

# Community Information & Volunteer Centre CIVC

## Bulletin Board

January 2008



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### Local News

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#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gert Beadle Award**

The Kelowna Women's Resource Centre is seeking nominations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Gert Beadle Award to be presented on International Women's Day. The aim of the award is to recognize the value of the invisible work that is done at the community level to enhance women's equality.

The nomination package is available on their website: [kelownawomensresourcecentre.com](http://kelownawomensresourcecentre.com).

Completed nomination packages must be received at The Kelowna Women's Resource Centre - Gert Beadle Award, # 107. 347 Leon Avenue, Kelowna BC V1Y 8C7; no later than January 11, 2008.

## **Okanagan Advocacy and Resource Society (OARS)**

Can help you learn the parts of welfare and tenancy law that would be most helpful to you and your clients. Through a Law Foundation grant they are able to offer workshops for staff and clients; and also to work with you and a client facing those issues. Please contact OARS at 250.979.0201 or email [oars@telus.net](mailto:oars@telus.net) for further information.

## **33rd Annual Civic and Community Awards**

Each year the Civic and Community Awards honour individuals whose achievements and contributions have been of significant benefit to Kelowna. The awards recognize the talent, dedication and generosity of our outstanding, athletes, volunteers, artists and a business whose unique gifts have contributed so greatly to life in Kelowna.

Celebrating community spirit, the awards cover a wide spectrum of accomplishment. Award recipients are chosen by committee, from nominations received from the public.

Nomination forms available at Parkinson Recreation Centre, Kelowna City Hall, Kelowna and Westbank Chamber of Commerce, Kelowna Community Resources, Kelowna Family YMCA-YWCA, all libraries and Lake Country District office.

Nomination deadline is Friday, February 15, 2008.

For more information [www.kelowna.ca](http://www.kelowna.ca) click on "Residents" then click on "Community Information".

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## **Provincial News**

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### **Free Spirit – Stories of You, Me and BC**

The Royal Museum is celebrating BC's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an exciting, province –wide project. They invite you to share your "made in BC" photos, video clips, and tales about you, your family or your community – they will add them to the online exhibition, and create a fascinating "People's History" of BC. Submit your story online by December 31, 2007 and you could win a trip for 2 to Victoria – courtesy of Harbour Air and Harbour Towers Hotel and Suites.

Visit [www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Plan\\_Visit/kelowna.aspx](http://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Plan_Visit/kelowna.aspx) for more information.

## **BC Healthy Communities**

Is conducting a survey and would like to request your feedback about where their work has supported your community efforts, and how they can become more effective.

Please take a few minutes to complete the brief survey

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=MqrjpeTddRgTnyfn8wDtqQ\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=MqrjpeTddRgTnyfn8wDtqQ_3d_3d)

With thanks and warm wishes

BC Healthy Communities Team

## **Focus on Child Poverty in BC : Take Action**

First call, a cross sectoral child and youth advocacy coalition, has recently released their 2007 Child Poverty Report Card for BC. They offer numerous ways you can take action on the concerns highlighted in the report, including a letter template you can download and adapt to include your own statements: <http://www.firstcallbc.org/> .

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## **National News**

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### **12th Annual FLARE Volunteer Awards Presented by GAP**

Flare Magazine is committed to acknowledging, celebrating and publicizing the importance of volunteerism in Canada. As one of the most acclaimed woman magazines in the country, we feel it is our responsibility and privilege to highlight outstanding female volunteers from coast to coast.

The FLARE Volunteer Awards are presented each year to six outstanding Canadian women volunteers aged 18 and up from three categories whose volunteer achievements have made a difference to the lives of the people in their communities. The FLARE Volunteer Award recipients are invited to Toronto, as our guests of honour, in May of each year. While in Toronto, they participate in a photo-shoot, are guests of honour at a VIP awards ceremony and are profiled in a subsequent awards announcement in a national edition of Flare Magazine.

Nomination deadline is January 25, 2008

For rules, selection process and nomination forms please visit [www.flare.com/volunteer](http://www.flare.com/volunteer) .

### **Nominations Being Accepted for the Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award**

In 2001, the International Year of Volunteers, the Government of Canada launched the *Thérèse Casgrain Volunteer Award*. This award commemorates the work of Thérèse Casgrain and honours those who have demonstrated a lifelong commitment to volunteering. Throughout her life she chose to defend the cause of disadvantaged members of society, to denounce social injustice and to lend a voice to those who had none.

Award recipients are individuals whose social commitment and persistent efforts have contributed significantly to the advancement of a social cause and the well-being of their fellow Canadians. The award consists of a bronze medallion bearing the likeness of Thérèse Casgrain; a lapel pin; a certificate of recognition; and, \$5,000 to be awarded to a registered Canadian charity designated by the recipient.

Deadline for nominations is February 1, 2008.

For more information and to download a nomination form, visit [www.hrsdc.gc.ca](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca) .

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## Funding & Resources

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### Arts Funding Database Online

2010 Legacies Now's website includes a database of funding opportunities where organizations can find information about other arts funding organizations and organizations at the following link:

<http://www.2010legaciesnow.com/152/> .

