

Submitted Article
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Where mission and method become one

One of the remarkable features of Canadian life is the extent to which we reach beyond our families and friends to contribute to others and our communities through charitable giving and volunteering for non-profit agencies. According to Imagine Canada “The interests, talents and energies of individual Canadians drive non profit and voluntary organizations. Collectively, these organizations draw on more than 2 billion volunteer hours, the equivalent of more than 1 million full-time jobs.”

Such staggering statistics help us understand that one of the hallmarks of non profit organizations is their connection to community. Connection through the participation of volunteers in the vision, development, governance and program delivery of the tens of thousands of organizations in the non-profit sector.

In Haliburton County there are multiple not for profit agencies working diligently to meet their primary mission, whether it be affordable housing, access to healthy food, education, support for our neighbours or other commendable pursuits. Without volunteer involvement these goals simply would never be met. According to Brigitte Gebauer, Volunteer Coordinator of Community Care Haliburton, *“our volunteers are the backbone of the agency. If we didn’t have volunteers we wouldn’t be able to provide the services that we do. Volunteers are a fundamental part of any community...this county seems to run on volunteers and they make it a great place to live and visit.”*

Each day, hundreds of our neighbours are volunteering their time to assist non-profit agencies in Haliburton meet their goals. John Teljeur, organizer of JT’s Food Crusade for Haliburton County explains, *“So many of the agencies, associations and groups that are part of our communities are only able to do what they do because of volunteers. These are the people that put others first, never get the credit they deserve (never ask for it either) and will be there the next time they are needed for someone they probably don’t know.”*

Individual agency missions meet volunteer method and from this we achieve better communities and a better country. Now that is what being part of Canada is all about – are you proud yet?

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For information on volunteer opportunities visit www.sirch.on.ca or call 705-457-1742