

Volunteer Spotlight Interview



ANNE BOUDREAU

Cydney: What's your day job?

Anne: I'm retired... I worked for the Federal Government for 38 years for the Department of National Defence (DND)... civilian. And I retired 9 years ago. I hate to say it [laughs] but I work full time for Brian, my son. He has Autism, so between looking for work for him, plus he has a business... got him started three years ago, so between managing his business, managing him, managing everything else about him, updating notes on a constant daily basis. I say, I'm working harder now than when I worked!

C: So how did you start volunteering with FIN?

A: A lady who lives across the street... she volunteers for quite a few things. She told me one day about it, so I applied and I've been here since! I think this is my sixth year, I believe. I believe, six or seven, I've lost count now, I should have kept count.

C: What do you look forward to the most every year at FIN?

A: Well first of all, meeting the same people; a lot of the people who volunteer come back year after year like myself. So, and you bond with them in other ways. Like sometimes to bond with them outside of the festival. I love the employees of the festival, they're the greatest people. Last year I volunteered with the Tall Ships and that was fine and dandy, and I volunteer here and there. But I really find I feel like part of a family, you know that you belong. That really is a great feeling. Compared to [volunteering with other organizations]. Yes, they appreciated what you did but you went home and that was it. And I feel like with the contact with FIN over the whole year makes it even better.

I volunteered starting in the church over there when I was 14, I was in the kitchen with my mother. And I just, volunteering, you always get back 8 times more than that you give, and again you meet new people over and over again. It's just a wonderful experience all the way around. I'm so glad, you know, just like everything else you think 'oh why didn't I do this sooner?' but there's a time and place for everything and it was the time.

C: What is your most memorable memory from your time volunteering with FIN?

A: I would think, and I'm just looking back, the first year because I didn't know what to expect. But you know, Rose was very welcoming and that was good and she made me feel very good. Wayne, even though I didn't know him at the time, again, like again, he spoke to me which made me think, 'Wow, you know, I'm not just a nobody.' The first year stands out because I was timid and shy and didn't know what to expect – I'm not a shy person, but you know, embarking on something new, you're kind of set back. So after like, the second year, I was looking forward to it because... I love meeting people, I'm a very social person. I like meeting new people and getting to know them and working with them. Again, you bond with them. So, its just a great feeling.

C: What is your favourite film?

A: My favourite genre is comedy, so anything to do with comedy I love... you see some good ones, you see some bad ones. What I like about the festival is you get the [program], so you can pick and choose.

C: What is your favourite movie snack?

A: I'm a chipaholic! So it would probably be nachos and cheese.