





Against the backdrop of the global Coronavirus pandemic, the events of 2020/2021 has presented challenges no one was prepared for, changing the way we live and how we connect with each other. Through it all, the Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Rideau saw opportunities to pivot and grow to continue to support the social and economic well-being of the communities we serve.

By working together with community partners, innovative ideas, programs and services and the continued dedication of our volunteers, board members and staff, we will continue to ensure that we uphold the integrity of volunteerism that underpins our vibrant and diverse society and meet the needs of all here in Leeds & Grenville



- ▶ **Community Volunteer Income Tax Program**
- ▶ **Celebrating 37 years of Service**
- ▶ ***Providing free income tax filing to our low-income filers**, had to quickly adapt to the challenges of a global pandemic Our team, together in consultation with CRA and were quickly able to devise a plan to support the tax program throughout Leeds & Grenville.
- ▶ ***5 locations** throughout the tax season and **year-round in Brockville**. Although we have “regional” drop off locations we do not see this as a municipal based program. This is a Leeds & Grenville Program available to all qualified residents no matter where they reside. We are reaching out to all councils in Leeds & Grenville to support this important program as part of their municipal strategy towards poverty reduction
- ▶ ***24 trained volunteers** In a pandemic world they still managed to complete approx. **2600-2800 tax returns**. We still see the opportunity for this number to grow and provide additional rural locations. Municipal offices could become drop-off locations.
- ▶ ***In collaboration with the Tamarack Institute** we completed a **case study** of the financial impact of our CVITP. We estimated this number to be approx. **24 million dollars**. ***24% eligible** Canadians access these free tax clinics. A recent university study estimated that **10-12% of Canadians do not even file their taxes**, missing out on approx. **\$1.7billion** for families and individuals
- ▶ ***CVITP** has been identified as an important and **vital strategy for poverty reduction** not just here in our region but across Canada.

It's TAX TIME.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM COURTESY OF THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE OF ST. LAWRENCE-RIDEAU

FREE TAX SERVICE at 5 locations throughout Leeds & Grenville.

All taxes will be completed by phone appointment and drop off locations with COVID19 protocols in place

INCOME TAX RETURNS DONE FOR LOW-INCOME FILERS (Individual: max \$35,000, Couple: max \$45,000)

Brockville	Phone appointments 613-499-9393 ext 23	Monday – Friday 10am – 2pm	DropBox located at 42 George Street, Brockville, Side door for Volunteer Centre
Prescott	613-246-9133		By Phone Appointment only
Gananoque	Call for appointment 613-382-1085	Monday & Tuesdays 9am – 12pm	KEYS Job Centre 375 William Street - Drop Box Only
Elgin	Phone Appointment Only (613) 359-6000	Beginning March 1st.	Guthrie House
Kemptville	Drop Box only 613-258-6576	Tuesdays & Thursdays 10am – 2pm	CSE Kemptville 125 Prescott St







For more info on Case Study: TamarackCommunity.ca - Leeds Grenville Reduces Poverty Through Tax Filing



Introducing Financial Literacy & Empowerment Program -Building on the success of the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program the Volunteer Centre recognized a need for financial support for our residents and clients.

-gain more **confidence** and **knowledge** with financial matters such as banking, savings, credit, debt and budgeting.

-Delivered by **trained volunteers**, leverages the work of Prosper Canada

-**Initial funding** for this program was provided by the Government of Canada Emergency Response Fund, United Way of Leeds & Grenville and **Brockville & Area Community Foundations**.

-To date delivered **41 adult workshops** with approx. **194 participants**.

-June/21 **focus group** on Youth Financial Literacy.

-Many youth have **limited knowledge** of even basic financial topics and as a result, are unaware of how to access or make the most of their resources. Students/youth from **ages 14-21**, now have the opportunity to engage in **3 - 90 min virtual workshops** over 3 evenings a month focused on helping them gain knowledge, access to resources and confidence about their financial future. Youth are empowered when they are given the opportunity to participate in building financial stability for their future.

-To date we have delivered **15 workshops** with **8-10 youth attending each series**

-Youth who participate are also able to obtain up to **10 community volunteer hours** for their participation.

-Mobilizing volunteer role models and mentors combined with **community collaborations** such as Connect Youth, EEC - YJC program, CSE -Getting Ahead Program we can deliver workshops in a **safe non-judgemental environment** packed with valuable info our participants can relate to and **generate positive attitudes** towards financial education and well-being.

FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM

WORKSHOPS, EDUCATION, RESOURCES

Access valuable tools to gain financial confidence

Learn about ways to protect your financial future

Free Financial Workshops for Adults & Youth

For more info or to pre-register:

613-499-9393 ext. 22

info@volunteercentre.ca

Credit & Debt

Budgeting

Virtual Workshops Available

Banking & Savings



MEMBER AGENCIES & ORGANIZATIONS

55+ Seniors Brockville
Aquatarium
BADACI
Brockville & Area Community Foundations
BACLA
Brockville & District Chamber of Commerce
Brockville Gen. Hospital Vol. Association
Brockville Police
Brockville Public Library
Bytown Brigantine Inc
CNIB
Country Roads Community Health Centre
CSE Prescott, Brockville, Kemptville
Developmental Services of LG
Employment + Education Centre
Ferguson Forest Centre
Habitat for Humanity Thousand Islands
Lanark Leeds Grenville Addictions and Mental Health
Leeds & Grenville Interval House
Leeds, Grenville & Lanark Dist. Health Unit
M.S. Society of Canada - LG
March of Dimes
RNJ Youth Services
Rotary Brockville & 1000 Islands
St John Ambulance
St Lawrence Lodge
South Grenville Food Bank
Township of Leeds & Thousand Islands
Township Front of Yonge
YMCA of Eastern Ontario

For 40 years the Volunteer Centre has developed strategic partnerships with multiple organizations within our region, who provide a variety of services to our community members. We are excited about the impact the Volunteer Centre has here in Leeds & Grenville and we are looking forward to continue this growth in 2022 and beyond.

*Thank You
For
Your Support*

- ▶ Our formal association through memberships with Volunteer Canada, the Ontario Volunteer Centre Network, Tamarack Institute has enhanced our skills and our profile in our community, province and country. These are important associations in our volunteer community.
- ▶ Represent the Volunteer Centre on several advisory tables - Poverty Reduction Alliance of Leeds Grenville and EveryKid in Our Community, Canada Learning Bond National Champions Network to promote Canada Learning Bond and RESP
- ▶ Invited to participate as a stakeholder with FCAC (Financial Consumer Agency of Canada) - Make Change that Counts: National Financial Literacy Strategy 2021-2026.
- ▶ Guest Speaker - Brockville & District Chamber of Commerce | Support, Resources and Training Roundtable
- ▶ Weekly radio spot highlighting volunteerism, our income tax program and financial literacy workshops
- ▶ We are the intake agency for LEAP (low-income energy program) to support residents who are financially struggling to meet their energy costs. One time funding up to \$500
- ▶ Nov. 1st we just launched a National Partnership with Volunteer Calgary as the first Volunteer Centre in Ontario to launch their digital volunteer platform to support our non-profit agencies | organizations and volunteers in Leeds & Grenville.

VolunteerConnector



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP & COLLABORATION



Community Volunteer Impact Awards



- ▶ Adults and Youth from across Leeds and Grenville are recognized for their community contributions at our International Volunteer Day celebration
- ▶ During National Volunteer Week we celebrated the many community volunteers who have played a vital role in supporting our communities
- ▶ Nominations are open now for Dec 5 International Volunteer Day on Dec 5th



Over 100 volunteers interviewed, screened or referred during Covid19

Presented By The Volunteer Centre of St. Lawrence-Bidess
&
The United Way of Leeds Grosvenor



**TURF
TRUST
&
COLLABORATION**

**FEB. 24TH 2020
9:00AM - 4:00PM**

This workshop will provide participants with simple, practical tools and approaches to building trust. Participants will be able to bring these back into their collaborative efforts and renew engagement and shared ownership. Participants in the workshop will walk away with ideas, tools and approaches to effectively engage diverse community partners and intentionally build trusting relationships and collaborative impact.



Workshops and training
for our non-profit
agencies

**VOLUNTEER CENTRE - ORGANIZING
AGENCY FOR 40 COMMUNITY
PARTNERS COMING TOGETHER FOR A
DAY OF LEARNING AND
COLLABORATION**



