Heartfelt

Thank You

To ALL our volunteers.

Volunteer Lethbridge would not be as vibrant as it is without all your time and dedication to the events, programs and services we provide to the community.

YOU have made a difference!

THANK YOU!

Annual General Report 2014

Vision:

Volunteer Lethbridge strengthens and sustains a healthy, vibrant community through support and advancement of volunteer excellence.

Mission:

Volunteer Lethbridge builds connections and empowers individuals and organizations to enhance volunteerism and grow volunteer capacity.

Participants in the Summer Colour Fun Run!
Volunteer Lethbridge = Volunteer Excellence in Action

Volunteer Lethbridge Association has enriched this community by assisting individuals and organizations in the support and advancement of volunteer excellence for over 25 years. We have a passion for what we do in the community; we build connections and empower individuals and organizations to enhance volunteerism by building positive working relationships. We facilitate citizen participation through volunteerism, which is essential to a healthy, vibrant community.

Our programs and services enable VL to support non-profit/voluntary sector organizations through partnerships and interagency collaborations to facilitate volunteer participation and engagement. VL envisions a community in which all groups, organizations, individuals and families have opportunities for high quality volunteer experiences that are meaningful and make a difference in our community.

BUILDING VOLUNTEER CAPACITY
Increase in number of member agencies—113
Increase in number of volunteers—759
Increased SCIP participation
Expanded Paint Brush into rural sites
Continued partnership with the University of Lethbridge through Summer Colour Fun Run and sponsoring co-op students
Expanded our role with Park Place Shopping Centre
Continued support from Front Row Pub during National Volunteer Week

ENHANCE AND STRENGTHEN VOLUNTEER CAPACITY
Successful fall conference with 5th on 5th
Hosted governance training sessions
Human VoiceDrive pilot designing personalized synthetic voices to fit people with severe speech impairments by being the first city in Canada to donate voices

ENSURE STRONG, EFFECTIVE BOARD GOVERNANCE
Strong financial situation
Consistent general policy format
Revised our Human Resources policies
Revised the Executive Director’s Job Description
Created job descriptions for the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
Revised Volunteer Lethbridge committee structure
Created Terms of Reference for Finance and Fund Development Committee, Human Resources and Professional Development Committee, Board Development Committee and Leaders of Tomorrow Committee

I would like to thank the Volunteer Lethbridge Board, Executive Director, staff, member agencies and all of our many volunteers for making 2014 a very successful year.

Volunteer Lethbridge is Volunteer Excellence in Action!
Thank you to our Donors and Funders…….

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Submitted by: Diana Sim

Why does Volunteer Lethbridge exist? This is a question I asked myself when I began my role as Executive Director. To watch the organization grow and adapt to the various requests that come through the door is very exciting.

In May, I was privileged to meet with the Volunteer Centre leaders across the nation. What a valuable experience. This opportunity connected me with leaders in the sector across the nation and around the world. My thoughts generated: “volunteerism opens up a universe of opportunity to generate impact through community development.” That is why we exist!

People want to volunteer! Volunteers are Human Resource capacity builders. Volunteer Lethbridge supports leadership in the Voluntary Sector and we guide potential volunteers to care about what they care about. Volunteers are true investors in community development.

There are several types of motivating factors that engage volunteers to become involved: social responsibility, to help others, learn new skills, experience, fine options, educational requirements, to give back and others. The more information we have about your agency the more effective we can become with connecting volunteers to the opportunities you have available.

Volunteer Lethbridge attended 10 different community events/trade shows where we promoted your agency to over 1500 people. 52 agencies were featured as Agency of the Week; over 520 volunteer opportunities were promoted in the weekly column in The Lethbridge Herald, at Lethbridge College, at the University of Lethbridge, and to 165 volunteers on our growing database.

The Shining Star feature was discontinued with the final copy of The Lethbridge Journal. This feature will return on the Volunteer Lethbridge website.

The focus is engaging youth, ages 17 and under, in group volunteer activities.

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Volunteer Lethbridge provided a grant to purchase a three year agreement for access to fund research—not-for-profit agencies are welcome to access the service through appointment at the Volunteer Lethbridge office.

Settling into the University of Lethbridge was a big accomplishment. We received special funding from Alberta Culture through Enhanced Capacity Advancement Program (E-CAP) which equipped us to purchase computers for Volunteer Lethbridge. The University of Lethbridge provided support to get us up and running. The partnership with the University of Lethbridge is progressing through collaborative work with Administrators, Professors, Students and Volunteer Lethbridge Board and Staff. Engaging students into the community through volunteerism was and continues to be the focus for development.

