

**Dorset Park  
Neighborhood  
Association**

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# DORSET PARK

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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### Dorset Park Day Celebration 2015

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 we held a Dorset Park Day Community Celebration event at McGregor Park Community Recreation Centre. This event has become a tradition of sorts for the residents of this community. Over 800 participants attended the event this year, who were able to enjoy a day filled with games, prizes, food, bounce castle, obstacle course, and most of all having a good time connecting with others within their community! The highlight of the event was quite obviously the amazingly talented performances from the many youth and residents within Dorset Park!

Activities included face painting, henna, air brush tattoos provided by Toronto Public Library, games provided by the City of Toronto and Salvation Army who always has some great snack and drinks for everyone to enjoy. The Movement and ROPE teamed up to provide the first ever Dorset Park Awards! Where residents, families, businesses, and neighbours were all recognized for their community involvement and commitment! The movement also contributed and organized all performances and entertainment for the entire day! A big THANK YOU goes out to these two groups! This has been an event that has helped many community residents connect with others neighbourhoods. It has been amazing to see the relationships and networks that are developed. This event has been great for the Dorset Park Community for years and we look forward to seeing its success for years to come. All agencies and organizations involved went above and beyond what was expected of them to make this a great event! Special Thanks goes out to: The Movement, ROPE, Action for Neighbourhood Change, City of Toronto (Parks, Forestry & Recreation), Agincourt Community Services Association, Toronto Public Library (McGregor Branch), Salvation Army, Rosalie Hall, Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association, Local Immigration Partnerships, and TORCH.

*Thanks to Aleem Sufi*



## Dorset Park Community Garden

The Dorset Park Community Garden had a great start to the gardening season this year (2015). We started out by preparing our plots for planting, cleaning out debris that had accumulated during the winter and adding fresh soil where needed. Thanks to Christine Markwell for her donation to the community garden of an ample supply of seeds from the Food Bank. These included an assortment of flower, vegetable and herb seeds.

In April we partnered with the city and Juan Sanchez on a series of workshops on gardening; both indoor and outdoor gardening. Among other things residents learned which plants were good for cleaning the air in their homes.

The Community Garden group took a few trips this year; the one that generated the most excitement was the trip to Whittamore's Farm to go strawberry picking. The response was overwhelming, a waiting list had to be created. The bus filled up on the first day of registration. The invitation was opened up not only to the Garden group, but to the community. Special thanks to Molly Barnes, CAS for providing the funding for the bus.

Families were delighted to give their children the experience of going to the farm to pick strawberries. After picking and sampling (smile) the berries the group had a picnic lunch beside the bus. The children had a lot of fun playing tag, blowing bubbles and just running around. The adults talked and socialized, as they kept an eye on the children. It was a great time for everyone and something we would like to experience again. On a footnote, we had a senior on our trip, they were from another country, had lived here in Canada for years and had always thought that strawberries grew on trees. She laughed as she shared this with a couple of us.

*Thanks to Helen Clyde*



## Canada-Ontario Job Grant

The Canada-Ontario Job Grant (the Job Grant) provides an opportunity for employers to invest in their workforce, with help from the government.

The Job Grant will provide direct financial support to individual employers who wish to purchase training for their employees. It is currently available to small, medium and large businesses with a plan to deliver short-term training to existing and new employees, and will:

- Provide up to \$10,000 in government support per person for training costs.
- Require employers to contribute one-third of the total costs. There will be additional flexibility for small businesses to provide an in-kind contribution towards their share of the costs.
- Require training to be delivered by an eligible, third-party trainer.

If you're an employer with a particular skills demand, the Canada-Ontario Job Grant might be right for you. Applications will be accepted on an ongoing basis, for assistance with the application process please contact **Idil Osman Jama at 416 264 2100 Ext. 224. Or email her at [ijama@careerfoundation.org](mailto:ijama@careerfoundation.org)**

*Thanks to Idil Osman Jama*

## Action For Neighbourhood Change (ANC) - Final Round of Resident Action Grant

Dorset Park underwent a Resident Action Grant process and has approved 7 applications: Empowering Girls, Happy Women's Club, Homework Club, International Language Class. Seniors' Café, Summer Fun Trip, Zumba for Women. Thanks goes to all the residents who went through this competitive process and want to make the community a better place for everyone.

*Special thanks to Abeer Ali for coordinating and administering the resident action grants.*

## Dorset Park Community Hub

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, a documentary on diabetes was screened at the hub. 15 seniors attended the screening and discussion afterwards.

DP Hub is getting ready for the summer program that will have 60 children from the community in a camp setting at the hub. This program is free of charge and offered to the children of Dorset Park only.

Senior Health and Wellness programs such as healthy eating, walking club and cooking classes will take place over summer at the hub.

There will be new programs starting in September at the hub. We are adding another partner to our hub. Toronto CPR – Red Cross Training Partner will be occupying an office space starting September.

*Thanks to Gajay Selvarajah*

## Young Parent Hub



The Young Parent Hub is a service provided by Rosalie Hall for youth up to 25 years of age that are pregnant and/or parenting. This service is provided every Monday and Thursday from 4:30pm-6:30pm.

Monday's program includes a fathers group (Just Dads) for young men with children ages 0-6, looking for resources about fatherhood, family, employment, life with child and/or partner etc. The Growing Healthy Together Prenatal Nutrition Program and Living and Learning with Baby hosted by Toronto Public Health are also Monday nights at Rosalie Hall.

