

DID YOU KNOW?


AN INFORMATION SHEET FOR ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEMBERS



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES EXCHANGE

July 1999

Vol. 6 No. 7

 **DID YOU KNOW** that the Volunteer Opportunities Exchange (VOE) is a new and innovative Internet-based system that links volunteers with volunteer placements anywhere in Canada?

This Internet tool allows potential Canadian volunteers to create a profile template of themselves based on their interests and skills. Local divisions of St. John Provincial/Territorial Councils can create descriptions of their available volunteer positions based on a profile template. The VOE uses a sophisticated engine to match potential volunteers to a database of available volunteer programs.

Since both volunteers and agencies use the same template, the match results are much more accurate than those systems that rely on free text key word searches. Volunteers are provided with a list of suitable volunteer opportunities to explore and agencies are given a list of potential volunteers to interview.

In addition to traditional St. John Ambulance Brigade roles, consider these or other positions when designing your volunteer opportunities:

- Technical assistance provided by volunteers online to staff or other volunteers
- Conducting on-line research
- Providing professional consulting expertise (e.g. developing a strategic plan)
- Designing a newsletter or brochure
- Board members

If you wish to post a volunteer position on the VOE, you must:

- go to the VOE web site at <http://www.voe-reb.org/welcome.jhtml>
- choose a user name and password and print it out so that you can log back on later
- register your Division by filling out the short survey and questions
- fill in all the boxes using the checkmarks
- use the Advanced Checklist to showcase needed skills for your volunteer position
- check that your information is correct because potential volunteers will be matched to your Division using this information. Your account will become activated within one business day
- check the VOE regularly. Lots of Canadians are registering every day

Problems? Questions? Contact the VOE System Administrator at 1-800-670-0401, ext 232, or e-mail at: voe-reb@volunteer.va

This service is provided free of charge and was developed by Volunteer Canada in partnership with Human Resources Development Canada and with the support of Industry Canada.