



Volunteer

Homelessness in Canada Part II

It was 1932 and Canada was in the relentless grip of the Great Depression. The country's lifeblood -- exports of natural resources like wheat, lumber, fish and minerals - had all but dried up, plummeting in value from \$1.12 billion in 1929 to \$576 million. More than one out of four people seeking work couldn't find any. Prime Minister R. B. Bennett's Conservative government initially responded to the crisis in 1930 with \$20 million for public works projects. A huge sum for the time, but not nearly enough. Fear of communist rabble-rousers stirring up the wandering unemployed prompted Bennett to establish relief camps, later called slave camps by those who lived there. Run by the Department of National Defence, the camps became powerful symbols of Ottawa's lack of concern for the unemployed. In June 1935, more than 1,000 of these desperate men set out from B.C. to confront Bennett in the nation's capital. Fearing a snowballing rebellion, the government waylaid the "On to Ottawa Trek" in Saskatchewan and, on the July 1 holiday, crushed it in what became known as the Regina riot, the most violent episode of the Great Depression. One man died and more than 100 were injured.

Less than a year later, a federal investigation concluded that maintaining the relief camps was no longer "in the best interests of the state." After housing 170,000 men over 3 1/2 years, they were closed. But for many of the hopeless men who lived in them and took part in the protest, the trek had provided a purpose. One of the organizers of the trek said "We were pretty militant, but we had a reason to be." "If you were going hungry in the richest country in the world, you would have done it too."

- Michael Snider, MacLeans, 07/10/02

Manager, Volunteer Services
antoinette@ourplacesociety.com
or 250-388-7112 Ext. 243



Summer time and the livin' is.....

Personal Belongings

Volunteers are reminded (and strongly encouraged) not to bring personal belongings and valuables with them when they come in for their volunteer shifts. Unfortunately, thefts do occur every now and then, and we are unable to guarantee that your personal items and valuables will be safe here. If you do need to safely secure any belongings, please visit the clothing room, where lockers are provided to volunteers.

Nametags

We ask that all volunteers wear a nametag when they are volunteering for us. We strongly encourage you to use your first name only when you are volunteering for Our Place. Starting July 1, nametags will be available in the program area in which you are volunteering. Please note that you may only wear your nametag when you are actually volunteering. As well, you may not wear your nametag as a representative of Our Place in the commu-

Kudos



To Campbell's Soups for their help in spreading the message about hunger in our country.

Note that since 2008, the increase in food bank usage is up by 15% in B.C. and 61% in Alberta.