**TURF, TRUST & COLLABORATION
WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH
TAMARACK INSTITUTE**



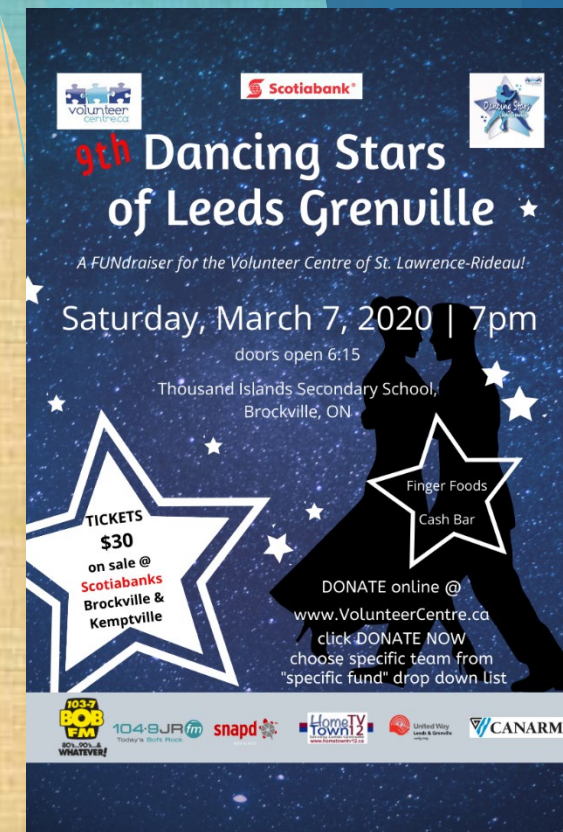


Trade shows & Community Events



Amazing Community Tax Volunteers

Fundraising Events



Raising Community Awareness



Conversations with MPP Steve Clark

DECEMBER 7TH

Financial Literacy & Empowerment Program

CSE Kemptville

1:30 - 3:00 pm

DECEMBER 8TH

Financial Literacy & Empowerment Program

CPHC Brockville

1:30 - 3:00 pm

LEARN HOW TO TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR FINANCES

FREE WORKSHOP SIGN UP TODAY

EMAIL: MVILLENEUVE@VOLUNTEERCENTRE.CA

volunteer centre.ca

United Way Leeds & Grenville | Brockville and Area Community Foundation | Canada | Prosper Canada



Financial Literacy Workshops

THE SWEET LIFE CAFE COOKIES & MORE

FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE OF ST. LAWRENCE-RIDEAU

Oatmeal, chocolate Chip, Chocolate Haystacks, Lemon Crinkle, Gingersnaps

SOLD IN PACKAGES OF 6 (NO MIXING)

\$4 PER PACKAGE WITH \$2 GOING TO THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE OF ST. LAWRENCE-RIDEAU

ORDER JULY 20-25

PICK UP JULY 27 9AM - 2PM



Did you know.....

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, REFERRAL & RECOGNITION

Volunteer Centres exist to foster and develop volunteerism in the community. In general, they do 4 things: Promote Volunteerism, Build Capacity for volunteering, provide leadership on volunteerism, connect people with opportunities to serve. We celebrate National Volunteer Week & International Volunteer Day with Volunteer Recognition events



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM

FOR 37 YEARS THE VOLUNTEER CENTRE HAS DELIVERED THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CANADA REVENUE AGENCY. OUR PROGRAM COMPLETES APPROXIMATELY 2400-3000 TAX RETURNS FOR LOW INCOME TAX FILERS IN LEEDS AND GRENVILLE. SPECIALLY TRAINED VOLUNTEERS CAN HELP YOU COMPLETE YOUR INCOME TAX AND BENEFIT RETURN IF YOUR INCOME IS LOW AND YOUR TAX SITUATION IS SIMPLE.



FINANCIAL LITERACY & EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

OUR STRATEGIC FINANCIAL PROGRAM IS FOCUSED ON HELPING PEOPLE GAIN MORE CONFIDENCE WITH FINANCIAL MATTERS SUCH AS BANKING, SAVINGS, BUDGETING, CREDIT AND DEBT. OUR WORKSHOPS ARE DELIVERED BY TRAINED VOLUNTEERS LEVERAGING THE WORK OF PROSPER CANADA. THEY ARE DESIGNED FOR BOTH ADULTS AND YOUTH AND COMMUNICATED IN WAYS TO MAKE IT EASY TO UNDERSTAND. OUR MATERIAL AND APPROACH IS RELATABLE TO ALL LEARNING STYLES.



VOLUNTEER FAIRS, WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

We offer customized training and workshops to support our non-profit agency members along with opportunities to participate in volunteer and community services expos. We provide assistance and resources to support volunteer programs in our region



VOLUNTEER CENTRE OF ST. LAWRENCE-RIDEAU

SERVING LEEDS & GRENVILLE FOR 40 YEARS

613-499-9393

WWW.VOLUNTEERCENTRE.CA

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VOLUNTEERCENTRESTLR



THANK YOU



Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada



United Way
Leeds & Grenville



BROCKVILLE AND AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
your community foundation