

# A Salute to Volunteers



## Volunteers clean up the community

Kelly Bowen was the among the many volunteers who joined the Halton/North Peel Naturalists Club which volunteered to clean up Cedarvale Park in Georgetown on Saturday. Volunteers will be out again this weekend as cleanups are planned in many places around Halton Hills including Fairy Lake and Hornby.

Photo by Shawn McAlpine

### *National Volunteer Week celebrates the contributions of millions of Canadians*

Volunteers knock on doors for donations, make phone calls to lonely seniors, help kids learn to play hockey and baseball. Volunteers are a special friend to a dying person, cuddle a baby in a hospital, clean up parks and roadways, or read a book to a Kindergarten student.

There are more than 6.5 million volunteers— 27 percent of Canadians 15 and older who volunteer their time and energy to charitable and non-profit organizations in Canada, and National Volunteer Week, April 21 to 27, is the perfect time to thank them for their dedication and effort.

Recent information taken from Statistics Canada's 2000 National Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating reveals that Canadian volunteers contribute slightly more than a billion volunteer hours a year. That is the equivalent to 549,000 full-time, year-round jobs!

Almost all the volunteers surveyed said the reason they volunteered was to help a cause they believe in. About eight out of 10 volunteers wanted to put their skills and experience to use, and over two-thirds said they had been personally affected by the cause supported by the organization.

During National Volunteer Week, *The Independent & Free Press* pays tribute to the hundreds of volunteers in our community.



**I  
Volunteer**

because  
experience  
matters.



**National  
Volunteer  
Week**

**April 21-27, 2002**

**1.800.670.0401  
www.volunteer.ca**

