

Volunteer opportunities abound at the Deep Cove Cultural Centre

by

Eileen Smith

THE Deep Cove Cultural Centre turns 21 on March 31. The Centre is the result of several years of fund-raising by the four community groups who call it home. The residents are Deep Cove Stage, First Impressions Theatre, Seymour Art Gallery and Deep Cove Heritage Society. The volunteer run building is managed by the Deep Cove Cultural Society; it has equal representation for each of the resident groups.

The building is a constant beehive of activity and new volunteers are always sought by the groups. There are many positions that do not require a lot of time, and of course the groups also are looking for folks who have lots of time to spare.

The concession in the Centre is run by the Deep Cove Cultural Society. Profits from sales "go into the pot" to help fund the building expenses. Concession Manager, Maureen Houston is looking for people to take turns during scheduled plays. Volunteers are sent a schedule of the night's the concession is required; they reply with dates

they would be available; a schedule is set up and they would come for one evening. Two volunteers per night in concession are required and they attend the show free. If interested contact Maureen Houston at 604-929-1957.

The Seymour Art Gallery is looking for Gallery Shop volunteers to greet visitors and monitor the gallery; assist customers in the Gallery Shop and process sales of locally handmade goods. Training is available for cash and sales transactions and people skills. Requirements are that individuals must like working with the public, are comfortable with simple math and willing to learn. The bonus is acquiring skills for working with the public, ability to handle cash, Visa, MC, and debit machine transactions. The time involves three to four hours per shift, flexible and short term. Call the Seymour Art Gallery at 604-924-1378.

Deep Cove Heritage Society depends on volunteers to help keep its office open during the week. Volunteers greet visitors, both those who are new to the area; others are for-

mer residents returning. Former residents are encouraged to write their stories for the group to preserve and share them. Volunteers are also needed to assist with visual presentations, all the regular office duties, schools' heritage education, community groups, interviews, archiving etc. Help is needed for work in the Heritage Garden, helping to promote Heritage Awareness, participating in Heritage Week, recording change, assisting with refreshments for events, advertising Heritage, newsletters, computer assistance, seeking out partners,

fundraising, joining in on quarterly outings and its list goes on and on. Maybe you want to get involved more fully and become a member of the executive in the future.

The two theatre companies are also looking for volunteers. Many of those already involved, for instance, the set builders, work with both groups. They come in the Sunday following the closing of the previous show. Depending on the set they may come back a few evenings to finish it up. Then the set painters take over. Set painting can be as simple as rolling the walls

or floor or more elaborate work such as applying faux effects or adding baseboards or chair rails. Now that the set is up and painted, it is time to dress it as required by hanging paintings or bringing in a fireplace, etc. All these tasks can be done by volunteers coming in for a few hours or some like to spend many hours to see the whole design through. No experience is necessary. The plays also need people to find or borrow props, and this is an especially good project for folk who love going to garage sales. Costumes are generally, borrowed, purchased, rented

or made, people are needed to search what is already on hand or locate or make items. As well of course needed are actors, directors, technical people, and show promotion. Call Deep Cove Stage at 604-929-3200 or First Impressions Theatre at 604-929-9456 if you have some time to spare.

It takes a lot of people to keep the Deep Cove Cultural Centre strong and the groups are hoping if you are not already, that you will come down and join in the excitement soon. Your talents or soon-to-be new talents will be appreciated.