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VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA
ANNUAL REPORT





VOLUNTEER 
Strathcona
your community connector

VOLUNTEER
your



VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA

Annual Report 2022

Volunteer Strathcona has been a leader in community building for over 46 years, and has done so by changing in response to the community's changing needs.

As we emerge from the isolation of the last few years, we find ourselves again looking to the community for guidance on how we can best serve. What we've been hearing from community partners, educators, and residents is that people want to collaborate, create stronger networks, and they want to belong.

Volunteer Strathcona is supporting that growth by fostering dynamic collaborations, and innovating opportunities for new volunteers to join in on the fun. Students from Sherwood Heights' leadership classes have teamed up with WeCan Food Baskets in order to meet the program's growing needs. Hockey teams have shown up with shovels and put their on-ice experience to good use as volunteers with our SnowBusters programs. And as we lean into these new pools of volunteers, we know it is just the beginning.

Our team is offering sector support via grant access, volunteer recruitment, and event consultations to festivals, local sports associations, and community groups like the Friends of the Strathcona County Library.



VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA

MESSAGE FROM THE **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Resilient ... Pivot ... Survive ... Get ready for the next phase!

To say that the past couple of years have been a challenge for most nonprofit organizations in our community could be considered a bit of understatement. The pandemic changed many things, the way we work, the way we socialize and definitely the way we volunteer.

This is certainly true for Volunteer Strathcona. Throughout the first two years of the pandemic hundreds of our neighbours came to the rescue of the elderly and those unable to complete certain outdoor tasks on their own, those struggling with isolation and loneliness, those struggling with food insecurity. It was particularly heartwarming to experience the whirlwind that the volunteers in our community created as they gladly and unselfishly donated countless hours in community service. It was also heartwarming to watch our staff feel satisfied with a job well done as they reached out to the community and matched volunteers to those in need of service.

And as our resident clients move on and require less assistance, Volunteer Strathcona, an incredibly resilient organization, is moving on as well. We are very encouraged by the number of local organizations that reached out for help in 2022. Examples include the Highlands Gathering, Ravenwood, A Safe Place and of course our collaboration partner Linking Generations. Our ability to provide excellent sector support is evidenced by the number of groups reaching out for advice on volunteer management, including recruitment, screening, training, and recognition and as the need for direct delivery programming dissipates, we will pivot once again.

A highlight for me personally was being recognized for the successes Volunteer Strathcona experienced under my leadership, through the presentation of a Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Medal from MLA Nate Glubish. I was truly honoured and will feel the positive effect this will have for me for many years to come.

My time with Volunteer Strathcona is coming to an end as I am scheduled to retire from nonprofit leadership in the spring of 2023. Looking forward to the year ahead, I know that Volunteer Strathcona will continue to work in the community, will handle any and all challenges associated with an ever changing landscape with the same tenacity and grace as we have over the past six years.

Respectfully,

Judy Ferguson

Judy Ferguson

Executive Director

VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA

IN MEMORIAM

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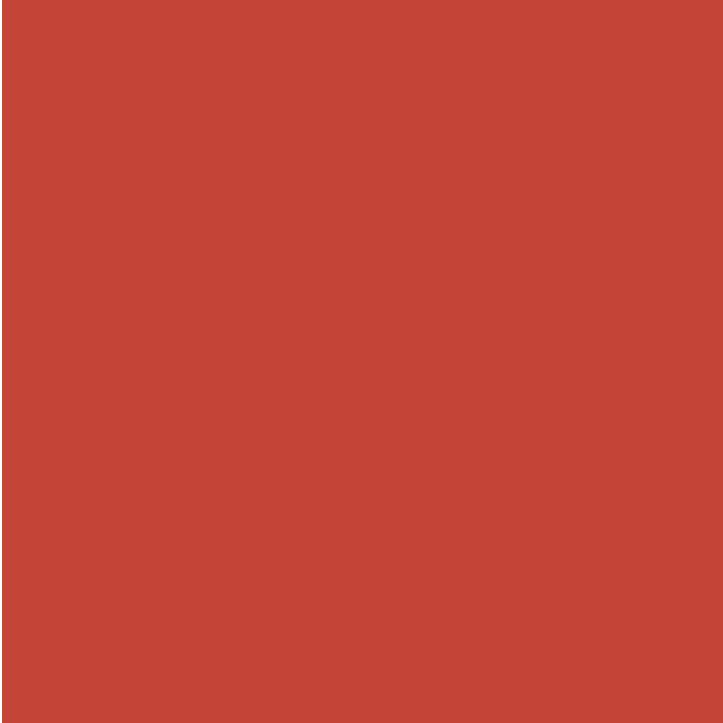
Caron Stoltz (April 11, 1969 – March 10, 2022)

It was with great sadness that Volunteer Strathcona said farewell to one of its much appreciated staff in 2022.

