

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY, STRENGTHENING YOURSELF...WORKING HAND IN HAND

When I offered to write this article I asked volunteers at GWPC; why they volunteered and what their favourite thing is about volunteering. The responses weren't a surprise. Most said that they wanted to give back to the community, make their neighbourhood cleaner, safer, and more vibrant, make friends, meet like-minded people and more. What was surprising is how many noticed a change in themselves as they became more confident, more aware and worldly, happier, had a greater sense of belonging and purpose, more skills and social flexibility. There is strength in knowing that you are helping make your community and your world a better place. Volunteering has become a prerequisite for entry into more careers yet not a single individual admitted that they need volunteer hours to graduate from high school, enter some universities or that their volunteer hours will stand out on a resume. My son works for a Vancouver tech company which encourages each of its 1,000 employees to take a (paid) day off to volunteer. They want a workforce that is in touch with the real world. GWPC has over 60 volunteers between ages 18 and 75. It is a very diverse, mostly young, population. Duties include regular community cleanups, graffiti paint-outs, and community outreach supporting all people in the neighbourhood. Volunteers staff the storefront office at 1977 Commercial, help people in crisis connect to services, record neighbourhood incidents of concern, register bicycles, monitor lost and found items, supply snacks and warm clothing to those in need, and much more. Volunteers participate in workshops and activities offered by VPD (crime prevention, security, etc.), ICBC (distracted driving, pedestrian safety, speed watch), Lotus Light Society (food distribution for persons needing a hand), etc. Interested? We're one of many organizations happy to have you on board.



VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

Transforming Lives and Community

As a volunteer, you not only meet those who are active members of the community but also those who might need additional help and support. You are the eyes and ears for those who might not have a voice or don't know how to seek support. You have the opportunity to work with other volunteers, organizations and local businesses in creating a safer and more inclusive space, such as at GWPC, for everyone

~ Joanna, CRN Mentor



KAIROS Blanket Exercise April 16 & May 14
To promote understanding of First Nations all CPC volunteers are encouraged to participate.



HOLA! TAKING GWPC ABROAD

Hola! (Meaning 'hi' in Spanish), as I write to you from the beaches of Columbia. You may be wondering, how is this possible? Well, when I told Grandview Woodland CPC that I would be traveling abroad for six months they were very accommodating in providing me the option to continue with my volunteer involvement. So, here I am, at Cabo De la Vela, with my tablet and some WIFI, writing this article and helping with the newsletter. I love being able to be part of a team and know that we work together to build a healthier community. Have ideas or ways you think you can contribute to GWPC through volunteering? Just contact info@gwcpc.com with your ideas.

~ Kasia, Volunteer



DID YOU KNOW?

In 2021 our volunteers helped register 214 bikes with Project 529 and did 12783 visual auto crime checks.

Since 2009 our volunteers have helped to clean 8411 blocks picking up 1631 drug paraphernalia, 1299 needles, 978 human waste items, along with other garbage that has added up to 3851 garbage bags. That's about 115, 530lbs of waste or the size of about 12 elephants!!!



VALUE OF VOLUNTEERING

Helping in Your Own Unique Way

As a volunteer, you have the opportunity to give back in ways that are meaningful and relevant to you and in ways only YOU can give. Giving back can be as simple as offering a kind word or a warm toque. And don't underestimate the power of sharing a smile and a warm 'Hello' with someone who walks through your door - it might be just what they needed to get through their day.

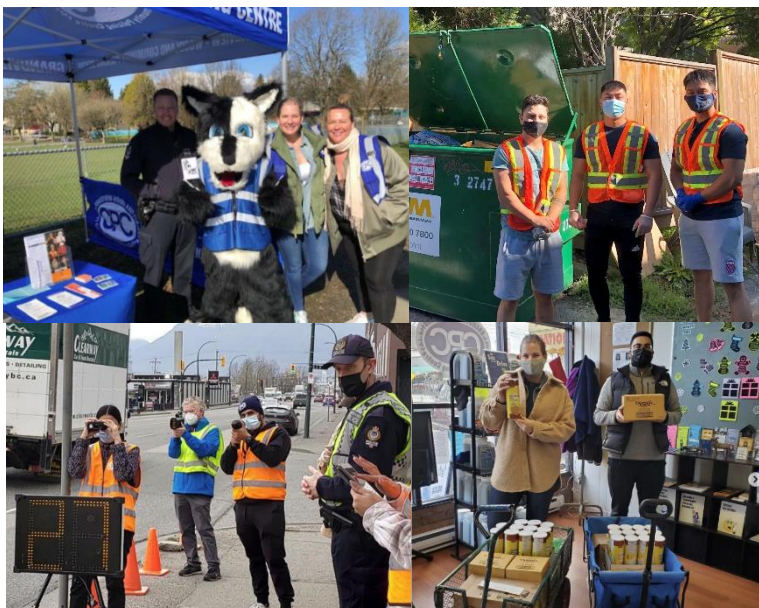
~ Joanna, CRN Mentor

GWPC PROGRAMS...

BUT WHICH DO I PICK?

Are you the type of person who loves a cozy office while addressing locals' safety concerns and crime or would you rather be, out and about, in the thick of it, removing litter from our community, defending bike theft and observing streets, alleys, and parking lots for unlawful actions, or promoting distraction free driving? Or maybe you're the type who enjoys working with your hands, some paint and rollers, covering up graffiti? Well, why choose, when GWPC offers all of these, and more, through their various volunteer programs. Check out the list below and if something piques your interest, check out our website for more details on how you can become a part of something greater.

~Kasia, Volunteer



ICBC MESSAGE

DID YOU KNOW THE AVERAGE COST OF A VEHICLE BREAK-IN REPORTED TO ICBC IS \$1400 (2016-2020)?

THANK YOU TO GWPC VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE DONE A FANTASTIC JOB PATROLLING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD TO PREVENT AND REPORT AUTO CRIME OVER THE YEARS. THE AUTO CRIME PREVENTION NOTICES (CPNS) DISTRIBUTED BY VOLUNTEERS HELP TO CONNECT WITH VEHICLE OWNERS ON WHAT THEY CAN DO TO HELP PREVENT AUTO CRIME.

~ Paul Goodman,
ICBC Road Safety
& Community
Coordinator

WHY WE VOLUNTEER

Down:

- Enjoying _____ activities, such as paint outs and foot patrol.
- Being involved in social _____.
- Creating a _____ environment.
- Learning about Law _____.
- Gain _____ experience about diversity and cultures.

Across:

- Meeting _____ people.
- Being part of a _____.
- Assist members of the community with supplies and _____.
- Helping my _____.
- Gain experience in _____ related work.
- Learn how GWPC _____ our neighbourhood.
- Connecting with other like-minded _____.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

Have a comment for us? Article suggestion? Or something you would like to share? Please email us at info@gwcpc.ca

COME VOLUNTEER WITH US

To learn more about who we are, what we do and what volunteer opportunities we offer...

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