### Who Cares? The Graff-Reed Conversations

In 2005, Volunteer Canada gathered a dynamic group of leaders from the Canadian voluntary sector for the Volunteer Zone Bénévoles series of dialogue-generating sessions at the Chateau Montebello. It was here where Linda Graff, a long-time advocate for volunteering and expert in volunteer management, met Paul B. Reed, a social scientist and university professor. This meeting would instantly lead to numerous conversations around their shared concern for the sustainability of volunteerism in Canada and a concerted exchange of their own observations and research in this area.

Two years later, the unbroken interchange resulted in a series of real-time recorded conversations, available in a publicly-accessible, downloadable format, entitled *Who Cares? The Graff-Reed Conversations*.

In their recorded discussions, Graff and Reed paint a picture of what they believe to be the destined path of volunteerism and community participation in Canada.

They forecast that the number of 'caring' individuals – of volunteers – could dwindle significantly. As they estimate, volunteering could decline by as much as two per cent per year, which over ten years could result in a decline of 20 per cent. Based on their combined observations, they cite that the very nature of volunteering is experiencing a shift that has the potential to prompt this decline. The large number of volunteers who once offered their time on a long-term basis loyally to one organization is deteriorating. Episodic volunteering, as they note, is on the rise and volunteers are seeking more skill-specific and meaningful volunteering experiences. Graff and Reed also discuss how evolving family trends may further contribute to the shrinking volunteer pool: urbanization and lack of leisure time.

*Who Cares? The Graff-Reed Conversations* are available for download at [www.canadawhocares.ca](http://www.canadawhocares.ca)

### Approaching Government

On December 5th, International Volunteer Day was commemorated by Members of Parliament, at a press conference and in the House of Commons. The statements and motion presented on this day were the result of Volunteer Canada's ongoing government relations work with elected officials in delivering our message on the vital importance of volunteering and the impact it can make in creating a civil society.

In order for any organization to become effective in building government relations, it is important that there is a clear understanding of its priorities as established by its Board of Directors and the proposed solutions to those issues. Non-profit organizations can benefit from adopting a clear government relations and public policy strategy, especially when they are able to work collaboratively with similar agencies or, at times, with non-traditional partners. A non-profit organization finding common ground with a local chamber of commerce or independent business association illustrates its ability to understand the larger context of its issue.

There is also a wide range of ways to deliver a message to government, from meetings with elected officials and staff to direct action. It is important to evaluate the situation and tailor the way you deliver your message accordingly.

Opportunities for communicating our message to government might include: meeting with Members of Parliament, Ministers and their senior staff, or key civil servants; establishing relationships with candidates during an election period; coordinating pre-budget meetings and submissions, legislative and standing committee hearings, town hall meetings, and policy round tables; or advocating for change through petitions, demonstrations, letter writing campaigns, elections toolkits posted on websites, media engagement, and op-ed pieces from experts.

Volunteer Canada has recently enjoyed some success in its government relations approach. When we learned that the federal government was considering eliminating funding for the Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, we joined other national organizations in our approach to government. We urged other non-profit and volunteer involving agencies to express their concerns to the Minister of Industry that the sole source of comprehensive data that the sector holds describing volunteering and philanthropy in Canada is at risk of elimination. A subsequent meeting with the Minister's office revealed that our efforts were having an effect on the decision making process, however, the battle is not over.

Volunteer Canada continues to urge other organizations who share our concerns to continue delivering this message to government. We offer a [link](#) to our template letter to the Minister as well as a fact sheet outlining some of the key aspects of the Survey – found within Issues and Policy on volunteer.ca.

Volunteer Canada also offers a training guide on this topic titled: *Advocacy on the Agenda: Preparing voluntary boards for public policy participation*.

This resource provides an overview of the public policy process, divided into two sections: the first builds an understanding of the role of a board of directors in the public policy process, followed by a 'how-to' guide that eases participants into the advocacy arena, including links to numerous hardcopy and electronic resources and tools covering all aspects of policy involvement and advocacy. It is available by download through our website and can be purchased through Marketplace. Training on this topic and resource may also be available.

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## Education and Training

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### Overview of Volunteer Management

Will be offered April 3, 4, 17, 18, 2008; 9:00-4:00pm each day.

During this 24 hour course, participants will:

1. Master the volunteer retention cycle
2. Develop the tools to effectively respond to current and emerging trends
3. Understand the complexities of leadership, influence, and organizational relationships and structures
4. Learn to create and market successful volunteer programs

The \$175.00 registration fee includes a binder of course materials and a complete set of volunteer management forms. To register, go to [www.kcr.ca/register.htm](http://www.kcr.ca/register.htm) or call Cheryl at 250.763.8008 ext.24.

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Do you have news related to volunteer management, volunteerism, or the voluntary sector that you wish to share with your colleagues? Send Community Information and Volunteer Centre (CIVC) your information at [informkelowna@kcr.ca](mailto:informkelowna@kcr.ca) by the 20th of the month.

This Bulletin is a publication of Community Information and Volunteer Centre (CIVC). To subscribe or unsubscribe, send an email to [informkelowna@kcr.ca](mailto:informkelowna@kcr.ca)



**Community Information and Volunteer Centre (CIVC) is a program of Kelowna Community Resources. Go to [www.kcr.ca](http://www.kcr.ca) for more information about KCR and CIVC. Be sure to add or update your organization and / or volunteer position information.**