The Staff and Board of the GPVSB wishes everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year! Our office is currently closed for the holidays and will reopen in the New Year on January 5th.

We would like to thank our Member Organizations, Board of Directors, Sponsors, Supporters and the community for an amazing 2019. This past year marked our fiftieth anniversary serving the community, which we celebrated with a tree planting ceremony and community BBQ on October 5th at Muskoseepi Park.

Throughout the year our organization has continued to connect volunteers with new opportunities thanks in large part to our Volunteer Directory at gpvsb.volunteergrandeprairie.com. With the help of our sponsor Tim Hortons, we have recognized many individuals with our volunteer recognition program Tim Hortons Volunteers of the Week, with 12 lucky individuals winning the Tim Hortons Volunteer of the Month Draw!

We once again celebrated the volunteer community at our 2 annual events; in April we held the National Volunteer Week Appreciation Luncheon, where we along with presenting sponsor ATCO recognized remarkable youths with the Leaders of Tomorrow Awards. On December 5th community members joined us for the International Volunteer Day Celebration Breakfast, where we awarded the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Awards. For more information on these truly amazing events visit www.volunteergp.com.

In 2019, we continued to help individuals gain the skills they need to be successful with our Wired 2 Hire General and Wired 2 Hire Youth Programs. We encouraged professional development in our sector with our Grant Writing Clinics and computer training courses. We helped our members connect with one another at our network meetings and connect with the public at our Meet Me at the Mall events. As always, we happily assisted many local non-profits with advisory services, grant searches, volunteer needs and numerous other ways.

With 2020 we looked forward to doing it all again and facing new challenges to help our sector and community, Thank you.

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On Saturday October 5\textsuperscript{th}, 2019, GPVSB Staff, Members, friends and family braved the wind and gathered at the Volunteer Grove of Trees, located next to the GP Museum in Muskoseepi Park, to celebrate The Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau’s fiftieth anniversary! We marked this special occasion by dedicating a newly planted tree in the grove to the volunteer and not for profit sector in our region and capped it off by having a community barbeque.

The GPVSB Staff and Board would like to thank every on who joined us to commemorate this milestone. We would also like to thank to the following individuals and organizations for helping us celebrate fifty years; the Grande Prairie & District Pipes and Drums, Grande Prairie Army Cadets, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 54, Mayor Bill Given and the City of Grande Prairie, Reeve Leanne Beaupre and the County of Grande Prairie, South Peace Regional Archives & Phil Linfield and IPAC Services Corporation for helping with the barbeque.
December 5th, 2019 is marked as International Volunteer Day by the United Nations, in recognition of this day the Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau (GPVSB) hosted the Annual International Volunteer Day Celebration Breakfast! The free breakfast, held at the Richmond Reception Centre, shows appreciation to volunteers in our community and around the world. During the annual breakfast the GPVSB presented the 2019 Volunteer of the Year Awards. The awards cover three categories; the Individual Volunteer of the Year (sponsored by the Prairie Mall) that honours an extraordinary resident of the Grande Prairie region whose volunteer contributions in the most recent twelve month period made a considerable impact within the community; the Corporate Volunteer of the Year (sponsored by Servus Credit Union) that recognizes a company or business that, through its staff and policies support volunteerism and made an impact on a not-for-profit organization in the last twelve months; and the Outstanding Members of the Community that pays tribute to individuals, groups and businesses who have improved quality of life in the community through volunteer work. (The 2019 Volunteer of the Year Awards winners are listed on page 4 & 5.)

The Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau would like to thank the Rotary Club of Grande Prairie Barbeque Crew for providing & preparing this year’s breakfast, Safeway for providing juice, Tim Hortons for providing the coffee, and the Richmond Reception Centre for allowing us the use of their facility. Special thanks to: The Prairie Mall and Servus Credit Union for sponsoring the Corporate Volunteer and Volunteer of the Year Awards. Thank you to all the organizations who donated door prizes.

The GPVSB would also like to thank Tom Pura for being our MC and everyone who attended this year’s breakfast.

SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE STAFF & BOARD OF THE GPVSB TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATION FOR SUPPORTING THIS YEARS BREAKFAST:

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DOOR PRIZE DONATIONS: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Grande Prairie & Area; Quality Inn & Suites; Grande Prairie Regional Sport Connection; Better Than Fred's; City of Grande Prairie Crime Prevention; Grande Prairie Tourism Association; Super 8 Hotel; Soleilki Asian Buffet; New Horizon Co-op; Grande Prairie District Branch of Alberta Genealogy Society; Nutrition by Karie - Dietitian/Life Coach; Lazy B Livestock; Canadian Cancer Society; The Knotty Craftsman; Crousse's Cleaners; Beaverlodge Rural Crime Watch; STARS; Coles - Prairie Mall; Grande Prairie Live Theatre; Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society; Mr. Mikes; Northwest Peace FASD Network; Kakwa Toast Masters; North Peace Bracket Racing Association; Fabutan & Hush Lash Studio; Cree8iv Ink Body Studio Ltd.; Shark’s Club; Al’s News; Grande Prairie Auto Repair.
The 2019 Volunteer of the Year: LEANNE VAN WAGNER

Leanne Van Wagner is an energetic and passionate supporter of her community and her gift is helping people. She comes from the tiny community of Hinton Trail and is inspired by seeing what committed individuals can accomplish no matter their home location.

Best known for her vibrant personality and warmth, she has been appropriately nicknamed "The Rainbow Lady". She has supported her community in many ways, first as a business owner for over 18 years operating the Poodle Parlour as well as her work as a holistic practitioner, which gave her the avenue to do what she loved most, helping people.

This passion for helping people lead Leanne to find her way to the Beaverlodge and Area Rural Crime Association, where she now serves as President. Her pivotal role in helping the association grow from a defunct group in 2018 to the vibrant association it is today lead her to be recognized this morning.

Leanne is quick to share credit, though. She speaks highly of her amazing team of volunteers and was adamant that award is a TEAM award and she shares it equally with all those that have put in the hard work along with her.

Leanne is excited to continue to learn and promote Rural Crime Associations as important partners in ensuring that rural citizens feel safe and secure in their communities and on their properties. Our communities are better because of people like Leanne.

2019 Outstanding Members of the Community

JAMIE RIGLER
Jamie Rigler is a long-time community volunteer. She is quiet about what she does and is an ardent supporter of agencies that address human need and the most vulnerable in our society.

CHERYL WEAVER
Cheryl Weaver is a long-time board member and volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters. She is always the first to step up, and her level of vision and dedication is valued by the many organizations she volunteers with.
Executive Driving Services and its owner Gezim Veliu have spent many years quietly doing the hard work behind the scenes for many charities, non-profit and community groups in our area. Gezim and his family landed in Grande Prairie as refugees in the late 90’s and now as a local business owner, he has worked tirelessly to give back to the community who gave him so much.

His company is quick to offer support wherever he sees need. On any given day you might find an Executive Driving Services vehicle delivering milk to a mom who needs it for free, or quietly meeting with city councilors to offer help during hard times.

Over the last year, dozens of organizations have benefitted from their dedication to help others. So many in fact, it is difficult to truly capture it all in the time we have. Their work with the United Way ensured that hundreds of local kids had the supplies they needed for school by not only donating supplies; but also rallying the community behind the project, delivering the supplies, and ensuring that the volunteers stuffing backpacks were fed. When Camp Heal-A-Heart was in need of donations, he once again rallied the community behind the project and ensured that those who needed transport to attend the camp were taken care of.

This is only a small snapshot of the many things Executive Driving Services does for our community. We are so grateful to have leaders like them doing this important work and setting an example for us all to give a little and help a little wherever we can.
Mission Statement: Every life is worth fighting for.

Vision Statement: STARS believes that where you live – or work, play and travel – shouldn’t impact your chance of survival.

“Our strategy focuses on three core groups that are integral to our fight to save lives: our patients, whom we call VIPs (Very Important Patients) and are the main focus of everything we do; our crew who range from the pilots and air medical crew that carry out each mission to our corporate teams that work to raise funds; and our allies who support our ability to be a global leader in critical patient care.”

For almost 35 years, red STAR helicopters have taken flight across Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and parts of British Columbia, fighting for the lives of critically ill and injured patients. According to their website, STARS carried out 2,878 missions in its 2018/19 fiscal year — an average of 8 flights per day! That’s more than 42,000 missions since the non-profit, charitable organization launched in 1985. The three bases in Alberta (Edmonton, Calgary and Grande Prairie) have flown 1,434 missions during the 2018/19 fiscal year, including missions to communities in B.C.

Outside air ambulance flights, STARS also offers outreach and education programs to rural communities, specifically to hospital and medical staff, fire departments, and industry professionals. The STARS Emergency Link Centre provides emergency dispatch and coordination. The industry site registration program allows for easy location identification in cases such as rural oil and gas work. And their work-alone monitoring service gives industry employees and employers peace of mind when employees are working solo.

STARS Development Officer Sally Bellerose emphasizes the importance of volunteers to the agency.

