

Community Information & Volunteer Centre Kelowna Capital News 2011 September 1

Volunteering helps me feel productive

A woman called to ask when the Volunteer Fair would be held. "September 10th! Oh no, I can't come. I won't be in town," she exclaimed. Surprised at her response, I began chatting with her. I'll call her Lynn and her story is familiar.

Lynn recently retired to Kelowna. The weather, the golf course, the downhill skiing, and short jaunts down south for the winter called to her. "It was time for a change, so I sold my business and my house and set my sights on a fresh start", explains Lynn.

There was unpacking, finding a hairdresser, becoming familiar with shopping outlets, and selecting her favourite restaurants. It takes time to settle into a new community and find your way around.

"I began to realize that a good way to make friends and to find my place might be to volunteer", Lynn recalls. "It was time for me to give back because life has been very good to me".

Lynn heard about the Volunteer Fair and decided to give it a try. That was five years ago. She signed up for two volunteer jobs and has been volunteering ever since.

Lynn spices up her volunteering with variety and works it around her travel and personal recreation. She face paints children, greets people and reconciles the concession earnings.

"You know, volunteering helps me keep structure in my life", explains Lynn. "There is something constructive to do, to help others, to feel productive." Being a working woman is part of who she is and now working means that her pay cheque is more for personal rewards.

Why not join us at the Volunteer Fair on Saturday, September 10, at Parkinson Recreation Centre, 1800 Parkinson Way, Kelowna, between 10am - 3pm. Find out which organizations will be attending at www.kcr.ca.

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