



The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

June 2007 Edition

Welcome to this issue of The Connector

Summer has officially arrived in B.C. and you can look forward to a summer season filled with special events fuelled by volunteer power, whether outdoor concerts, fringe festivals or sports championships. Unfortunately on the heels of the good weather has also come flooding for some parts of B.C. Emergency response organizations such as the Red Cross and the Provincial Emergency Program are depending on volunteer power to be ready to help in the event the weather worsens. Watch for updates from Volunteer BC.

Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC

Join us in September for Volunteer BC's AGM

Volunteer BC's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 14th, 1:30 pm at the Vancouver Aquarium. All members are welcome to attend and are encouraged to invite others who wish to find out more about Volunteer BC. In addition to the formal business section of the day, we will also be holding a CRA training workshop from 9am-12pm. Please plan to attend this event. AGM program details will be provided in the next Connector.

Volunteer BC Welcomes new Managing Director

We are pleased to share with you that Heather Fleming, previously Project Manager with Volunteer BC, is now our new Managing Director. Heather brings with her a wealth of expertise in volunteer management and the voluntary sector and will be working with the Vol BC team to help spread our message and grow our reach.

Back to the Classroom

Learning opportunities to build a stronger sector

Sustainable Village Design Workshop: McBride, BC

From July 27- August 3rd, join Greg Ramsey, who will teach site selection, master planning and pattern design for ecovillages, financial aspects, work issues, best practices. The Kakwa Ecovillage site near McBride, BC will be used as a "hypothetical client" for a major design exercise. To register or for more info: <http://www.kakwaecovillage.com/>

Opportunities

Funding, Capacity-Development and More

Seed Funding Now Available from BC Healthy Communities

BCHC Seed Grants are small, one-time-only funding opportunities that encourage and support efforts to improve community health and well-being, and to promote optimum human development, in communities throughout the province. Seed Grants support local and regional groups to undertake activities and processes that integrate the Healthy Communities approach into everyday thinking and practice. The next deadline is July 15th, 2007. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bchealthycommunities.ca/Content/News/Index.asp>



Funding for Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of BC

The Provincial government is providing \$1 million in funding to help communities celebrate BC2008, the 150th anniversary of the founding of British Columbia in 1858. Every community in BC is invited to participate in this year-long celebration of B.C. Over the next several months, Spirit of BC Community Committees will meet with community leaders and event hosts to develop plans for local celebrations. Once plans have been developed, communities will submit funding applications to 2010 Legacies Now. Funding for the projects will be provided by the Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts. For a listing of upcoming planning sessions contact your local Spirit of BC community committee at www.spiritofbc.com

Red Cross Urgently Seeking Call Centre Volunteers

Red Cross is actively recruiting for volunteers in response to the current flooding situation. The Canadian Red Cross, Lower Mainland Region has activated the TELUS Red Cross Call Centre to operate a toll-free flood information line for B.C., providing the public with up-to-date information on the flood situation throughout the province, information on evacuations, road closures and safety precautions people can take. The Call Centre provides critical information to clients on when and how to evacuate safely and where to find their loved ones if they become separated. Volunteers will also ensure clients receive the most up-to-date health and safety instructions, advice and referrals. If you want to volunteer or can spread the word through your network, contact Mike Loo: 604-709-6654 or mike.loo@redcross.ca

Volunteer Recognized - A True Inspiration....

By Monica Hodgson, Coordinator, LIFELINK Program

Peace Arch Hospital LifeLink is part of the Fraser Health Lifeline Programs. It is a personal emergency response program that assists individuals living in the White Rock/South Surrey community to maintain their independence and remain safe in their homes. It provides peace of mind for subscribers, friends and family knowing that help is only a push of a button away!

The program would not exist without its dedicated group of volunteers. They play a key role in all daily operations of the program which includes test-calls to all subscribers monthly, unit battery and button changes, home assessments and of course installations by our LifeLink volunteer Surrey/White Rock Firefighters.

Alex Davie, a recently retired Surrey firefighter, has been the Volunteer Installer Coordinator for the "LifeLink Personal Emergency Response Program" since it began in 1987. He celebrates 20 years of service with LifeLink this year! Service delivery is Alex's number one priority. He truly believes in the LifeLink program and it shows in everything he does. He has gone above and beyond his call of duty coordinating installations; in 2006 alone, Alex has overseen over 200 installations for the program. He also goes out on service calls to subscribers' homes, replacing expired equipment, batteries and personal help buttons, etc. He has provided years of selfless service and dedication to countless seniors, and has inspired many new volunteers to go the extra mile.