We look forward to working with agencies, organizations and volunteers to enhance and strengthen volunteer capacity.
2014 was a year of activity. Some of the work we have been involved in this past year includes:

**LEADERS OF TOMORROW 2014** recognized youth between ages 5-24 years who made outstanding contributions to their community through volunteerism.

78 youth recognized
8 excellence awards presented
2 U of L scholarships awarded
2 Rotary scholarships awarded

**PROJECT PAINTBRUSH** is a donation-driven, volunteer program aimed at helping seniors and disadvantaged people in our community, giving them the opportunity to rejuvenate their property by having their fence, house or garage painted by a team of dedicated volunteers! This year we received special funding through E-CAP to expand the program into the rural area. Rural projects were completed in Taber, Coaldale and Vauxhall. 21 projects were completed in total over the summer with over 200 volunteers.

**SUMMER COLOUR FUN RUN** was held on September 20, 2014 in partnership with the U of L Students Union. What a fun and exciting day with over 70 participants.

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**2014 MEMBER AGENCIES**

(cont.)

Lethbridge Twinning Society
Lethbridge Youth Foundation—5th on 5th
Lethbridge Youth Justice Committee
McGill Music & Arts School
Mud & Sweat-Obstacle Race & Fitness Events
Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada
New West Theatre
Nikka Yukko Japanese Garden
Oldman Watershed Council
Opokaa’sin Early Intervention Society
Parks Canada-Waterton
Rehabilitation Society—Ability Resources
Rehabilitation Society—Joblinks
Schizophrenia Society
Scouts Canada
Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Center
South Country Treatment Centre
Southern Alberta Art Gallery
Southern Alberta Firearms Education Society (SAFE)
Southern Alberta Language Assessment Services (SALAS)
Southern Alberta Self Help Association
Southern Alberta Technology Council
Southern Alcare Society & Industries
Spinal Cord Injury Alberta
Special Olympics Lethbridge
St. John Ambulance
St. Michael’s Health Centre-Covenant Health
St. Therese Villa-Covenant Health
Streets Alive Mission
Ten Thousand Villages
The Salvation Army
United Way of Lethbridge & Southwestern Alberta
University of Lethbridge
University of Lethbridge-Alumni Relations
University of Lethbridge-Pronghorn Booster Club
Victim/Witness Services-Lethbridge
Victim/Witness Services-RCMP
Wellness Through Living

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**2014 INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS**

Marnie Brown
Becky Little
Christine Burton
Joan Kent
Marianne Bohmer
Leslie Vaala
Kevin Gordon
Diana Sim
Jackie Sauers
Bernadette Lyons
Scott Weber
Whitney Tamayose
Shelley Ducheminsky
Bob Dyer
Kerry Milder
Ed Sandau
Bill Ginther
Beverly Thomson
Joyce D’Andrea
Shonna Lamb
Christine Knaus
John Pogorzelski
Blair Kellington
Aaron Roth
Kathy Kurze
2014 MEMBER AGENCIES
Aboriginal Council of Lethbridge
Aboriginal Housing
Accessible Media Inc.
Adaptacare
AHS-Lethbridge Community Health
AHS-Volunteer Resources-Lethbridge
AHS-Volunteer Resources-
Taber/Milk River
AHS-Volunteer Resources -
Cardston/Fort Macleod
AHS-Volunteer Resources -
Coalde/Raymond
Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge
Alzheimer Society
Amnesty International
Big Brothers & Big Sisters
Birthright Lethbridge
Blankets for Canada Society Inc.
Boys & Girls Club of Lethbridge & District
Brain Trauma Support Society
Canadian Bhtanese Society
Canadian Blood Services
Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation-
Prairies & NWT
Canadian Cancer Society
Canadian National Institute for the Blind
Canadian Red Cross Society
Chinook Regional Hospital Foundation
Chinook Regional Foundation for
Career Transitions
CKXU Radio Society
City of Lethbridge - Community Services
City of Lethbridge- Social Housing in
Action ( SHIA )
Claresholm & District Health Foundation
Coaldale Public Library
Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation of Canada
County of Lethbridge Community Learning
Council
Elite Volleyball Athletic Association
Extendicare
Family Centre Society
Flexibility Learning Systems
Galt Museum & Archives
Girl Guides of Canada
Good Samaritan Society - Park Meadows
Village
Good Samaritan Society-West Highlands
Centre
Great Canadian Plains Railway Society
Green Acres Foundation-General
Green Acres Foundation-Alberta Rose
Lodge
Green Acres Foundation-Black Rock
Terrace
Green Acres Foundation-Blue Sky
Green Acres Foundation-Garden View
Lodge
Green Acres Foundation-Golden Acres
Green Acres Foundation-Heritage Lodge
Green Acres Foundation-Pemmican Lodge
Heart & Stroke Foundation of Alberta,
NWT & Nunavut
Helen Schuler Nature Centre
Interfaith Food Bank
It’s a Blast-Lethbridge Community Out of
School Association
Kidney Foundation
Kids Help Phone
Legacy Lodge
Lethbridge & District Exhibition
Lethbridge & District Humane Society
Lethbridge Association for Community
Living
Lethbridge Area Search and Rescue
Lethbridge College TLC
Lethbridge Community Network
Lethbridge Downtown BRZ
Lethbridge Family Services (Dacapo)
Lethbridge Family Services Immigrant
Services
Lethbridge Fish & Game Association
Lethbridge Food Bank
Lethbridge HIV Connection Society
Lethbridge Lifelong Learning Association
Lethbridge Neighbourhood Watch Society
Lethbridge Public Library
Lethbridge Senior Citizens Organization
Lethbridge Shakespeare Performance
Society
Lethbridge Rotary East
Lethbridge Soccer Association
Lethbridge Society for Meals on Wheels
Lethbridge Sport Council
Lethbridge Therapeutic Riding Association