Thursday's program, Parents V.I.B.E (Vision Inspired by Each other) is for pregnant and/or parenting youth. This group is not just for women, fathers or expectant fathers can attend as well. Parents V.I.B.E offer groups on various healthy living discussion on topics such as relationships and communication as well as fun activities along with a light dinner and tokens.

All programs are held at Rosalie Hall 3020 Lawrence Avenue East from 4:30pm-6:30pm. For further information please contact Emelda Hodiwala, Community Counsellor @ 416-438-6880 ext 225

*Thanks to Emelda Hodiwala*

## Dorset Park Safety Ambassadors

The Dorset Park Safety Ambassadors were very excited to have Mike Alder, from the Scarborough Mirror visit the group at the Dorset Park Community Hub on Tuesday June 16, 2015. We would like to thank our local councillor M. Norm Kelly and his staff Lynda, who were very supportive of the Dorset Park Safety Ambassadors while collecting signatures for a petition to install speed humps on Antrim Crescent. The group would also like to thank the property management, superintendents, and maintenance staff who gave the group permission to speak to residents in the buildings on Antrim Crescent. We would also like to thank the residents in the apartment buildings and townhouses on Antrim Crescent for signing the petition. Without all of this support the task would not be possible. It was a pleasure working with dedicated group of volunteers. The group is determined to continue working towards our goal: safety of our neighbourhood. We would like to thank Mike Alder, from the Scarborough Mirror, for writing an article about the groups work on collecting petitions to install speed humps on Antrim Crescent. Please see the link below to read the article.

<http://www.insidetoronto.com/news-story/5702357-speed-humps-sought-on-antrim-crescent/>

We are inviting community members to visit the group.

Next Event:

The monthly Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) meeting is coming to The Dorset Park Community Hub on Monday July 27, 2015 from 7-8 PM. We are inviting all community members.



Staff photo/MIKE ADLER-Dorset Park Safety Ambassadors, including this group at the Dorset Park Community Hub, proved to the City of Toronto that many residents want concrete speed humps installed to stop speeding on Antrim Crescent

*Thanks to Donna Robinson*

### Pedestrian/Street Safety

- The city has replaced the Garbage Dispenser at Kennedy Commons Mall bus stop
- The bus shelter and garbage dispenser at Ellesmere and Pharmacy on the Southwest corner is supposed to be in by the end of July.
- Thanks to neighbour Len from 41 Antrim for pointing out the Blocked Catch Basin and boulevard pot holes. The city addressed these issues within days. After checking again this A.M. (July 7) I note the catch basin by the Antrim/Dundalk stop sign is almost blocked again. I will advise 311 that it is an issue that requires the city to address more frequently.

*Thanks to Sandra Low*

## 6 Tips for Keeping You and Your Family Sun Safe

Summer is here and everyone is enjoying the outdoors. Yet, the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays can damage your skin and eyes. Be sun smart!

**Limit time in the sun when the UV Index is three or greater**, usually between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**Seek shade.** Do activities under a tree or create shade with an umbrella.

**Wear a hat.** Use sunscreen on your face, ears and neck.

**Cover up with clothes.** Apply sunscreen under sheer clothing.

**Wear sunglasses with 100% UV protection.**

**Before going outside, apply a sunscreen that protects against UVA and UVB, with SPF 15 or higher.**

Reapply every two hours or after swimming, sweating or toweling off. No sunscreen protects 100%. Use it with other sun safety tips.

For more information contact Toronto Public Health 416-338-7600.

*Thanks to Gina Ing*



## Samriya Banu's start with English Circle For Women.

Samriya started to attend the English for Women classes at south side of Dorset Park every Wednesday and Friday since 2013. She attended all the workshop that happened with English. She also attended the citizenship preparation class offered by the newcomer center. After her experience she was prepared and was able to pass her citizenship test. Soon Samriya started to volunteer and do outreach in the community and help out at special events.

I soon found out she had many other skills including sewing. I encouraged her to teach sewing class at our Community Hub. Since September 2014 she been volunteering to teach the sewing class and has 10 ladies learning to sew money purse, sofa pillow covers etc.

On March break the group did a fundraiser which was very successful and the sewing members decided to continue with the sewing group in the future.

Testimony

At this time, I really want to thank Suganthine because she is the one who introduced me to this sewing class. This has been a great experience for me. I have gained confidence to participate in the community. Thank you as well to my class. I tried my best to teach you about sewing and I hope you have learned something.

*Thanks to Suganthine Sivakumar & Samriya Banu*

## Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association

### Vision:

We dream of a safe Dorset Park where people know their neighbours, take pride over their community and are able to access programming.

### Priority Areas:

- 1. Safety
- 2. Program/Services

3. Food Security/Community Garden

4. Employment

5. Communications

If you would like to get involved please call 416-292-6912 ext 315

[www.DorsetPark.com](http://www.DorsetPark.com)

*Call for Submissions*

Everything about the Community



The Dorset Park Community Newsletter is calling for submissions focusing on safety, programming, food security/gardening, programs, employment and or other topics of interest to the Dorset Park community. Please email your submission to

[gmlsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com](mailto:gmlsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com)

416-292-6912 ext 316



*Supported by*