“The gift of time from volunteers at community fundraising events helps to ensure STARS can be there for the next patient who needs us,” she said. “Our volunteer roles can range from selling raffle tickets, working registration tables, helping with event set up or tear down, or pulling winning tickets in our annual province-wide Alberta lottery.”

Even with funding from the federal and provincial governments for STARS’ ambitious fleet renewal program, which is replacing older helicopters with newer models, fundraising is still vital for STARS’ operations.

“We still need to raise millions of dollars – as we always have – to keep our mission in flight. It costs approximately $10 million per year to operate each of our six bases across Western Canada,” stated Sally.

If you’re interested in becoming a volunteer with STARS in the Grande Prairie area contact Sally at 780-830-7007 or email sbellerose@stars.ca. You can also view current openings and apply online at stars.ca/volunteer.

The GPVSDB would like to thank STARS and Sally Bellerose for being part of our Member Spotlight. For more information about this life-saving organization visit stars.ca and follow them on:

- Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/STARSairambulance
- Twitter - https://twitter.com/STARSambulance
- Instagram – https://instagram.com/starsambulance
- LinkedIn - https://www.linkedin.com/company/stars-air-ambulance/
- YouTube - https://www.youtube.com/user/STARSairambulance
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT
FREE workshops for your organization!
- Policy and Procedural Development
- Board Governance Training
- Three (3) free workshops for up to 2 participants each ($300 value) for your organization!

Training topics include: Finance and Accounting, Governance, Technology, Marketing, Time Management, Customer Service, Organizational Change, Community Relations, Professional Skills AND MORE!

PROMOTION & ADVERTISING
Share your events and make connections!
- FREE listing and link to your website on our Members Page
- Meet Me at the Mall - half day promotional spot in the Prairie Mall twice a year
- Promotion of your events on our social media networks and our Community Calendar

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT
Professional advisory & support
- Executive Directors Network Meetings
- Volunteer Coordinators Network Meetings
- Human Resources Functions
- Grant Support
- Interim Management
- Furniture Fair

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES
Save money for your company!
- FREE use of meeting rooms, Zoom Video conference, presentation equipment, loan of library resources AND use of mailing address
- AFFORDABLE printing and copying (high volume scanning capability)
- Access to Adobe Acrobat Pro

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT
Connect with volunteers in our community!
- FREE Listing of Volunteer Opportunities
- Access to Online Volunteer Directory
- Volunteer Appreciation Events
- Volunteer Recognition Programs

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS FEES
Non-Profit: $125.00  Corporate: $200.00

For more information on membership and the benefits of joining contact us at 780-538-2727 or email info@volunteergrandeprairie.com.
Congratulations to the following individuals who were recognized as Volunteers of the Week for the months of September, October & November 2019! All Volunteers of the Week nominees are entered into our Volunteer of the Month Draw.

### SEPTEMBER 2019
**VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK**
- Hiboo Farah - GP Centre for Newcomers
- Diana Beck - North Peace Bracket Racing Association
- Hudan Farah - GP Centre for Newcomers
- Doreen Bezovik - North Peace Bracket Racing Association
- Neimo Farah - GP Centre for Newcomers
- Jirey Mpunga - GP Centre for Newcomers
- Darci Wilson - Northreach Society
- Gemima Kasongo - GP Centre for Newcomers
- Kayla Fraser - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Jeylyn Nunez - GP Centre for Newcomers
- Fraize Castillo - GP Centre for Newcomers
- Diana Ortega Cruz - GP Centre for Newcomers
- KayLien Kruger - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Adrien Tanasichuk - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Tiersa Rast - Big Brothers Big Sisters of GP & Area
- Kevin Bathgate - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Richard Bezovik - North Peace Bracket Racing Association
- Rachel Bibangco - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Mike Biron - North Peace Bracket Racing Association
- Sophie Picard - Volunteer Services Bureau

### OCTOBER 2019
**VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK**
- Carolyn Campbell - North Peace Bracket Racing Association
- Kylie Borden-Wilkens - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Sheri Carter - North Peace Bracket Racing Association
- Carys Hustler - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Pauline P. & her dog Ava - St. John Ambulance
- Kaiden Blakley - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Gary O. - St. John Ambulance
- Gary Kantz - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Julie Fraser - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Jim Bulford - GP District Rural Crime Watch
- Sahaigeet Agnihotri - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Dorothea Bulford - GP District Rural Crime Watch
- Felicity Pirker - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Robert Nelson - Sexsmith FCSS
- Lori Vegso - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Helen Pike - City of GP Crime Prevention
- Darlene Bathgate - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Norah Johnson - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Cathy Botten - Dogs with Wings Assistance Dog Society
- Doug Edey - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Lorraine Heikel - County of GP FCSS

