

The Charleswood Connection

Myrna Driedger
MLA Charleswood

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The Benefits of Community Involvement

“The Community best strengthens itself from within” – Myrna Driedger, 1999

This was a statement that Myrna made when first meeting with the various groups and businesses in Charleswood shortly after being elected. She sensed that this was something that is very evident in our neighbourhood.

Working in community development is perhaps one of the most in-demand, challenging, and diverse volunteer opportunities available on a global scale today. Community development breaks down into many different categories, but is generally defined as social groups of people working together towards a common goal to build a stronger community.

“The number of volunteers is growing faster than Canada's population.” *

Over 13.3 million people—accounting for 47% of Canadians aged 15 and over—did volunteer work in 2010. They devoted almost 2.07 billion hours to their volunteer activities: a volume of work that is equivalent to just under 1.1 million full-time jobs

Many Canadians become involved in volunteering because people they know are doing it. In 2010, 43% of volunteers said they did their volunteer work as part of a group project with friends, neighbours or co-workers; another 25% said they had joined members of their immediate family in their volunteer work. These proportions are essentially the same as those recorded in 2007 and 2004.

There are a couple of great volunteer opportunities coming up next year—one right here in Charleswood and the other in Winnipeg. From January 25—20 Charleswood will be hosting the provincial ladies curling championships, the Scotties at Eric Coy Arena. Then the Canada Summer Games for 2017 will be hosted in Winnipeg from July 28 – August 13th. This will be a special Summer Games as not only is it the 50th Anniversary of the Canada Summer Games, it coincides with Canada's 150th birthday.

Volunteer Manitoba **

Volunteer Manitoba supports groups and individuals in the voluntary sector to develop and their capacity to anticipate, understand, celebrate, and meet community needs in Manitoba.

Volunteer Manitoba is the leader and catalyst for engaging all Manitobans in volunteerism. Their vital contributions to the community include connecting people with volunteer opportunities, promoting volunteerism, and providing leadership and counsel in the voluntary sector.



other media, educational institutions and other key organizations for distribution to their audiences. The Free Press publishes volunteer opportunities on their behalf every Monday.

Training & Development

Throughout the year, Volunteer Manitoba delivers effective, relevant and engaging training for boards, staff and volunteers. Their workshops are a great way to build those essential skills needed for a career in the non-profit and volunteer sectors.

Board Connect, presented by the Winnipeg Foundation, creates a new avenue for boards or standing committees to recruit engaged and motivated leaders who are prepared to serve. In partnership with Leadership Winnipeg, they are engaging the next generation of leaders to ensure continuous capacity building and long-term sustainability.

Youth Resources

Volunteer Manitoba is committed to promoting community engagement to young Manitobans. According to the 2010 Canada Survey of Giving, Volunteering and Participating, 58% of Canadians aged 15-24 are involved in volunteer work.

**Info taken from Stats Canada*

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Manitoba Launches New Chapter of Equal Voice

Equal Voice Manitoba, a chapter of Equal Voice, Canada's only organization dedicated to the equal representation of women in Canadian political office, is holding their launch, Tuesday, November 22nd, 2016, at the Winnipeg Convention Centre, in the VIP Salon, from 5:30-7:30PM.

The formation of a Manitoba chapter is the result of a collaborative effort by women from all major political parties and, in particular, by the initiation of three former MPs, Anita Neville, Dorothy Dobbie, and Judy Wasylycia-Leis.

We would be delighted if you could join us on this historic event. Please RSVP your confirmed attendance by November 18th, 2016 to equalvoicemb@gmail.com.

Charleswood Hosts 2017 Scotties:

The City of Winnipeg along with the Charleswood Curling Club will be hosting the provincial ladies' curling championship from January 25—29, 2017. It will be staged at Eric Coy Arena with Charleswood Curling Club serving as the gathering centre for food and socializing. Winnipeg has not hosted the provincial championship since 2002.



At Myrna's Election as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly with her friends and staff



Myrna was honoured to deliver a presentation on the "100th Anniversary of Woman in Manitoba Getting the Vote", one of the Lecture Series put on by the Charleswood Historical Society



With Sonja Lundstrom at the Lodge Strindberg Swedish Waffle Breakfast at the Legion



Attending a Rotary Dinner with Charleswood Rotarians Dave & Nancy Morris at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights



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Honoured to place a wreath on behalf of the Province of Manitoba at the Remembrance Day Service at Oak Park. We recognize the contributions of all who have served on our behalf.

Thank you once again for your generous contributions to the Shoebox Project. I appreciate that you are all willing to participate in this project which helps women in shelters across the province by reminding them there are people who care.



November
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I invite you to join me for the Christmas Open House at the Legislature on Sat., December 3rd from 1–3pm.

I hope that you and your family will enjoy the time you spend together over the holidays. Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, and best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Myrna



Charleswood Community Leaders Networking Luncheon

Following a community assessment, **Myrna** identified the need for an opportunity for community members to come together to share views about the community in which we live. In order to fill this need, the **Community Leaders Networking Luncheon Series** has been established for the purpose of providing community leaders with an opportunity to network and hear about activities going on in Charleswood. The newsletter, "**The Charleswood Connection**", is also published for the same purpose.