

# Shaw centre hosts major volunteer event



Edmontonians are invited to come support their community at the first-ever Everyone for Edmonton event taking place on Aug. 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Shaw Conference Centre.

The focus of the Everyone for Edmonton event is to help raise awareness about the organizations that exist in the Edmonton region and encourage residents to reflect on what they can do to help.

With approximately 4,000 nonprofit and charitable organizations existing in Edmonton alone (8,000 in the region), there's no doubt that these organizations have a huge impact on our quality of life. That's why one of Edmonton's most recognizable landmarks, the Shaw Conference Centre, is doing its part by hosting this com-

munity development event in celebration of its 25th anniversary.

"We're simply celebrating our success by giving a unique gift back to our community," explains Kenn Bur, director of communications for Edmonton Economic Development Corporation (the Shaw Conference Centre is a division of EEDC).

Special guest speaker Debbie Riopel, an international leader of the global kindness revolution, will be delivering an uplifting presentation about the power of kindness from 9 to 10 a.m. The general public is welcome to come to the free presentation, but must pick up tickets from the administration office on the second level in the Shaw Conference Centre to gain entrance. For visitors coming later in the day, a group of roving performers will be on site all day to provide entertainment to folks of all ages.

Participation from the public is a key factor in making this event worthwhile because many of the organizations have signed up in the hopes that they may attract

volunteers and supporters for their cause. "Helping our non-profit organizations helps everyone in our region," says Bur.

Visitors will benefit by having a large, diverse group of organizations under one roof and learning about the multitude of volunteer opportunities in Edmonton and surrounding areas. "The event will be an interactive information session," says Janice Bell, director of Volunteer Edmonton. "You'll have the chance to meet the people behind the cause and find out how you can access their services. In addition, citizens will learn more about how the nonprofit sector impacts the community and hopefully, folks will decide to sign up for one or more volunteer opportunities as well."

In a 2004 report from Volunteer Alberta, the need for volunteers is reflected by the fact that 54 per cent of organizations say they could accommodate a 10 to 30 per cent increase in the number of volunteers while 40 per cent could accommodate more than a 30 per cent increase.

Put that into context with the fact that nearly 58 per cent of nonprofit/voluntary organizations are completely volunteer-run with no paid staff and it becomes clear how important community involvement is to

the survival of organizations and the services they provide in Edmonton.

Statistics from a 2007 City of Edmonton survey show that about 46 per cent of Edmontonians have volunteered in the last 12 months. Overall, 82 per cent of survey respondents stated they would be interested in volunteering if it was the right kind of opportunity. With over 200 organizations of all types signed up for the Everyone for Edmonton event, Edmontonians should have no problem finding an opportunity that best fits their interests and availability.

Edmontonians are urged to attend the Shaw Conference event August 23 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Come and see what your community has to offer — and think about what you have to offer your community! To learn more about Everyone for Edmonton, visit [www.shawconference.com](http://www.shawconference.com) or call (780) 707-3199. For more information about volunteerism, visit [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com).

For more information or suggestions for story ideas please contact Evelyn Pham, communications co-ordinator, at [epham@volunteeredmonton.com](mailto:epham@volunteeredmonton.com), call 732-6655 or check out our website at [www.volunteeredmonton.com](http://www.volunteeredmonton.com). Volunteer Edmonton is a program of The Support Network.

## EDMONTON

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**Keep your property tidy this summer and control invasive weeds by mowing everything to a reasonable height.**

Rapidly spreading weeds, such as Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge and Scentless Chamomile are considered noxious and must be cut or kept under control in yards, boulevards, alleyways and empty lots. Nuisance weeds, such as dandelions, are not considered noxious. However, by mowing all weeds and grass on a regular basis, you can keep your property maintained as required by Edmonton's Community Standards Bylaw.

Find out more about noxious or nuisance weeds by visiting [www.edmonton.ca/bylaws](http://www.edmonton.ca/bylaws). Residents with concerns about the weed condition of any property can call **780-496-3100**.


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