### NOVEMBER 2019
**VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK**
- Jim Wright - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Steve Shumate - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Wendy Trepanier - Council for Lifelong Learning
- Denny Coogan - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Kelly Hollahan - Special Olympics Grande Prairie
- Adelaide Bartel - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Hazel - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Madison VanBeek - Adult Day Program
- Mallory Brown - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Lloyd Fischer – nominated by Jennifer Wiens
- Bernie Seefried - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Denise Sych - Little Ark Academy Preschool
- Hailey Orser - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Julie van Egmond - Pregnant & Parenting Teens
- Kiara Friesen - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Drayden Seefried - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Devon Galway - Sexsmith FCSS
- Cindy Berg - Volunteer Services Bureau
- Ed Pierce - Grande Prairie District Rural Crime Watch Association
- John Gladue - Volunteer Services Bureau
The staff and board of the GPVSB would like to congratulate all our Volunteer of the Month Winners and thank our sponsor Tim Hortons for helping us fuel the volunteers of Grande Prairie & Area.

Volunteers of the Month receive a $100 gift card to Tim Hortons!

The winner of September’s Volunteer of the Month draw is Neimo Farah who was nominated for Volunteers of the Week by the Grande Prairie Centre for Newcomers. Here is a look back at what they had to say about their volunteer:

‘We greatly appreciate time and efforts Neimo put into a display booth for Somalia during Heritage (Kermes) day at the GP Museum. It was so nice to have you there.’

Congratulations Neimo!

The winner of October’s Volunteer of the Month draw is Gary Osborn who was nominated for Volunteers of the Week by St. John Ambulance. Here is a look back at what they had to say about their volunteer:

‘Gary joined the MFR (Medical First Responder Group) in 2016. Since joining he has made quite an impact. Gary has volunteered at Storm home games, local runs and continues to help out when/where he can. We are very thankful for Gary and his contributions to the community. Thanks Gary’

Congratulations Gary!

The winner of November’s Volunteer of the Month draw is Ed Pierce, who was nominated for Volunteers of the Week by The Grande Prairie District Rural Crime Watch Association. Here is a look back at what they had to say about their volunteer:

‘Ed has been the first to step up and take on leadership roles, guiding the organization to ensure its continued success. Ed cares about his community, the needs of their safety and is continually looking for ways to improve systems to get services for crime prevention to county members.’

Congratulations Ed!
Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society

Vision Statement: Bringing the Past into the Present for the Future.

Mission Statement: To Provide Support and Services for People Researching their Family History and Genealogy.

Discovering your family history can be an amazing journey though it may be a little daunting if you don’t know where or how to start. Luckily for residents of Northwestern Alberta the Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society can help. Receiving its Charter on February 28, 1978 from the Alberta Genealogical Society, the purpose of the Grande Prairie and District Branch is to promote interest in family history and genealogical research by providing opportunities for the exchange of genealogical ideas and information.

When asked what programs his organization offers, Grande Prairie Branch President Ed Hall said “We have monthly meetings with educational programs. In partnership with the Grande Prairie Public Library we have a room containing a significant genealogy collection including magazines, books, Canadian Census, and a computer with access to Ancestry.com.” He continues by saying “we offer a Genie service which helps all citizens in their family research; hold presentations to groups in the surrounding area; have workshops/conferences available to the public free of charge; we have an Index to the Obituaries of the Northwest; our Special Interest Group Initiative offers sessions to members and the public on a specific genealogical topics; and our local website contains information about the Branch and its activities.”

Volunteers are a vital part of the agency, Ed shares “Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. We do not have any paid positions, and all are programs and activities are conducted by volunteers. They have the expertise to help people begin their research and to help those with already developed skills break through barriers to further knowledge.” Volunteers currently work on several projects: Genies in the Library; collecting and indexing of obituaries from area newspapers; and photographing & transcribing gravestones in local cemeteries. For more information on becoming a member and/or volunteer with the Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society visit them online at https://abgenealogy.ca/grande-prairie-branch or email gp@abgenealogy.ca.

The GPVSB would like to thank the Grande Prairie and District Branch of the Alberta Genealogical Society and Ed Hall for being part of our Member Spotlight.

ATTENTION GPVSB MEMBER AGENCIES
Has your organization been featured in our MEMBER SPOTLIGHT?
To be in the next spotlight on our website and in our next quarterly newsletter contact communications@volunteergrandeprairie.com
Learn how to organize your information for the Grant Writing process & how to prepare your Grant Proposals in this 2 day hands on course!

