

volunteeredmonton.com

Festival Volunteer Fair brings in new volunteers

On May 15, Volunteer Edmonton co-hosted a Festival Volunteer Fair along with the Fringe Festival at the TransAlta Arts Barns. This first ever event brought together a variety of 20 city arts and culture festivals together under one roof to promote their volunteer opportunities to the public.

"Organizations are facing a shortage of volunteers and festivals are no exception," says director of Volunteer Edmonton, Janice Bell. "With so many happening throughout the summer and fall, it's easy to find one that fits your interests and schedule."

About 250 people dropped by the volunteer fair to check out the variety of festivals representing dance, music, literature, performance art, culture and much more.

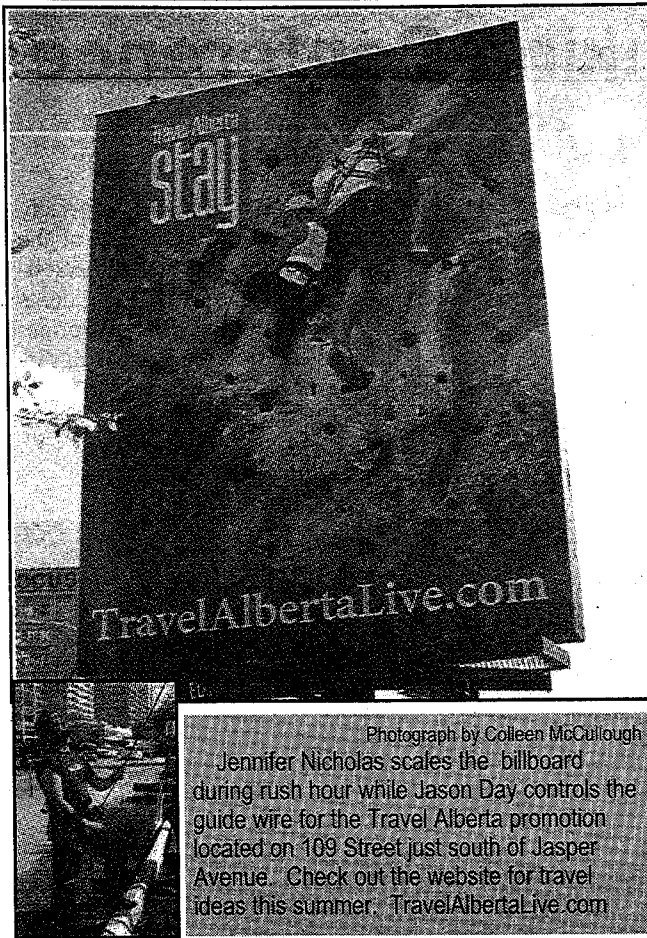
Visitors not only had the opportunity to sign up for volunteer positions, but also to learn more about Edmonton's diverse festivals. Colourful displays, information guides and photos of past events provided visitors with information about their festival's history, purpose and current volunteer needs. Some folks noted that there were festivals present that they weren't even aware of, which was a bonus for smaller festivals or new festivals

that have only been operating a short time.

For many festival participants, the volunteer fair proved to be a worthwhile event considering the number of new volunteer applications received. Theresa Morban, associate volunteer manager for the Fringe Festival, was pleased with the 40 or so applications received. "We had a ton of people who didn't know anything about us but wanted to volunteer, and we had people who had attended our festival for many years but just didn't know how to get involved themselves," she explains.

Although the volunteer fair was a one day event, folks can still sign up for volunteer opportunities. Bell encourages those who missed the event to contact the festivals for available volunteer opportunities. To learn more about Edmonton's festivals and how you can volunteer, visit www.festivalcity.ca, call 211 or check out www.volunteeredmonton.com/hottopics.php for contact information for festivals that participated in this year's Festival Volunteer Fair.

Volunteer Edmonton is a program of The Support Network. For more information, please contact Evelyn Pham at (780) 732-6655.



Photograph by Colleen McCullough
Jennifer Nicholas scales the billboard during rush hour while Jason Day controls the guide wire for the Travel Alberta promotion located on 109 Street just south of Jasper Avenue. Check out the website for travel ideas this summer. TravelAlbertaLive.com

Edmonton and area Spring and Summer Festivals

For more information visit www.festivalcity.ca

Spring 2008

Opera Nuova Presents - Vocal Arts Festival
Until Monday, June 30, 2008

Creative Age Festival
Monday, June 02 - Sunday, June 08, 2008

Dreamspeakers International Film Festival
Wednesday, June 04 - Saturday, June 07, 2008

Epcor Presents - Nextfest 2008
Thursday, June 05 - Sunday, June 15, 2008

**Heart Of The City Presents -
Music & Arts Festival 2008**
Saturday, June 07 - Saturday, June 07, 2008

2nd Annual Edmonton's Festival Of Beer
Friday, June 13 - Saturday, June 14, 2008

Edmonton Pride Week

Friday, June 13 - Sunday, June 22, 2008

Concrete Theatre Presents - Sprouts 2008
Saturday, June 14 - Sunday, June 15, 2008

Rapid Fire Theatre Presents - Improvaganza
Wednesday, June 18 - Saturday, June 28, 2008

**National Aboriginal Day 2008 -
Embracing Our Future**

Thursday, June 19 - Tuesday, June 24, 2008

Edmonton International Jazz Festival 2008
Friday, June 20 - Sunday, June 29, 2008

The Works Art & Design Festival 2008
Friday, June 20 - Wednesday, July 02, 2008

Summer 2008

20th Annual River City Shakespeare Festival
Tuesday, June 24 - Sunday, July 20, 2008

Feats - Festival Of Dance
Friday, June 27 - Sunday, July 13, 2008

Canada Day Celebrations 2008
Tuesday, July 01

**2008 Edmonton International
Street Performers Festival**
Friday, July 04 - Sunday, July 13, 2008

Capital Ex Parade 2008
Thursday, July 17

Capital Ex Festival 2008
Thursday, July 17 - Saturday, July 26, 2008