Alex is a great role model for all at Peace Arch LifeLink, other Fraser Health programs and departments, and to the White Rock, Surrey and the South Surrey community. He has shown the positive and amazing impact one person can have on the lives of so many others.



LifeLink Volunteer Alex Davie will be receiving an award for outstanding achievement in Fraser Health's *Above and Beyond* recognition program on June 8th 2007. The award recognizes his contribution in the category of Service Delivery towards helping Fraser Health achieve its vision: Better health, Best in health care.

The Fraser Health Executive Team has also nominated Alex Davie for the June-07 Provincial HEABC Awards Program in the "Healthcare Hero" category.



Rural Network BC: Youth@Work - Youth Awareness Project in BC and the Yukon

Working between generations, youth from four rural and isolated communities in BC and the Yukon will create an action plan to build partnerships that will strengthen understanding of community economic development (CED) and employment needs in their communities. The project will begin with a workshop in each community to start building relationships and creating the action plan, with an event/workshop four months later to follow-up on action and steps identified. Funding is being leveraged to enable communities to act on these plans. The project started in September 2006 and will run until September 2007. This project was identified through the BC Rural and Youth Dialogues, as well as CCEDNet Youth and CED Research, between 2000-2006. The project is funded by Service Canada, and supported by the Canadian Rural Partnership, BC Rural Network and CCEDNet. Learn more: contact Farrar Brodhead at fbrodhead@ccednet-rcdec.ca

Olympics Volunteering: Applications Open as Early as This Summer

Since it was first announced that the Games were coming to Vancouver in 2010, Volunteer BC has been receiving inquiries from enthusiastic would-be volunteers across the province and from around the world, wanting to know how they can volunteer to make the Games a success. We have been continuously posting updates on our website to keep people informed about where to go to find out about Games volunteering. We are pleased to share with you that our partner Volweb.ca, has recently announced that the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) is finalizing their volunteer recruitment strategy. The recruitment and application process will begin in early 2008. VANOC will require up to 25,000 volunteers to successfully stage the 2010 Winter Games. Volunteer applications for some 2010-related test events will begin later this summer: vancouver2010.com

Plugging In

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

Educational Website brings Indigenous Knowledge to Life

FourDirectionsTeachings.com is an interactive website that features teachings from Elders from five diverse First Nations (Blackfoot, Cree, Ojibway, Mi'kmaq and Mohawk) across Canada. Produced by Aboriginal-owned Invert Media, the website was developed in response to a lack of available educational materials that deal with Indigenous knowledge and philosophies. FourDirectionsTeachings.com includes teacher guides and resources (grades 1 - 12) to go with each teaching and engages students through the use of cutting edge Flash animation and audio narration.

Featured Website: Civicnet

Where can you go for a one-stop source of information on local government? The Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) was formed to provide a common voice for local government, but also acts as an information referral service for the public. Their website, civicnet.bc.ca, provides useful, free publications on who's who or how local government operates, communications bulletins, and resources on resolutions and policy development in local government. Other services include training, research and an information hotline. Check it out: <http://www.civicnet.bc.ca/>

In Print / Audio

Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You

Declining Volunteerism and Civic engagement: Threatening Canada's Communities

Two of this country's leading experts predict an enormous impact on our communities if leaders across the country don't respond to declining volunteerism and civic engagement. *Who Cares?* was recently launched to spotlight the urgent need for action in communities across Canada. Linda L. Graff, noted author and voluntary sector specialist, and Paul B. Reed, Carleton University Professor and Senior Social Scientist, Statistics Canada, have started a national conversation about the future of our communities - the *Who Cares?* project. Drawing from the most comprehensive data, Graff & Reed have produced a series of engaging audio conversations to enlighten and inspire Canadians with a way-of-life wake-up call based on compelling but troubling research findings. To download a free copy or get more information, go to: www.CanadaWhoCares.ca

Going Global

News from civil society beyond our borders

Putting volunteer work on the economic map: New Research

Maryland, USA: The International Labour Organization and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Civil Society Studies today announced an agreement to develop an approach for putting volunteer work on the economic map for the first time. Also announced was a start-up grant from the United Nations Volunteers to help underwrite this effort.

<http://www.worldvolunteerweb.org/index.php?RDCT=ff51c5c994ab8cb226ea>



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