

It's time to say thank you

Take some time to celebrate International Volunteer Day this Saturday by saying thank you to the volunteers in your life.

This special day is an opportunity to acknowledge and reflect on the impact volunteer work has on communities.

With 4,000 non-profit organizations in Edmonton, it's clear that volunteers exist in almost every facet of community. And their dedication to making communities better results in a total of 449 million volunteer hours in Alberta alone.

For Erinne Sevigny, volunteering began as a way to explore new skills and tap into her passion for the arts. As a volunteer managing editor for *Other Voices*, a small local literary and visual arts magazine, Sevigny's role has allowed her to gain new skills and take on some unique tasks.

"My role lets me connect to readers and writers around the world. I help design promotional materials, plan an editorial calendar and choose what kinds of submissions to put in the magazine. It's fun and satisfying to see how I've helped shape the finished product," she says.

Sevigny hopes this day sheds light on the impact of volunteers, but also inspires others. "It's an amazing feeling knowing that I'm enjoying what I do and helping to make a difference."

When it comes to volunteering, consider the different ways to get involved - read to children in after-school programs, visit hospital patients, clean parks and fields, answer the phones at a crisis line, help a new immigrant learn about their new community, care for injured and abused animals, coach a sports team. The list is endless.

The first step to finding the perfect opportunity starts with research. Volunteer Edmonton offers an easy tool to help you get started. Visit www.volunteeredmonton.com and click on *I Want to Volunteer* to browse a number of different websites.

Another quick and easy option is dialing 211.

If none of these suggestions yield a promising opportunity, the next best step is to ask around.

With approximately 47 per cent of Edmontonians volunteering, chances are a neighbour, co-worker or friend volunteers. Find out how they started, what organization they currently volunteer for and what kind of work they do.

To learn more about International Volunteer Day, visit www.volunteeredmonton.com.

For more information or to suggest a story idea, contact

Evelyn Pham at epham@volunteeredmonton.com, call 780-732-6655 or check out our website at www.volunteeredmonton.com.



WORKMANSHIP. TRUST. SERVICE.

- CARPENTRY
- CERAMIC TILES
- DECKS
- DRY WALL
- BATHROOMS
- FENCES
- MAINTENANCE
- PAINTING
- PLUMBING
- SHELVING
- STORAGE
- INSTALLATIONS
- REPAIRS



780-414-6152

<http://edmonton.handymanconnection.com>
 Serving Edmonton since 1997

Just one call or click brings our expertise right to your door.

Handyman CONNECTION
 TRUSTED HOME IMPROVEMENTS



Are You Breathing Clean Air During Flu Season?



Have Your Furnace And Ducts Cleaned Today!



CALL NOW!! (780) 450-4328(HEAT)

or visit us in our new showroom
 8545 Coranet Road
www.thefurnacecompany.com



Introductory Special \$30.00 OFF

Complete furnace & duct cleaning*. Valid until Dec 31/09.
 Offer applies to furnace cleaning only. Cannot be combined with any other company offers or coupons. Discounts coupon must be presented at time of booking.

Dave Lennox
PREMIER DEALER
LENNOX



The Perfect X-Mas Gift

Make Your Own

Beer and Wine
 at a fraction of the cost

See our wide selection

5519a -137th ave

780-473-4598

www.capancork.com wineexpert