VOLUNTEERS IMPACT CHANGE
Longtime volunteer, Bob Dyer, was recognized for his ser-
vice. Bob continues to assist in various ways at Volunteer
Lethbridge.
The volunteer base at Volunteer Lethbridge has grown to a
total of 759 volunteers by the end of December. They
contributed 12,892 hours, with an economic value of $309,408
in service to the organization.

Volunteer Testimonial
“Before I knew about the Fine Options program I was really stressed out
about paying my fine, because I don’t really have extra money, everything
goes to bills and living expenses. When I found out about the Fine Options
program I felt relieved because it gave me a way to work off my fine with-
out having to stretch myself too thin financially. My experience has been
positive because I am able to volunteer to pay off my fine and help out
the community at the same time. I’ve enjoyed it. The experience at Volun-
teer Lethbridge has taught me a lot about volunteering and what volun-
tering can do for me and my community. I want to continue volunteer-
ing, also get my children involved.” – Tamara

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK
“National Volunteer Week is significant because it recognizes the im-
portance of volunteers by celebrating them and appreciating all of their
remarkable work,” says Steve Tipman, President and CEO of Volunteer Can-
da. “It would be pretty difficult to find a Canadian whose life has not been
touched by a volunteer in some way.”

Park Place Shopping Centre partnered with Volunteer Lethbridge to kick off
National Volunteer Week with a cupcake give-away.
The annual Leaders of Tomorrow event had 264 people in attendance. We
heard Janelle Pritchard’s story, founder of Uphill Both Ways.
Volunteer Lethbridge welcomed the community to join in an Open House
to their new facilities.
Front Row Pub held their 2nd Annual Ladies Night Out event.
Doing Our Efforts Simply (D.O.E.S.)
Volunteer Lethbridge volunteers volunteer together in the community. Volunteers complete the VL enrollment process to become a part of the D.O.E.S. Group. They participate in volunteer activities on a monthly basis together and have a quarterly social gathering. Interest developed to create a D.O.E.S. Light Group, specific for group volunteerism for youth 17 and under.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Jim Brown provided a series of four BUZZ sessions focussed on Leadership Development. He offered discounts to VL member agencies for independent consultation work.

Kevin Brees provided a session on Leadership.

Blair Kellington provided a session—Telus Wise—Internet and Smart Phone Safety.

Three Volunteer Lethbridge staff attended Vitalize in Calgary in 2014. Vitalize 2015 takes place June 18-20 at the Shaw Conference Centre in Edmonton.

The HR Conference in partnership with 5th on 5th, Platepus Global Consulting and Heather Petherick Career and Performance Coaching was a day full of great learning opportunities. Topics covered included: Accountability; Automatizing Organizations; Hiring Smart; Employment Law; Volunteer Management; Personal Development. Investment in learning is profitable.

Human Voicedrive
Creating innovative volunteer opportunities. The Human Voicedrive Committee began working with VocaliD on an initiative that will be launched in April 2015. “Your voice is your identify.” Thanks to Accessible Media Incorporated for donating the equipment to the program.

Website Launch
This year has been exciting as we watched the progress of the development of the new website. Volunteer Lethbridge website launch scheduled for March 10, 2015.

Member agencies are encouraged to sign up for an orientation session. Agencies will be able to edit their profile information and submit volunteer opportunities on line. Many additional great features will be unfolding.

Volunteer Management Manual
In recognition of the staffing changes that occur, we created a Volunteer Management Manual to assist as a guide for member agencies. This manual provides an overview of the benefits Volunteer Lethbridge provides and processes that will aid staff as they access services. This document will be accessible on our website for future reference.

Remember to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.