



Thanks seems not enough

I had trained for months last year to run in the Fallen 4 Marathon. I had never taken on such a physical feat. But when I crossed that finish line and realized what my team had accomplished, I felt such a sense of pride.

I felt that same sense of pride as I sat back at Rotary Park last September and listened to the music of the Stampeders, the Irish Descendants and Streeheart. How amazing was it that these legendary musicians were playing a concert right here in our back yard?

That same amazement of the type of event that could be held in a small town came over me at the Wings Over Whitecourt airshow in 2008. The Canadian Snowbirds were here! Right here in Woodlands County!

People from all over came to the air show, just as they come from all over every November to Fort Assiniboine to take part in the Journey to Bethlehem. It's only one of a few like it held across Canada. And it happens right here in our County!

The list of incredible events held in our County is endless — Fort Assiniboine Hoedown, Whitecourt Woodlands Rodeo, Sled Invasion, Relay for Life, etc.



When things are amazing, one tends to question how in the world they came to be. There is only one answer ... volunteers. If you added up the number of volunteers for just those events, you'd have enough people to populate another Fort Assiniboine.

Across Canada there are an estimated 12.5 million volunteers who in the last year gave 2.1 billion hours of their time. When you hear numbers like that, saying thank you doesn't seem like enough. But if you talk to a volunteer, they don't give their time, talents and skills because they expect a thank you. Nonetheless, volunteers are appreciated.

In March, Woodlands County gave out awards to nine deserving individuals for all they do in our County. Learning how much these individuals give is truly an inspiration. So much of what we enjoy in the County wouldn't be possible without our many volunteers.

April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week and I encourage everyone to stop and take a minute of how your life has been affected by a volunteer. Sometimes thank you doesn't seem like enough, but it certainly is a start.

Your smile for the day ☺

A sign in the front yard of a funeral home says, "Drive Carefully. We'll wait."

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or ideas at jim.rennie@woodlands.ab.ca or at the county office at 780-778-8400.