



## VOLUNTEER INFORMATION PACKAGE

Revised January 2010

*Blessings and thanks to you for your interest in Water Ambassadors Canada.*

Volunteer trips to the developing world are both challenging and exciting.

We wish you well in this life changing adventure!

*Changing lives with clean water.*

Please read all of the information carefully. Completing all of your forms and sending them in quickly helps us to get early booking on flights.

- 1) Fill out and return all forms + photocopy of passport identification page.
- 2) If your passport is not available yet, clearly print your passport legal name and birth date on registration form. We need this for booking airline tickets.

**RETURN ALL FORMS AND PASSPORT PHOTOCOPY WITH YOUR FIRST PAYMENT**

- 3) Contact your doctor or travel clinic (Missionary Health Institute Toronto 416-494-7512) for recommended shots and prescription medications (Cipro and Levaquin).

### **CONTACT NUMBERS**

**Water Ambassadors Canada**

Tel: 416-256-4688

Toll Free: 1-877-988-4688

**Barry Hart:**

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**LWI Houston**

Tel: 281-207-7800

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**EDGE Louisville KY**

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**Puentes de Esperanza Nicaragua**

(Rafael Alvarado: 011-505-8920-6313)

### **THIS PACKAGE CONTAINS**

- Introductory letter with history.
- Trip and date details.
- Sample fund raising letter.
- Packing list.
- Do's and don'ts list.
- Registration and medical forms.
- Code of conduct.

*"but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst..." - John 4:14*

In 2002, Barry Hart and Heather Alloway first heard about the desperate water needs in the world at a presentation by Living Water International.

In 2003, after a training camp, 4 Canadians went to Guatemala to drill a well in a poor village. Following that incredible experience Barry and Heather founded LWI Canada which is now known as Water Ambassadors Canada.

Since then, scores of Canadians from across the country have participated in over 100 projects providing clean water to those who have little or none. Canadians have also supported the sponsorship and repair of wells and the purchase of well drilling equipment.

After air, clean water is most essential for life. People must have clean water and sanitation to maintain health. Over 30 000 children die daily from water related disease. The UN recognizes the need for clean water and sanitation to be the starting point for development. The world battle against HIV AIDS is more effective administering drugs with clean water.

In most areas of the developing world, people, the women and children actually, walk miles a day to dirty, contaminated water holes to get the supply for their families. You would not wash your car tires with the water they use to drink. By providing clean water, you not only improve health immediately but it is the first step in freeing up women to pursue education and revenue producing work for their families.

We provide clean water by drilling wells, repairing wells, donating water filters, setting up water purifier systems and teaching health and hygiene to the local women and children. Water Ambassador volunteers travel to 'Training Camp' in Kentucky to learn these techniques. With your new skills, you then travel to Central America to provide water for the people in a poor village. It is hard, hot work but totally rewarding.

The cost for immunization, travel, meals, accommodation, transportation and your share of the cost of the project is around \$3000 Cdn. We suggest each individual to contribute about \$500 each and ask the churches and community to help with the rest. Tax receipts will be issued.

## **SAMPLE TEAM SCHEDULE**

**TRIP DATES:** Trips are about 8-10 days which includes training in North America or in country. Teams return the following Saturday or Sunday.

**NUMBERS:** A team is usually 6-8 people. Our desire is to have each team be a blend of volunteers who are older/younger (minimum 15 years), male/female, from a variety of churches, services clubs and businesses.

**COST:** \$3,000 pp (Tax deductible)

If you receive 'cash' donations, deposit them all into your chequing account and send one cheque and a list of names, addresses and amounts of each donor.

Check with your church, service club, school or employer as they may have funds to donate. Please make sure that the contact information for each donor is complete for receipting purposes.

Make cheques (preferred rather than cash) payable to:

**Water Ambassadors Canada**  
with the "name of the volunteer(s)"  
and **trip date**  
on the cheque memo.

## **PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION SCHEDULE**

### **3 MONTHS PRIOR**

Forms in + photocopy of passport if available  
+ first installment of \$1,000.  
Passport in process. Shots started.  
(Attend to prescription & dental needs).

### **2 MONTHS PRIOR**

Second Installment of \$ 1,000

### **1 MONTH PRIOR**

Third Installment of \$ 1,000.  
Passports and shots completed.

**PRIOR TO TRIP** Potluck dinner with spouses.

### **TRIP!!**

### **1 MONTH AFTER**

Debrief over coffee & dessert. Location TBA by team leader.

## **IMPORTANT PASSPORT REQUIREMENTS**

Many countries require that the passport still be valid up to 6 months prior to entering the country. At time of printing the requirements were:

Guatemala: just valid

El Salvador: 6 months

Nicaragua: 6 months

Honduras: 3 months.

Google "Passport valid country name" to get the latest information.

## **SAMPLE FUND RAISING LETTER**

Send to church family, relatives, neighbours, friends, service clubs, customers, business/work associates, your doctor/dentist/lawyer, local businesses, etc.

