

Dorothy Lysons: Variety is the Spice of Life

By Lucy Ernst for the Volunteer Centre of
Camrose and District

Nurturing comes naturally to Dorothy Lysons. She is, after all, a retired nurse. However, this time around she is nurturing the garden at the Camrose Railway Museum & Park.



Dorothy Lysons, who is over 75 years old, spends a great deal of time volunteering at the Camrose Railway Museum & Park. Some of her duties include gardening, preparing meals and serving food at various events that take place at the museum.

“I love the outdoors and gardening; it’s just something I like to do. After I retired from nursing, I thought it would be nice to do some volunteer work. It’s kind of neat to pass on some of your experiences and to help others as well. It’s also nice to learn from others.”

Dorothy’s volunteer roles do not stop short there. Dorothy also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity’s Re-Store, the Camrose Music Festival and the Messiah Lutheran Church. “It’s fun to be with people and I like the variety. Volunteering is worthwhile and needs to be done. I think everybody should volunteer.”

There are often unexpected benefits with volunteering. Dorothy said, “I made a special birthday cake for a little girl for a birthday party booked at the museum. I had made a few daisies on the cake with yellow icing and mini white marshmallows. Later I saw a picture of the cake, taken at the party. That was neat as I never expected that they’d take a picture of it.”

“If I didn’t volunteer I would miss being with special people. I would probably spend more time quilting.” There is evidence of this, as Dorothy completed 19 quilts last winter, as a part of an overseas relief project through her church. “Volunteering gives you an interest outside of your own self. You can share your time and talent and it gives you something to look forward to.”

Dorothy Lysons is another real life example of how volunteering can have an enormous and lasting impact. For help in finding the right volunteer position for you or your family, check our volunteer opportunities at our home page or call the Volunteer Center of Camrose & District at 672-0141.