

Volunteer Action - Volunteer North Shore Newsletter

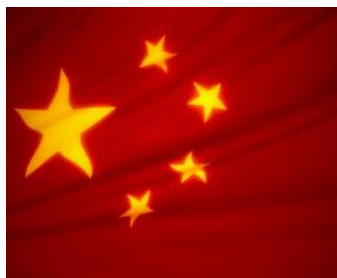
Chinese Canadian Connections



All across the country on July 1st Canadians celebrated Canada's 144th birthday. On the North Shore parades, festivals, and fireworks marked the occasion in our local communities. People, including some of the more than 3.5% of Chinese speaking North Shore residents enjoyed the activities throughout the day.

The Chinese have a tremendously long and rich history. The language groups of Mandarin and Cantonese form one aspect of this diverse culture. Canada has been fortunate to welcome immigrants from both Chinese language groups for over two centuries. In coming to Canada the Chinese have brought with them some of the lower mainland's most well known festivals.

Chinese New Year celebrations usually take place in January or February each year. Like other cultures the bringing in of the New Year involves traditional foods, music, dances, and other rituals. Chinese New Year celebrations are held in all three North Shore municipalities and are open to all who wish to attend.



Another well known event is The Vancouver International Dragon Boat Festival that happens each June. Now in its 23rd year the Vancouver Dragon Boat Festival is now one of the largest in North America. The festival showcases competitive and recreational rowers from around the world while celebrating Chinese traditions.

Continued on page...2

- www.northshorewac.ca/Resources.html
- www.statcan.gc.ca
- <http://guides.library.ubc.ca/chinesecanadians>

Check out CELEBRATE! for information on volunteer awards and recognition.

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CELEBRATE!

Celebrate your volunteers' contributions by recognizing their commitment and nominate them for one of the following awards.

No Deadline

 Order of Canada

www.gg.ca


 Governor General's Caring Canadian Award

www.gg.ca

Deadline Specific

 BC Nesika Awards (September 19, 2011)

http://www.embracebc.ca/embracebc/community/nesika_awards/index.page?

 BC Community Achievement Awards (November 15, 2011)

www.bcachievement.com

 Prime Minister's Volunteer Awards

(Date to be announced)
<http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/feature.asp?pageId=152&featureId=7>

Chinese Canadian Connections...Continued

On the North Shore Chinese Canadians continue to share their cultural traditions in their new home. Creating an event around Chinese New Year, Dragon Boat Festival activities, or having your organization participate in an established Chinese cultural event might be a great way to introduce your agency to the Chinese community. It also may encourage Chinese Canadians to visit your organization and perhaps consider a volunteer role at a later time. Embracing different cultural activities can be fun and ultimately create better understanding between people.

Nancy Hollstedt

Volunteer Canada + Manulife Financial = Skills Plus

Volunteer Canada and Manulife Financial released another segment of research in June focused on Employee Volunteer Programs and their importance in building community. The research included the development of a tool called Skills Plus. Volunteer Canada states that Skills Plus “identifies hard skills required for certain occupations [such as creating financial statements or managing meetings] as well as the core competencies that enable people to be highly effective employees.” In addition, it “matches the experience gained from a variety of volunteer opportunities with key competencies required in a range of occupations. Employees and managers can use the tool to assess the career-development benefits of volunteering. Voluntary organizations can use it to design their volunteer opportunities with [a] real skill development lens.”

Skills Plus matches the experience gained from a variety of volunteer opportunities with key competencies required in a range of occupations.

The Skills Plus tool and other research under the *Bridging the Gap* initiative between Volunteer Canada and Manulife Financial can be found on-line at www.getvolunteering.ca.

(Source: Volunteer Canada)



Techsoup® is a registered US non-profit that helps other non-profits around the world to access the technology resources they need to deliver the non-profit program or service they provide in a community. The organization has a great website full of technology based information. There are learning forums, blogs, webinars, and a learning center to name a few of the services offered by Techsoup®.

Managers of volunteers might be interested in Techsoups'® May 2011 publication *A Consumers Guide to Software For Volunteer Management*. The paper provides a good snapshot of what features to consider when researching a volunteer management system, questions to think about in terms of the scale you might need, simple comparison charts, and a review of some of the shelf products currently on the market. Use the link on the right to access the report.

For more information on software, hardware, technology planning and other products or services available at Techsoup® visit their website at www.techsoup.org.

(Source: [Techsoup.org](http://www.techsoup.org))



Learning Center

A Consumers Guide to Software For Volunteer Management

[http://
www.techsoup.org/
learningcenter/
volunteers/
page13029.cfm](http://www.techsoup.org/learningcenter/volunteers/page13029.cfm)

Volunteer North Shore Planning & Information Meeting

Thursday October 6, 2011
9:30 am - 11:00 am

North Shore Community Resources
The Community Room 203
2nd Floor Capilano Mall,
#201 - 935 Marine Drive
North Vancouver, BC

Mark Your
Calendar



A meeting reminder and agenda will be circulated 1 week prior to the meeting. If you haven't already, please RSVP to Nancy Hollstedt by phone at 604-982-3311 or by email to nancy.hollstedt@nscr.bc.ca.

Volunteer BC 2011 Conference



Volunteer BC's annual conference *Volunteer Futures* is now open for registration. This year's theme *New Faces, New Opportunities* will, according to the website, "focus on how to engage the new wave of volunteer talent emerging in the province." Ed Hill and Yael Cohen are featured speakers, and workshops over the two day event include grant writing, measurement & progress, social media and more. The conference is geared toward both volunteers and staff of non-profits.

Information and registration can be found at www.volunteerfutures2011.wordpress.com. Register before September 16th and take advantage of the Early Bird/Member registration fee of \$100. After the 16th registration increases to \$125.

For more than 30 years, Volunteer BC has been the provincial leader in promoting the value and impact of volunteerism and enhancing the abilities of volunteer-involving organizations. Plan to attend on September 29 & 30, 2011 at the Sheraton Four Points in Richmond, BC.

(Source: Volunteer BC)

Volunteer North Shore is the volunteer centre that serves the communities of Bowen Island, City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, District of West Vancouver, and Lions Bay.

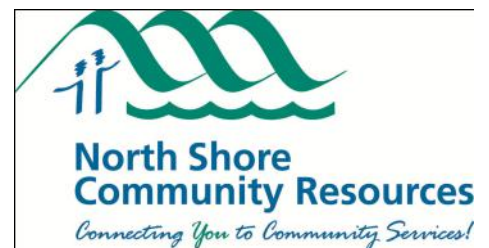
Volunteer North Shore:

- Helps people find volunteer work
- Helps organizations find volunteers
- Promotes volunteering as a benefit to the community
- Works with organizations to develop, implement and maintain effective volunteer programs

Volunteering is a vital part of our community and Volunteer North Shore is here to make sure voluntary effort is encouraged, sustained and increased.

Volunteer North Shore is just one of the valuable programs and services offered by North Shore Community Resources . North Shore Community Resources, conveniently located on the 2nd floor at Capilano Mall, is the North Shore's multi-service information and referral agency.

Many thanks to the individuals and organizations who contributed to this issue of Volunteer Action.



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