



A message from CAMRT President, Shirley Bague, RTR, ACR, RTMR



As I reflect on the long list of what our association, the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT), has accomplished in the past year, I marvel again at how much we are able to achieve because we are so rich in volunteer resources. Hundreds of you come forward each and every year – to assist in the creation and validation of our highly regarded certification examinations, to recognize excellence by serving as judges in our awards program, to advise on professional practice developments, or to enthusiastically plan a hospitable and educational annual general conference in your city. I discovered recently that studies the contributions of the 12 million Canadians who volunteer their time to charitable and not-for-profit organizations total the equivalent of 1 million full-time jobs in a year. The work of the scores of our CAMRT volunteers is invaluable and now quantifiable – our volunteers' work is the equivalent of at least fifteen full-time positions. And, as valuable as volunteers are to us as an organization, the work they do has personal value as well. Personally and professionally, I have been enriched by the time I've spent in volunteer activities in my home province and at the national level, acquiring new knowledge, confidence and treasured friends along the way.

As we celebrate **International Volunteer Day** on December 5, I am please to share with you this brief toast, courtesy of Suzanne Hartgraves (Unpublished, Cottonwood, CA, 1996):

*Raise your glasses in the air
And give three rousing cheers
To all of the extraordinary super volunteers
They always share their time
With enthusiastic hearts
They appear from out of nowhere
To do their special parts
Whenever there's a project or a
task to be completed
You can always count on them
They never are defeated
Their smiles are genuine
And their attitudes are winning
Surely they must be the ones
Who keep this old world spinning
So if there is a job to do-
Don't shrink back in fear
Just see out the expertise-
Of a Volunteer*

There are many ways you can contribute as a CAMRT volunteer, whether for a short assignment or a long term appointment. Visit the list of opportunities on our website, or contact the CAMRT office to let staff know of your interest. To all of you who have served our association so well in a volunteer capacity, thank you for all you do.