

# Rideau Volunteers

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Rideau Environmental Action League



Rideau Canal Museum

*Protecting our cultural history and environmental future*

## **For Immediate Release**

Sept. 10, 2009, Smiths Falls, Ont.

### **REAL/RCM hire Volunteer Co-ordinator, Launch Rideau Volunteers**

The Rideau Environmental Action League and the Rideau Canal Museum have teamed up and hired a Volunteer Co-ordinator.

The position, created for the next two years, was made possible by funding provided by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The co-ordinator will be responsible for recruiting, training and retaining those who wish to help with the successful REAL organization and the high profile Rideau Canal Museum. Volunteers will be helping protect the cultural history and environmental future of the area under the partnership banner, Rideau Volunteers.

“I’m very excited about the possibilities,” said Lynn Preston, the new Volunteer Co-ordinator. “Smiths Falls and the surrounding area are rich in both cultural and natural heritage. I know there are people out there - high school students looking to get their community hours in, recent retirees, history buffs - wanting to support their community and learn about the many natural and historical assets that exist.”

Rideau Volunteers is planning to provide some fun, interesting and educational training opportunities for its volunteers. “We’re hoping this will make the whole volunteer experience even more rewarding,” said Preston. “We’ll be doing workshops, special “insider” training, and some fun events.”

The Rideau Canal Museum is seeking volunteers to help at the front desk and gift shop, to give tours of the museum throughout the year and to assist with its program evenings, such as the upcoming concert slated for Sept. 25. REAL is looking for assistance with its REAL Deal Reuse Store, to deliver some existing environmental programs such as “Take it Back,” “Pitch in Smiths Falls,” to help with shoreline clean ups, climate change activities and public forums such as the one they are planning on Household Energy Savings for Oct. 26 at the RCM. Both organizations are always looking for fundraisers and board members.

“We think that our volunteer co-ordinator will be successful in finding people to undertake the projects we’ve wanted to do for years,” says Barb Hicks, President of REAL. “There’s no shortage of things to do, only the people to help us do them.”

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“We need help at the Museum all year but especially during the off peak season”, says Lisa Bell, Business Manager, Rideau Canal Museum. “We hope new volunteers will come forward once they learn how much fun they can have learning about the past and sharing that knowledge”.

To help out with either the Rideau Canal Museum or REAL or to find out more about the organizations, contact Lynn Preston at [lynn@realdealstore.ca](mailto:lynn@realdealstore.ca) or at 613 283-9500