# NEWS RELEASE - April 16, 2010

## LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THANK VOLUNTEERS

The Regional District of Nanaimo, the District of Lantzville, the City of Parksville, and the Town of Qualicum Beach are thanking local volunteers in advance of National Volunteer Week, April 18-24. Committees and programs for many regional and municipal services depend on volunteers; local emergency programs are also comprised largely of volunteers, who provide services for incidents such as fires, floods, or snowstorms.

All local governments are grateful to volunteers for their generous gift of time and dedication to programs that benefit everyone. They recognize Emergency Program volunteers in Cedar, Extension, Lantzville, the Oceanside Area, and on Gabriola Island for the essential work they do in disaster response and Emergency Social Services. Local governments also thank local Search and Rescue, amateur radio, Salvation Army, Red Cross, and fire department volunteers who make full-scale emergency response possible.

Emergency Social Service volunteers in Cedar, Extension, Lantzville, Oceanside, and on Gabriola Island manage reception centres to ensure people have access to essentials like shelter and food for up to 72 hours if they are forced to leave their home due to an emergency. There are approximately 100 volunteers involved with Emergency Social Services in communities throughout the RDN. In 2009, ESS and Search and Rescue volunteers were on stand by to assist evacuees during floods and extreme storms in Cedar. In recent years volunteers have also provided emergency responses in flood and extreme weather evacuations in Parksville, Coombs, and Cedar.

For more information on National Volunteer week, please visit www.volunteer.ca.nvw.

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