

## **National Volunteer Week is April 16 ? 22]**

Join Volunteer Dufferin and communities across Canada in celebration of National Volunteer Week taking place April 16 through 22, 2023.

This year's theme is "Volunteering Weaves Us Together", which recognizes the incredible role volunteers play in "strengthening the fabric of our community."

From coast, to coast, to coast, volunteers help communities "grow, thrive and create change" with "every action impacting our community, province, and country's overall wellness, now and for future generations."

Sheralyn Roman, Community Engagement Coordinator for Volunteer Dufferin, has this to say about the importance of celebrating the many volunteers who help to shape Dufferin County:

"We all have a gift to share. Whether it's wisdom and experience working with a non-profit Board in a governance role, a willingness to give in a hands-on capacity at your local food bank or you have wealth to contribute, helping a non-profit to meet its financial obligations, your time and talents are the threads that weave us together."

"At Volunteer Dufferin, a supported program of HCIA, we're happy to be able to support our 160 member agencies and 2450+ volunteers to connect with one another in support of improving the well-being of Dufferin County residents. Celebrating National Volunteer Week is just one of the many ways we're able to say thank you to the people who help to shape a vibrant, sustainable and resilient community together."

Throughout Dufferin County, Town and County Councils will be proclaiming National Volunteer Week and participating in various events, both in person and virtually, in celebration of volunteers.

Non-profits are planning specific thank you initiatives including volunteer teas, tokens of appreciation and invitations to special events. Volunteer Dufferin is sharing the message about the importance of volunteering in helping to build a sense of belonging and purpose with the local Rogers TV program Dufferin Life with Teena Avery.

"We appreciate the commitment of our local governments, organizations and businesses in recognizing the important role volunteers play in our communities. There has never been a more urgent need for volunteers. Right now, our local non-profits are in particular need of new members for their boards of directors. If you are looking for a way to make meaningful change, board work is a great way to find that sense of purpose and help shape the future of your community. Volunteer Dufferin is here to help!"

"We match individuals with a broad range of meaningful opportunities through our robust web-based platform that is simple to use, quick and convenient. It's also completely free for all users! In as little as 15 minutes you can log in to our portal, create a profile, identify areas you are interested in and browse available opportunities in the community. You will also receive email notifications when new opportunities match your profile."