

Volunteer Profile Deb Cannon

"I'm blessed by living here. Why wouldn't I give back to my city?" That's how Deb Cannon explains her devotion to volunteering.

"I was born and raised in Vancouver. I can't imagine living anywhere else – in my mind this is the most beautiful city in the world. I want to give back to my city."

Oh, that and she likes to be busy. That last reason turns out to be a bit of an understatement. Deb deals deftly with a full-time job, a part-time job, is a runner and takes on volunteer gigs regularly. This is her seventh year volunteering with the Rio Tinto Alcan Dragon Boat Festival.

"I like being at Racers' Village," she says. "I'm the voice you hear on the speakers all day calling the racers to the marshalling area."

Deb is a former paddler, so when she started as a volunteer her desire was to have a post near the racers.

"I wanted to stay involved, see how all the teams are doing, be part of the action", she says. "It's such a vibrant sport and there's no age or ability limit. I just love being around the racers and the activity and where else can you see seniors kibitzing with teenagers? Plus, I return each year because of the exceptional job by the skilled Festival organizers.

"I work in the medical field so it's in my nature to help, I guess. In Racers' Village we help racers find a lost wrist band, locate their tent, figure out where to hand in their roster, and unite family and friends with the racers. I love that."

Watch for Deb near Racers' Village both Festival race days anytime between 6 am and 6 pm – microphone in hand.

