

## A helping hand at every stage



Dennis Marand received the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002. The Medal was awarded to Canadians who have made outstanding and exemplary contributions to their communities or to Canada as a whole.

Don't ever tell Dennis Marand you don't have time. When it comes to volunteer work, he says he has all the time in the world. Throughout the year, he volunteers for more than six organizations and dozens of events.

Dennis has been a PWGSC employee since 1980, when it was called the Department of Supply Services. Today, he is the Acting Chief of Service Delivery Improvement for End User Service Management at ITSB's Manitoba office.

Although he has no professional training in theatre, he's involved with two different theatre groups year-round. For the past six years, Dennis has been the vice-president of the board of directors of Rainbow Stage, Canada's largest outdoor theatre company.

He has also been volunteering for the North Kildonon Community Players community theatre group for the past ten years, designing and building sets, as well as co-ordinating backstage activities and technical elements.

On top of those commitments, he somehow found time to spend a week co-ordinating volunteers at the CBC Winnipeg Comedy Festival earlier this month.

He says there's never 'not enough time' to do community work.

"Instead of going home to watch television after work, I prepare for events or take part in activities. On my morning and afternoon commute to and from work, I read and do research for the theatre groups or for whatever project I'm working on."

Dennis says he first got involved in theatre when he volunteered to help with his daughters' high school performances. From there, he started doing his own research on designing and building stage sets, lighting and sound design, and developing other theatre skills.

Apart from theatre, his passion is working with youth. Over the past 15 summers, he ran week-long Canadian Labour Congress camps for about 75 youths. He even developed a leadership program to help troubled kids become responsible leaders.

“The kids camp is my favourite volunteer job,” he explains. “It really pays off when we’re able to help just one troubled kid see the light.”

Dennis says he uses his ‘spare time’ trying to keep youth busy with games and activities at the Rossbrooke House — a drop-in centre that aims to keep kids aged 6 to 16 off the streets.

“The way I see it, you get out of life what you put into it. When you help a troubled youth get off the streets, or a local artist enter professional theatre, it really gives you some inner peace, and some momentum to go on and help more people,” says Dennis.

“Seeing life through different people’s eyes is a wonderful thing that I will always find the time for.”

Although he will be eligible for retirement soon, he says he’s having too much fun at work to retire. He enjoys relating his experiences from his volunteer work with his colleagues and tries to encourage them to learn something new every day.

“I believe that if you’re not learning, you should be passing on what you know to others.”

Dennis is one of PWGSC’s volunteers that shine!