ADDED BONUS
Discover the Grant tools & resources available to GPVSB Members!

FEBRUARY 18 & 19
9AM - 4PM
Community Village Building C.
10116-102 Avenue
Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1A1
GPVSB Members - $300
Non-Members - $600

*GPVSB MEMBERS USE YOUR GOLD STARS TO REGISTER FOR FREE!*  

SEATING IS LIMITED MAXIMUM 2 SEATS PER ORGANIZATION

For more information and to register contact us at 780-538-2727 or email info@volunteergp.com

GPVSB MEMBERS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS?
Post your Volunteer Opportunities at https://gpvsb.volunteergrandeprairie.com  
GPVSB Members missing your log-in information for the Volunteer Directory contact us at communications@volunteergrandeprairie.com

Disclaimer: All courses and intellectual materials are sole property of the GPVSB. Publishing and/or copying of this material is strictly prohibited by law. All clinics content & schedules are subject to change without notice.
Are you looking for employment? Having trouble with your resume? Not sure how to find opportunities? Need help with your interview skills? A fundamental component of finding and retaining employment is having the necessary life skills and basic work skills. If you are over the age of 18, have a positive attitude, are willing to learn new skills & take on new challenges, then these FREE courses can help you!

For more Information and to Register contact:
Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau
Community Village, Building C. 10116-102 Ave,
Grande Prairie, Alberta, T8V 1A1
Phone: 780-538-2727 | Fax: 780-539-5986
Email: cdmanager@volunteergp.com
Website: wired2hire.ca Facebook: @Wired2Hire
Help the young people in your life find their path to success with the wired2hire youth program. Young adults between the ages of 16 to 30, living in Grande Prairie or surrounding area can apply now to be part of this amazing part-time program that equips participants with necessary skills to interact & succeed in their volunteer and work positions throughout their lifetime.

To successfully complete this program participants must attend all training / workshops sessions and complete a 25 hours practicum of Volunteer Service!

NEW SESSION STARTING SOON!

Participants receive recognized training & certification in:
- Standard First Aid
- Customer Service
- Food Safety
- Rent Smart
- Alberta Class 7 Drivers Learners Permit
- certification in 2 courses chosen by participant & program instructor.

Participants learn new skills in:
- Communication
- Conflict Resolution
- Assertiveness
- Self-Confidence & Self Esteem
- Stress Management
- Problem Solving
- Resumes & Cover Letters
- More!

Application forms are available online at https://wired2hire.ca

For more information contact:
- Phone: 780-538-2727  Fax: 780-539-5986
- Email: youth@volunteergrandeprairie.com
- Community Village Building C, 10116-102 Ave. Grande Prairie, AB T8V 1A1

Youth Program Supported by:
YOUTHS BETWEEN THE AGES OF 14 TO 24 LOOKING TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGES IN THEIR LIFE AND COMMUNITY CAN SHAPE THEIR FUTURE WITH

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD
CANADA - ALBERTA, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES AND NUNAVUT

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
MEMBERSHIP@VOLUNTEERGP.COM
OR VISIT
WWW.VOLUNTEERGRANDEPRAIRIE.COM

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 19-25

Planning has begun for our National Volunteer Week Annual Appreciation Luncheon and the Leaders of Tomorrow Awards presented by ATCO!

Stay tuned to our website volunteergp.com and our social media sites @gpvsb for updates.

Visit us Online!

www.volunteergp.com | wired2hire.ca
facebook.com/gpvsb twitter.com/gpvsb instagram.com/gpvsb
www.linkedin.com/in/gpvsb thevolunteercommunity.tumblr.com

NOMINATE YOUR VOLUNTEERS FOR

Tim Hortons
VOLUNTEERS OF THE WEEK

Presented by the Grande Prairie Volunteer Services Bureau, this free volunteer recognition program, sponsored by Tim Hortons, is a great way for organizations to honour their outstanding volunteers and let them know how much their efforts are appreciated!

Volunteers who are recognized will receive a $5.00 Gift Card & Travel Mug from Tim Hortons, a certificate of appreciation, public recognition on our website - www.volunteergp.com & our social media sites, they will also have their name printed in our article in Friday's edition of the Daily Herald Tribune on the week they are recognized.

Volunteers of the Week are also entered into the Volunteer of the Month Draw & can win a $100 Gift Card from Tim Hortons!

Nominate your Volunteers today by filling out the online nomination form at www.volunteergp.com

*Nominees are responsible for informing nominee of nomination & arranging pickup of recognition package from GPVSB Office.