

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION SHOWCASE

Brought to you by Lillooet VolunteerCONNECT, Lillooet Library & Lillooet News



Lillooet Volunteer Connect 2019



BANNERS PROVIDE BEAUTY ALL YEAR LONG

Have you noticed the beautiful colour lining our streets today? The banners fluttering in the wind along Main Street are really popping their colours across our white and grey landscape right now. All the way from Main Street and down Station Hill, they remind us of the many activities and assets our community has to offer. Seeing them against the snowy mountains really reminded me how lucky we are to live in a community where volunteers spend countless hours making our community so vibrant and filled with such beauty.

The banner project was conceived 5-years ago by a group of people who wanted to bring community together while helping to make art accessible to people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. Through an initial grant of \$1000 from the Lillooet Community Fund in 2015, the group has been able to host annual community banner events. Over 65 amateur artists have shared skills, laughter and joy, and over 100 banners have been created. The images are chosen by residents and illustrate the things they and their friends love about our community.

But what does it actually take to get those banners up on the poles? Firstly, there is the volunteer organizing committee that ensures supplies and equipment are ready, who promote the workshops, recruit people, and generally look after all the administrative tasks. Then there are the volunteers who cut out the banners from large bolts of material, sew the edges and make the sleeves top and bottom so they can be hung.

Then there is the professional upholsterer who volunteers her time to put grommets into the banners so they stay in place. Once these jobs are all done, a workshop is organized, taking place over a three to four-week period in the early spring. Local volunteer artists are now ready to invite community members to come out and paint a picture of their choice directly onto the banners. Artists help people create the masterpiece they want to see - helping with design considerations, giving lessons on how to draw, mix colours and apply to the fabric.

Ale Waterhouse-Hayward, one of the masterminds behind the project and a committee member, commented: "the workshops are held in temporarily rented spaces where people come together and where relationships are begun and nurtured through the sharing of the creative process". The Miyazaki Heritage House Society has graciously opened up the House for the workshops over the past few years.

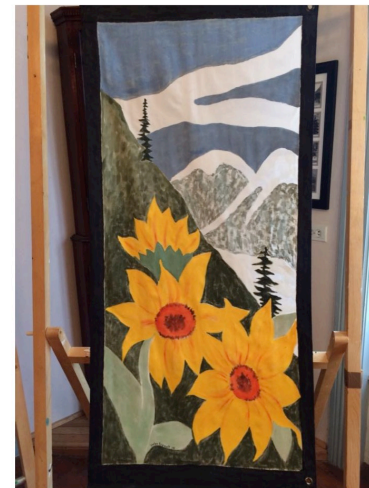
Once the artwork is completed, volunteers install the banners on the BC Hydro poles. Casey from Shaw has been helping do this work for the past several years, as well as making repairs – especially after a logging truck and then a large camper knocked a few down or after the wind creates havoc! However, the banners are pretty tough and many have lasted more than three years out in the wind, sun, rain and snow. But each year some banners are changed out, with many ending up on the REC Centre walls and some going home to makers.

Regular feedback on the banners is very positive from both locals and visitors, and the new additions are eagerly anticipated every year. If you want to see your banner fluttering in the wind, come out and meet all the volunteers at the next workshop - a chance to meet new people, learn new skills, and become part of a community working together to create beauty. Check out the Lillooet Community Banner Project facebook page for more details on how to get involved. Now is the time to get ready!

Lillooet Learns is acting as the umbrella society for this project, and they are currently looking for volunteer board members so they can continue their good work.



*Banner in progress
Felicia Scotchman with
her hummingbird design*



A finished banner