

# Building Communities One Volunteer At A Time

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

**NATIONAL  
VOLUNTEER WEEK  
April 13 to 19, 1997**



*Thanks to all  
our volunteers*



*Thank You  
Volunteers*

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dedicated volunteers.  
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*The Acton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society wishes to thank all the volunteers who give so freely of their time for this important cause.*

**Inquiries: 853-1424**

### Our youth: The next generation of volunteers

**Y**oung people need to believe they are valued as a community resource. With appropriate support and encouragement, young people can make a contribution as volunteers. An investment in young volunteers today will lead to a stronger volunteer corps and a healthier community tomorrow.

When they channel their energy and talents into helping others and solving community problems, young people build personal commitment to the community and to the welfare of its citizens. As a result they gain a deeper understanding of their own stake in the broader community.

Volunteering offers great potential to help young people build a base for successful entry into adult civic life. The benefits include:

- increased concern for the welfare of others;
- new insights into equity and other social issues;
- recognition of the intrinsic value of volunteer work;
- a sense of being connected with the greater community;
- a stronger commitment and loyalty to their community;
- increased likelihood of becoming an active citizen and serving the community in the future.

Grounded in the ethic of social responsibility, volunteering is a form of education for citizenship that young people will carry into their adult life. Through volunteering, young people can develop the skills, knowledge and motivation to become active citizens.

**S**uccess feeds itself. When young people find personal satisfaction and increase their competence through volunteering, it is likely that they will want to get more involved. As a society, we all have a stake in nurturing this kind of involvement and in keeping the spirit of volunteerism alive.

### One man tells his story

As a new client to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind (CNIB), I thought it was important to emphasize the importance of the volunteers provided by the agency to help me. I first contacted the CNIB when I began to lose my sight. A volunteer visitor was matched with me so I had someone to visit with. As a young adult, I needed someone who was trained about vision loss, but was going to be a friend rather than a professional providing services.

When I began to get my life on track again, volunteers became even more important. Volunteers were available to drive me to job interviews and medical appointments. This was vital since public transit was difficult to get to from my house.

Now that I am totally blind, I rely on volunteers from the CNIB to take me grocery shopping, to read my mail to me, and help write out cheques to pay my bills. I use a volunteer recreation buddy to go swimming weekly at the local municipal pool. I still periodically use the professional services of the CNIB, but the volunteer service is the one thing that gives me greater independence and integration into my community.

*—contributed by a Halton/Peel CNIB client who wished to remain anonymous.*

### 'Building healthy communities one volunteer at a time.'

**"B**uilding healthy communities one volunteer at a time." This is the mission statement of the Halton Social Planning Council and Volunteer Centre, to promote and support effective volunteering in the community.

The Volunteer Centre works for two clear constituencies—volunteers and the agencies that engage them through the broadest membership. The centre reaches across the community to include organizations working in human and social services, health care, education, the arts and recreation, regardless of the sources of funding.

The Volunteer Centre provides direct service to individuals by providing information on volunteer opportunities. Appointments are made for volunteer candidates by the centre with volunteer advisors to help individuals identify their skills and interests, and then suggest volunteer positions that match. Most people don't know the number or variety of agencies and programs that need volunteers. Agencies are often approached by volunteer candidates who know little about their programs and are better suited to work with other agencies. The recruitment and selection process of agencies is augmented by the efforts of the Volunteer Centre.

The centre recognizes that volunteers come from all walks of life, represent all ages and demographics, donate their time and energy for different reasons and represent a great source of inspiration for all of us.

The centre appeals to the north Halton community of potential volunteers to share a little of their time and a lot of their experience to benefit some 90 agencies that they serve. It also shares in publicly recognizing the crucial role that volunteers play during National Volunteer Week, April 13 to 19.

For more information on how to become a volunteer, please contact the Volunteer Centre at 878-0955.

**Thank You**  
*to all of our volunteers who share  
their time and talents to enrich all of  
our school communities!*



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