Caron Stoltz began her work with Volunteer Strathcona in 2014 and was known to everyone as the face of the organization. Her genuine love of people, along with her amazing sense of humour has left an enormous gap in the community with residents, especially seniors and the nonprofit community overall. Caron lost her battle with cancer on March 10, 2022.

*Rest in peace Caron,
you will always be remembered for your kindness.*





OUR VALUES

INTEGRITY

We will do what we say we will do.

INNOVATION

We are excited about new ideas.

COLLABORATION

We will work with others to boost volunteerism in the community.

REFLECTIVENESS

We learn from our past as we plan for our future.

SERVICE LEADERSHIP

We are stewards of the resources the community has provided to us, and we will use those resources wisely.





VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT BREAKDOWN

Volunteer Programs & Statistics

108 Strathcona County citizens volunteered their time in 2022 to serve 294 clients across 6 programs:

- SnowBusters,
- LawnBusters,
- Make Tax Time Pay,
- Keep In Touch,
- Direct Delivery services, and
- External Partnerships.

Volunteers in 2022

Active Volunteers	108
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Clients	302
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TAX CLINICS: TINY TEAM, HUGE IMPACT!

11 volunteers prepared 215 tax returns for 198 low-income Strathcona County residents in just under two months.

Telephone, virtual and drop-off appointments were all available, and the financial impact of their 232+ hours was \$572,091.

Benefits received were: income tax refunds, Canada Child Benefits, GST refunds, and Climate Action Incentives.

Tax Clinics

Total Volunteers	11
Total Volunteer Hours	232.5
Total Clients (VS)	198

Summary Statistics (e4c)

Average income (2021 Tax Year - Line 150000)	\$23,023
People served	198
Tax returns filed	215
Canada Child Benefits received	\$259,593
GST Refunds received	\$84,474
Tax Refunds and CAI received	\$228,024
Average benefit per return	\$2,889

SnowBusters

- 64 clients
- 40 volunteers
- 903 hours contributed

40 Volunteer Strathcona volunteers contributed an average of 23 hours each.

As a result, 64 low-income seniors and people with disabilities were supported in aging in place and maintaining the safety of their home.

LawnBusters

- 25 volunteers
- 40 Clients
- 180 hours of lawn care provided

25 Strathcona County citizens volunteered over 180 hours of their time to provide core lawn care services for 40 clients.





VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMS

Volunteer Programs & Statistics

Volunteer Connector

- 101 organizations registered in our region
- VS volunteers and volunteers for community partners successfully recruited for a range of programs throughout the year

Volunteer Connector is a dynamic database searchable by volunteer opportunity, age, and location of opportunity.

Organizations can post their volunteer needs and volunteers can in turn sign up through the website. Volunteer Connector is free to all users.

Grant Connect

- 22 new users this year
- Open to all SC nonprofits and SC community groups

For organizations looking to fundraise beyond a bottle drive, Grant Connect offers a searchable database of local, national, and international nonprofit funding opportunities.

Volunteer Strathcona pays an annual license fee, and offers access to Strathcona County nonprofits and community groups.



VOLUNTEER WEEK 2022: WILLIE WONG PAINT NIGHT

30 volunteers from 20 different SC nonprofits were invited to participate in a paint night, and were guided through the process to create their own works of art: one lucky winner also took home a Willie Wong original.





STAYING CONNECTED AND ENGAGED IN **STRATHCONA COUNTY**

Community Engagements

COMMITTEE ENGAGEMENT

Volunteer Strathcona holds a seat on the **SC Diversity Committee** Meetings in order to support the SC community from a more informed perspective on current and emerging issues

Volunteer Strathcona continues to be actively engaged in the biweekly **Alberta Volunteer Centre Network** meetings. This continues to be a useful way for Volunteer Strathcona to stay connected with other centres and be a part of sharing best practices in volunteer engagement.

