, email volbc@vcn.bc.ca.

Announcing The Societies Database: A Networking and Research Tool for BC's Non-Profits

We hope that you will read the press release sent out with this newsletter, which describes the launch of the Societies Database, a project produced by the Vancouver Community Network in conjunction with Volunteer BC. The Database is a registry of all of BC's societies, and the foundation of what we hope will become a much more detailed body of information on BC's non-profit community. We depend on organizations to add their profile into their listing in the Database and to fill in the missing links, so more information is available about your organization when others are searching the database. We encourage all of our volunteer centre members to circulate the news release and FAQs to their member agencies, to help increase awareness of this Tool. <http://societies.bc.ca/>

Volweb.ca is Seeking Glowing Reviews of Your Volunteers!

Volunteer BC's partner, Volweb.ca™, a programme of 2010 Legacies Now is seeking profiles from our membership of your star volunteers and their stories. Profiles will be featured in Volweb.ca's newsletter or on their website as Volunteers of the Month. This is an excellent opportunity to give some recognition to that special volunteer that stands out in their hard work and dedication, or who has a unique story of their service to the community. If you have a volunteer in mind, please contact Julia Spitale: jspitale@2010legaciesnow.com

Introducing... The City of Surrey's Volunteer Development Program

The Volunteer Development Program is designed to support the growth and development of volunteers leading up to 2010 and beyond. It is a program that boasts a wide range of professional development workshops tailored to the needs of volunteers. Participants learn, grow and lead through high quality, customized workshops that have been developed with a flexible schedule and affordable pricing. Workshops include Emergency First Aid, *SuperHost Fundamentals*, High Five - Principles of Healthy Child Development, Food Safe Level 1, Community Awareness Training, Leadership, Communicating Through Conflict, Volunteer Involvement and Fundraising. Browse through the workshop selection and pick one or all of your personal choices. If interested, a Volunteer Development Program certificate will be awarded upon completion of three workshops and a 14 hour volunteer placement. For more information please contact:

Volunteer Resources, Surrey Parks, Recreation & Culture:

Phone: 604-502-6322 Website: www.volunteer.surrey.ca Email: volunteer@surrey.ca

North Shore Community Resources: Planning Meeting in September

North Shore Community Resources will be holding a planning and information meeting on Thursday September 18th, 2008, 10-11:30am in the Community Room 203 (North Shore Community Resources), 2nd Floor Capilano Mall (#201 - 935 Marine Drive), North Vancouver. The agenda so far includes the Bring a Friend Campaign; and Private and Non-Profit Volunteer Partnerships. RSVP to Nancy Hollstedt at 604.982.3311 or by email to nancy.hollstedt@nscr.bc.ca.

Volunteer of the Month



Local Action, Global Change: Starring Volunteer Jan Cameron Bakker

Burnaby resident Jan Cameron Bakker started volunteering in 1988 and over the last 20 years, has dedicated an immense amount of time and energy in the area of global human rights. In 1989 co-founded the Burnaby/New Westminster Chapter of Amnesty International, where she held the position of Secretary & Group Contact. She was also a member of Amnesty's Governing Body for the BC/Yukon Region, holding the position of Merchandise Coordinator for 5 years. While volunteering with Amnesty, Jan discovered and became involved with Canadian Women for Women in

Afghanistan, a group of volunteers across Canada that were fundraising to support women and girls in Afghanistan through literacy, education, skills training, library and healthcare projects; and raising awareness about Afghanistan among Canadians. Jan joined CW4WA in 2000 and is now Chairperson of the Vancouver Chapter. In this role she co-ordinates the group's monthly meetings, is the first contact for new members interested in joining, and helps with fundraising events and speaking engagements. She enjoys working with a very skilled, diverse and ambitious group of women who appreciate grassroots activism and its effects on the world around them. Jan is a dedicated volunteer in it for the long run, making a true difference. We salute her!



Did You Know? Social Networks and Support in Canada: Not Everyone Covered

In 2003, the great majority of Canadians (93.7%) reported having some close friends or family members. However, 6.3% of Canadians reported having no close friend or family member.

Source: <http://www4.rhdsc.gc.ca/domain.jsp?lang=en&domainid=16>



In Print / Audio

Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You

The BC Literacy Directory: Mapping Literacy and Services in the Province

This site provides information for services to improve reading, writing, and English language skills, and information on high school completion, ESL, and programs for First Nations. The interactive map brings up programs and contact information by community <http://www.literacybc.ca/directory/index2.htm>

On-Line Grant Writer Course for Northern BC Region

The Northern Development Initiative Trust is pleased to invite participants to its 2008 Grant Writer Course, to facilitate training for new grant writers within the communities of the Trust area via web and teleconferencing technology. The course is available to community groups located within the Northern Trust region, north of Lytton to the Yukon border, and west from Valemount to the Queen Charlotte Islands. The Course is structured as a 4-hour web conference and is divided into six topic modules. Participants will require access to a speaker phone unit and a computer terminal with internet connection to take part in the course presentation. Participants will be provided with a copy of the 2008 Grant Writer Course Guide to have on-hand during the course presentation. Additional sessions will be available in September, but teleconferencing space is limited: Thursday, July 10th, 2008 8:30 am - 12:30 pm ; Friday, July 11th, 2008 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Telephone: (250) 561-2525 Email: RSVP@nditrust.ca



Opportunities

Funding, Capacity-Development and More



Grants Available For Programs That Combine Healthcare and the Arts

Johnson & Johnson (J&J), working in conjunction with the Society for the Arts in Healthcare, seeks to promote the use of the arts to enhance the healthcare experience for patients, their families and caregivers. Proposals are being sought from healthcare and/or arts organizations who have established arts in healthcare programs with evidence of initial impact. Grants, each averaging a total of \$75,000 over three years, are intended to assist organizations in strengthening program evaluation and replicating programs nationally and/or internationally. Letters of inquiry are due August 8, 2008. For more information, visit: <http://thesah.org/>

Farm Credit Canada's Agri-Spirit Fund for Rural communities

True rural spirit makes up the core of the Farm Credit Canada AgriSpirit Fund – \$750,000 in capital funding for community improvement projects. The FCC AgriSpirit Fund is about making life better for people in rural communities. Successful projects receive between \$5,000 and \$25,000 for community improvements such as emergency services equipment, playgrounds, food banks, recreation centres and care homes

Visit www.fcc-fac.ca/en/AboutUs/Responsibility/agrispiritfund_e.asp for more information on how to apply.

Going Global

News from civil society beyond our borders

Youth Harnessing the Media for a Better World: Profile of the Vancouver-based Reel Youth

Reel Youth (RY) is a not-for-profit, media empowerment program supporting young people to create and distribute films about their visions for a better world, and the issues that concern them most. RY facilitates mobile stop motion animation and video making programs that create messages young people most want to share with their community and world. These messages are shared in community screenings, over the internet, and select films are showcased as part of The Touring Reel Youth Film Festival. The Reel Youth Film Festival is a celebration of short films made by people 19 years and under. Insightful and entertaining, the RYFF collects films from across Canada, the US and abroad to put



together an incredible evening of some of the best youth filmmaking today. The movies are submitted from independent filmmakers, media classes, youth groups, and RY Programs. A *youth jury* selects the films that tour across Canada and the US. Audience votes choose the winning films, and awards go to the associated youth to support their ongoing filmmaking. From: <http://www.reelyouth.ca/>



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