Dear Larry;

I have recently heard of an organization called Water Ambassadors Canada. They help provide clean water in the developing world. This organization operates much like Habitat For Humanity in that volunteers provide the labour. They drill or repair wells, provide water filters, purifiers systems and teach health and hygiene. It is difficult to imagine not having clean water available. We have so much water in Canada that we play on it!

I have recently learned some sad statistics. Over 1 billion people lack access to clean water. Over 2.3 billion people lack basic sanitation. Preventable water related disease kills over 30,000 people daily (mostly children). A child dies every 8 seconds from bad water. That means that every 10 days, a 'Tsunami' of people die from drinking bad water.

In the developing world, women and children walk miles daily to contaminated water holes. You would not wash your tires in the water they have to drink. By providing clean, available water, you not only improve health immediately, but it is the first step in freeing up women to pursue education and revenue producing work for their families. One woman asked if it was true that North Americans use tap water to flush their toilets!

The UN recognizes the need for clean water to be the starting point for development. The world battle against HIV AIDS starts with administering drugs with clean water.

Water Ambassadors Canada is a fully registered Canadian charity. Scores of Canadians have since joined this effort by donating time, money and prayer. The first all Canadian team went in November 2004. I want to take part in this. There is a team forming up for a trip to \_\_\_\_\_ in <INSERT DATE>. The total cost for each person is \$3,000 (Cdn). This includes all immunization, travel, all ground transportation, accommodation, meals and the shared cost of the water project.

Could you help me finance this trip? I have put up \$500 (Cdn) personally and several friends and relatives are pitching in. I am asking you to consider donating \$100 which is the same as a tank of gas in a pick up truck or the price of 4 CD's. A \$100 donation now will be a tax credit in the spring and end up saving you close to \$50. Receipts will be issued from Water Ambassadors Canada.

Could you prayerfully consider this request? Make cheques payable to Water Ambassadors Canada and put my name and date of the trip on the memo line.

Thank you for your consideration. Blessings to you!!

Joe Smith

PS I'll get you a picture of me in the village next to the clean water.

## **SUGGESTED PACKING LIST FOR TRIPS**

You are allowed 1 carry-on (4.5 kg/10 lbs) and 1 checked bag (max. 23 kg/50 pounds). Overweight bags and extra bags cost \$25.

1. Valid passport and a photocopy of it. (Kept in a money belt or secure pouch)
2. Health documents/copies/ID
3. Copy of e-ticket and itinerary
4. Meds: Cipro & Levaquin (both need a prescription) Imodium, Tylenol
5. Toiletries: soap, shampoo, personal pills, hand sanitizer, tooth paste, etc.
6. Bath towel and face cloth. Travel quick dry types are handy
7. Flip-flops for showers
8. Work clothes (long pants). Note: Cotton is cooler!
9. Leather gloves & earplugs
10. Work boots (and plastic bag to bring them home)
11. Insect repellent
12. Sun screen, brimmed hat, bandana cotton cloth, sun/safety specs
14. Light jacket
15. Rain gear (seasonal)
16. Battery travel alarm
17. Small flashlight & batteries
18. Camera and extra batteries/charger
19. Water bottle
20. Water Ambassadors T-shirt, wear to airport
21. Some US cash for souvenirs

## **DO'S AND DON'TS WHILE TRAVELING ABROAD:**

1. Leave your valuables at home (watch, jewelry, etc).
2. Carry your passport and a photocopy of it and health ID separately. You can leave your wallet at home. All your expenses are covered. Bring only cash for family gifts/souvenirs. Use US cash. Canadian funds are not accepted and Travelers' cheques can be a hassle to change.
3. Drink only bottled water and lots of it! Do not drink tap water. Do not have ice in drinks. Do not eat salads or uncooked veggies. Brush your teeth with bottled water. Keep your mouth closed in the shower. Do not drink rice water or anything that you have not checked with your leader about.
4. Wear sunscreen on the site and always wear your hard/shade hat.
5. Stick together. We may be in more than one vehicle. Don't get left behind. There will be no jogging, walking or shopping without the team leader.
6. Toilet paper does not go down the toilet. Put it in the basket by the commode.
7. Mangoes are a laxative. Do not eat more than 1 per day.
8. Do not eat uncooked shrimp or oysters. Do not eat food from street vendors.
9. Driving habits are poor in these countries. Cross the streets carefully!
10. Please do not bring candy. Bring a few Frisbees, soccer balls, stickers, etc. for the kids.
11. Wear comfortable modest clothing. Shorts, tank tops and muscle shirts are not acceptable. Clothes should be loose fitting to allow movement. At the work site, you may get muddy, hot, wet and greasy. Bring 1 nice outfit for our last night dinner out.
12. Do not give out your phone number or address.
13. Do not give tips/cash or personal gifts to the people in the village or to the in-country staff! In many cultures, the local people have a distrust of federal systems. We are there to provide clean water and not to overtly support our own government or country. Please do not bring or display or distribute Canadian flags, T-shirts, towels, pins etc. We must be respectful to our American hosting agencies and to our in country people.