Strathcona County Social Framework

Strathcona County Interagency Meeting

Reach Out, Speak Out 2022: Family Violence Prevention Month Planning Committee

Anti-Racism Coalition with the Strathcona County Arts and Culture Council, Strathcona County Diversity Committee, Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Strathcona County Community Safety and Wellbeing Committee

PARTNERSHIPS/COLLABORATION

Canteen Collaboration

Linking Generations

BROKERING RELATIONSHIPS

Canteen Collaboration

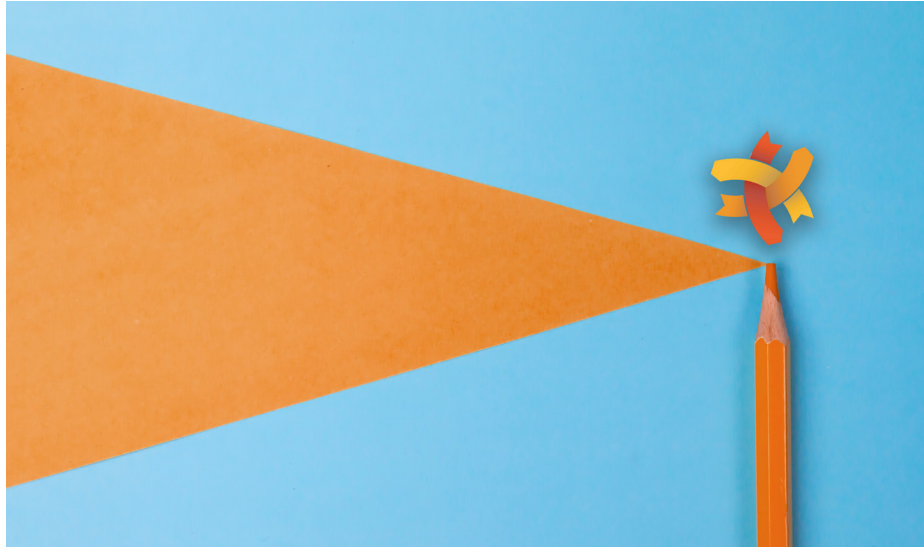
Linking Generations



We Care We Share

While operational from January through August of 2022, VS contributed \$10,083 in free equipment rentals to 32 SC nonprofit and community groups for an average community contribution of \$315.09 per loan.

Currently on pause due to equipment aging, We Care We Share may once again be viable through corporate donations.



Staff Training, Workshops, Webinars

Tamarack: Civil Society, Power & Creating Bolder Social Change

Tamarack: Strategies for Shifting Power from Funder-Driven to Community-Driven

Charity Village: Leverage the Power of Young Generations for the Future of Your Nonprofit

Government of Alberta Community Development Unit: Grant Writing 101

Using Census data to enrich Alberta non-profits organizations

Volunteer Canada: EXP+: A New Volunteer Recognition Tool

Volunteer Canada: Local to Global: Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals in your Volunteer Program

Volunteer Connector: Facilitated Discussion on Findings from the Report "Anti-Racist Approach to Volunteering"

IntegralOrg: Introduction to Risk Management for Nonprofit Organizations- Part One

IntegralOrg: Introduction to Risk Management for Nonprofit Organizations - Part Two

Strathcona County Victim Services: Hate Crime Workshop

Volunteer Canada: The Volunteer Factor and the Sustainable Development Goals

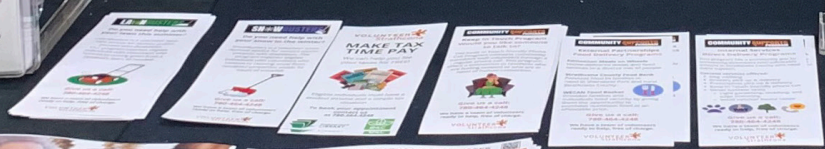
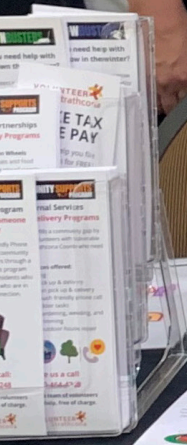
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ELECTRICAL ROOM
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY

EMERGENCY
ROOM

EXIT

VOLUNTEER
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your community connection



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SECTOR SUPPORT



HIGHLAND GATHERING

VS provided event support via:

- Volunteer Recruitment
- Volunteer Management
- Equipment Loans

Volunteer Strathcona staff provided event support, volunteer recruitment and free equipment loans to the Highland Gathering, the weekend of July 24-26, 2022.

Staff were on site both days making souvenir buttons with event visitors.

SENIORS WEEK

The Volunteer Strathcona team was thrilled to participate in the Seniors' Week activities at the Ardrossan Recreation Centre. Participants received freshly popped popcorn, and spun the prize wheel for a variety of prizes.



RAVENWOOD

VS provided event support via:

- Volunteer Recruitment
- Volunteer Management
- Equipment Loans



OUR PARTNERS



As a charitable non-profit organization, Volunteer Strathcona is always grateful for the support we receive from our sponsors, donors, and supporters.

Without contributions of time, money, goods, and services, it would be difficult to maintain the quality of the services and events that we provide to County residents, volunteers, and the over one hundred not-for-profit and charitable agencies that we support. Thank you!

2022



VOLUNTEER STRATHCONA

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