



The Connector

A Volunteer BC Newsletter

April 2009 Edition

Welcome to this issue of The Connector

This month's Connector acknowledges the contributions of volunteers, volunteer centres, and voluntary organizations during the past year. Help celebrate National Volunteer Week by attending workshops, conferences and volunteer appreciation events and participating in our annual Photo Contest. Honour the contributions of volunteers by nominating friends and colleagues for a Hometown Heroes Award. Wishing you an excellent National Volunteer Week from everyone at Volunteer BC!

Provincially Speaking

Updates from Volunteer BC

Welcome Aboard! Andy Telfer Joins the Volunteer BC Team



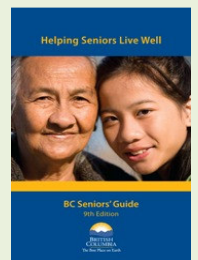
Volunteer BC welcomes Andy Telfer to our Board of Directors. Andy and his family live in Qualicum Beach, where Andy volunteers with his children's activities. He has been involved with several BC Non Profits. Currently working at BC Hockey, Andy has also worked with environmental, social service, art and other sport organizations. He is a founding member of the West End Recycling Connection, Better Environmentally Sound Transportation, Our Community Bikes, and Opera Ole (now Vancouver Island Opera). Andy also has a wealth of experience at the Board level, having served as a Director of the Recycling Council of BC, Society Promoting Environmental Conservation and as Chair of Encorp Pacific's (BC) Advisory Council. We look forward to Andy's volunteer efforts with us!

Celebrate National Volunteer Week with Volunteer BC's Photo Contest

How are you celebrating National Volunteer Week? Enter Volunteer BC's Photo contest and help us tell the story of volunteering through image. Send us your best photos which communicate this year's theme "**SMILE for Volunteerism.**" Photos can be submitted on behalf of organizations or individuals, and a maximum of 3 entries per applicant will be accepted. Select entries will be posted on our website during National Volunteer Week and beyond, and will be showcased in next month's issue of the Connector. Prizes from NVW sponsor will be awarded to the top three photos. Photos must be received via email or mail by **April 13th**. Thanks for participating!

FREE Resources! BC Seniors Guides Available

Volunteer BC is offering copies of the 2009 BC Seniors Guide to all members. The guide, developed by the Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport, provides seniors and their caregivers with information and referrals to ensure seniors healthy living. Content covers health services, housing, transportation, finances, personal security, and more. Contact us now to receive your copy while supplies last! To request a copy email us at volbc@vcn.bc.ca or give us a call **604-873-5877**.



Centre Stage

News from Volunteer BC Members and Friends

Volunteers Needed! Dancers, Athletes and Performers for 2010 Ceremonies

Are you ready for your international close-up? Do you know someone else who is? Come join the cast of thousands needed for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies for the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games. Performing and backstage volunteers will witness the festivities and excitement first-hand. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be a part of an international cultural and sporting event— not to mention a chance to be part of Canadian and Olympic history! Volunteers will be energetic, have a positive attitude, and a willingness to dedicate long hours to rehearsals as part of the ceremonies cast. No previous experience is required! Performers must be 17 or older, applications close **May 1, 2009**. To apply visit: vancouver2010.com/ceremonies.



Volunteer Vancouver's 21st Annual Volunteer Celebration

As a wind-up to National Volunteer Week, Volunteer Vancouver will host an unforgettable volunteer recognition event! Executive Directors and CEOs: don't miss this opportunity to recognize all the people - paid and unpaid - who are delivering your mission. Join Volunteer Vancouver and celebrate your organization's valuable work in the community, recognize your Board Members and key volunteers, and inspire optimism that will continue to energize us all year long. The evening will feature musical entertainment from the Youth Choir from Sarah McLachlan Music Outreach—an Arts Umbrella Project, inspirational key messages, and success stories of unique volunteer contributions. The event will be held at The Centre in Vancouver for Performing Arts at 7:30pm on Thursday April 30, 2009. Treat your volunteers to a spectacular evening, and help send the message that ALL volunteering is valuable. Tickets are only \$15 and seating is limited, so reserve your spot today!



Community Volunteer Connections is Twittering!



Come join CVC for a grand experiment in Social Media. Twitter, Facebook, MySpace - these are all new ways of networking with applications to volunteerism, fundraising, and professional development in the non-profit sector. Community Volunteer Connections is wondering what these technologies could offer their organization, so CVC launched a Twitter account at www.twitter.com/VolunteerConnec on Wednesday March 17. One week later, they are following 154 other "Twitterers" and are being followed by 85. Having such a range of contacts in one place makes it easy to publicize activities, gain insight into the minds of funders, and pull ideas and innovations from similar organizations and NFP minds. So far bloggers have shared international volunteer experiences, funding opportunities, philanthropy advice, volunteer centre and management conference information and more! The goal of the CVC Twitter Page (@VolunteerConnec) is to become a social media hub for voluntary organizations, volunteers, funders, and media in the Tri-Cities and New Westminster. Come and help make this dream a reality! Sign up to Twitter.com and visit www.twitter.com/VolunteerConnec.

