



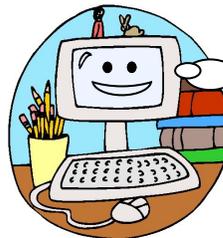
July 2015

## What Do Volunteers Want?

There are hundreds of articles written on volunteer 'management', how to recruit, retain, and reward volunteers, and how to avoid volunteer burnout. But most of these are written by volunteer managers; not by volunteers. It seems to us that if you want to know what Volunteers want it only makes sense that you ask volunteers!

At DC Better at Home we believe that our volunteers want to be respected, want to know exactly how their contribution is helping, and want to know that they've made a positive difference. We hope that we've succeeded at this but we'd certainly like to hear from you if we've fallen down in any of those areas.

We'd also like to know if there is anything else we should be doing to help you find fulfillment in your volunteering. We're open to any input. Give us a call, drop us an email, stop in to the office for a chat. When it comes to volunteering - you're the expert!



Don't forget to check out the Volunteer Page on our website  
[www.dcbetterathome.org](http://www.dcbetterathome.org)

## The Volunteer Fire Truck

A fire started on some grasslands near a farm. The county fire department was called to put out the fire. The fire was more than the county fire department could handle.

Someone suggested that a nearby volunteer bunch be called. Despite some doubt that the volunteer outfit would be of any assistance, the call was made.

The volunteers arrived in a dilapidated old fire truck. They rumbled straight towards the fire, drove right into the middle of the flames and stopped!

The firemen jumped off the truck and frantically started spraying water in all directions. Soon they had snuffed out the center of the fire, breaking the blaze into two easily-controlled parts.

Watching all this, the farmer was so impressed with the volunteer fire department's work and was so grateful that his farm had been spared, that right there on the spot he presented the volunteers with a check for \$1,000.

A local news reporter asked the volunteer fire captain what the department planned to do with the funds.

"That ought to be obvious," he responded, wiping ashes off his coat. "The first thing we're gonna do is get the brakes fixed on our fire truck!"



**Dawson Creek Better at Home Contact Info:**

**Volunteer Drop In  
Better at Home in the  
Co-op Mall**

**Tues, July 21, 2-3pm**



## Enjoying Summer Events!

Some suggestions for things to bring when you get out and enjoy the summer fun:



**Water:** dehydration is your enemy, drink plenty of water.



**Hat or Umbrella:** my favourite is the collapsible umbrella - good for sun or rain!



**Tissue Paper:** if you follow the first suggestion you may find yourself in a porta-potti with no paper...



**Sun Screen:** burning is not comfortable, attractive, or healthy... slap on the sun screen!



**Bug Repellent:** nothing spoils an outdoor activity faster than a swarm of blood-thirsty mosquitoes. Choose your bug poison and be prepared.



**Band-aides/Antiseptic Wipes:** a couple of band-aides and a few of those wipes in little square packets don't take up much space and can come in very handy.



**Snacks That Won't Spoil:** this will depend on your food preferences - but maybe forego the potato salad unless you have a foolproof way to keep it cold.



**Cash/Change:** lots of activities and venues will have vendors who may not be able to take plastic. Bring some jingles for snacks or souvenirs.



**Cushion/Blanket/Chair:** use "festival chair etiquette" - don't set up your chair in front of people sitting on a blanket and block their view of the event.

### Seniors Speak...

*"I almost forget that my visitor is a volunteer... I just think of her as a close personal friend. She is just wonderful."*

### Quote of the Month!

*If you want to touch the past, touch a rock.  
If you want to touch the present, touch a flower.  
If you want to touch the future, touch a life.*

*Anon*



Better at Home is funded by the Government of British Columbia.



United Way helping seniors remain independent.



South Peace Community Resources Society