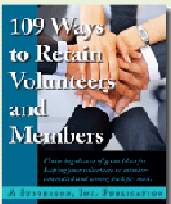
Put your Heart into it! The Heart and Stroke Foundation of BC & Yukon Celebrates Volunteers

Behind every dollar raised, every message delivered, and every program delivered by the Heart and Stroke Foundation, there is a committed volunteer. Volunteers are involved at all Foundation levels: Board of Directors, Provincial Office, 10 Area offices and in almost 100 communities throughout BC and Yukon. There are over 10,500 HSF volunteers within BC and the Yukon, with 750 leadership volunteers leading and managing major events and campaigns. HSFBCY volunteers spread the heart health message, fundraise, support research, aid patients, and pave the way for future generations. The Foundation recognizes that volunteers are a vital resource and commits to incorporating and maintaining the appropriate infrastructure to support them. Volunteer positions involve volunteers in meaningful ways that reflect their various abilities, needs and backgrounds. Volunteers, working in partnership with Heart and Stroke donors and researchers, make miracles happen! Visit www.heartandstroke.bc.ca for more information on volunteering.



In Print / Audio

Books, Publications and Other Learning Tools for You



Book Review 109 Ways to Retain Volunteers and Members, By Steveson, Inc.

Learn how to maintain and improve your most important resource! This 46 page manual offers great ideas and step-by-step plans to help organizations increase their volunteer and membership base. Techniques include ways to build member loyalty, listening tips, enhancing communication with member chapters, showing you care, avoiding volunteer burnout, promoting volunteer retention and more. Steveson Inc. also provides useful templates such as volunteer feedback forms, member interests/hobbies forms, volunteer activity/involvement reports, volunteer complaint procedures, and volunteer assessment forms. To order a copy visit www.canadianfundraiser.com/109ways

Back to the Classroom

Learning Opportunities to Build a Stronger Sector



Graduate in Non-profit Governance and Management

[The School of Public Policy and Administration](#), in collaboration with the Centre for Voluntary Sector Research and Development (CVSRD), offers intensive, graduate level programming on governance and management issues facing non-profit and voluntary sector organizations in Canada and internationally. Programs are offered June 4 - 12, 2009 at Carleton University for \$950. Want to learn more? For more information and module topics, visit the [website](#).

Opportunities

Funding, Capacity-Development and More



Workshop Opportunity: Influencing Purposeful Change in Ourselves & Communities

Attend a one day workshop on reflection-on-action, delivered by the Storytellers' Foundation. You will explore theories on reflection and change and identify the governing variables that influence your practice. This event is highly interactive! At the end of the day you will be familiar with the reflection-on-action tool kit and have the knowledge and information necessary to guide a small group of colleagues in weekly reflective practice. The workshop will be held on **April 15, 2009** at Prince George's Civic Centre. Program costs are \$69.95 + GST. To register visit

www.bchealthycommunities.ca.



Nominations Needed! Hometown Heroes Awards

Celebrating Our Volunteers - Earth Day Canada (EDC), in partnership with Cascades Inc., is searching for Canada's 2009 Hometown Heroes Award winner. The Hometown Heroes Award program recognizes and encourages environmental leadership and achievement in local communities. Canada's 2009 environmental hero will receive a **cash-prize of \$10 000** (\$5 000 to keep and \$5 000 to donate to the environmental cause of their choice). The recipient of the 2009 Hometown Heroes Award will also be recognized as part of the 6th

Annual Earth Day Canada Gala in Toronto, on June 10th 2009. For more information, or to nominate yourself, an individual or group from your community, please visit <http://www.earthday.ca/hometown/>. The deadline for applications is **April 22, 2009**.



2009 CAVR Conference - Registration now open

Attend Canada's ONLY national conference for volunteer engaging leaders - The 2009 CAVR (Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources) Conference. The mission of the Canadian Administrators of Volunteer Resources is to provide and maintain a national

association which promotes the professional administration of volunteer resources, certification of membership, continuing education standards and collaboration with provincial, national and international organizations.

CAVR is the only National Professional Association that offers ongoing certification in the field of volunteer resources management. This year's conference will be held in Edmonton, Alberta from **May 31st to June 3rd**. Costs start at \$250 for early bird CAVR members who register before April 15th. For updated program schedules, accommodation, and more information visit http://www.cavrcanada.org/Library/Docs/VolpediA_2009.pdf.



**Canadian Administrators
of Volunteer Resources**

Go Global

News from civil society beyond our borders

Worldwide Volunteering on the Web

To promote volunteering around the world, a website has been launched to showcase volunteer opportunities worldwide. www.ivolunteers.org is a free service which allows organizations and individuals to post volunteer positions. Posting is easy - volunteer vacancies are simply added to the homepage of ivolunteers without searches or login procedures. Posts will not only be available to millions of browsers, but will also be emailed to potential candidates. To post opportunities, visit www.ivolunteers.org and click the 'For Recruiters' link in the navigation menu on left side of the web page. Then either type or cut and paste the volunteer job details and submit. Your post will be online in next 24 hours. If you are a volunteer or seeking an internship position, please browse the website and apply directly to the organizations.



Excellence In Volunteerism To Build A Better British Columbia

Suite 302 - 207 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 1H7
Tel: 604-873-5877 Fax: 604-279-7038
Email: volbc@vcn.bc.ca
Website: www.volunteerbc.bc.ca

