

**Dorset Park
Neighborhood
Association**

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DORSET PARK

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Dorset Park Community Garden

Helen Clyke has been living in Dorset Park since 1995 and is an active member of the Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association. This year Helen, along with other vibrant Dorset Park resident volunteers, helped to organize a dynamic resident-led garden project called "Transformed Spaces, Transformed Lives". This project was funded by the City of Toronto and the Home Depot Foundation. The vision of this project was to engage residents around issues of food security, raise environmental awareness concerning the growth and consumption of food, and teach them and others through them how to creatively grow their own produce.

From the onset of this ambitious project, Helen was instrumental. She

helped to set up an information booth to sign up interested gardeners. She also volunteered to undertake a Container Gardening Train-the-Trainer workshop offered by the Toronto Green Community and returned to the neighbourhood to lead a series of educational workshops. Additionally, she rolled up her sleeves along with other energetic volunteers and built the fence which surrounds the newly created plot garden located at 6 Glamorgan Ave. – green space which has been generously donated for this project by Toronto Community Housing Corporation. She is also an avid gardener herself! Below is an excerpt from a recent interview of this neighbourhood champion.

Thanks to Margaret Brimpong

How did you become involved in this amazing green project?

A few years back at a Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association meeting we discussed getting a garden going in the community. The community was interested and one of my personal goals was to garden.

How did you initially see your role to be with respect to bringing a garden to the community?

My role? It was not what I expected it to be! I didn't know I would be a leader. I did not want to lead and I did not want the responsibility.

I was offered the chance to attend a container gardening workshop but I did not know it was a Train-The-Trainer workshop

that I attended. When I started to train others I initially didn't like it but eventually I got used to it and started to build relationships and get other people involved in the process.

I feel proud of myself, the residents, and ACSA because, despite the challenges, we did not let this drop. A lot of people would have been disappointed.

What was the highlight of your learning experience?

Building the garden fence. I never built a fence before but the process was fascinating. Different people came together, overcame language barriers, found different ways to communicate. We learned about different building materials - the quick cement set very fast! The learning was good and the process was good.

Dave from the East Scarborough Community Garden Association led us in constructing and putting up the fence. His expertise was good. He was patient with the volunteers and he overcame language barriers with a show and tell communication style.

What has been the response to the garden initiative so far?

The community response has been very positive. Many residents say that they are interested in starting their own container and plot gardens for next year.

What is the next step for you?

So far I have led container gardening and organic pesticide workshops. Next, I will be doing composting and fall/winter container workshop. After that, we'll go from there!

Thanks to Helen Clyke

FREE Fall Programs

English Circle for Women- Mondays & Tuesdays 9-12 pm at 6 Glamorgan

Ontario Early Years Drop-in Program
Wednesdays 9:30-11:30 am and
Thursdays 1-3 pm at 6 Glamorgan.
416-299-9872

After School program-3:30-5:30 pm at
6 Glamorgan. 416-299-9872

Big Kids Club-Wednesdays 1-3 pm at
6 Glamorgan. 416-299-9872

LIP South Scarborough- Information
Fair & Community Summit **.Nov. 8,**

2011 at the Scarborough Civic Centre
416.757.7010 ext. 214.

McGregor Library-416-396-3609

-Children's Story Times
October and November 2011

-Culture Days: Jazz Workshop
Saturday October 1, 2011, 1:00 pm -
4:00 pm

-Heure du Conte/French Story time
Tuesdays November 8, 15, 22, 29, 6:45
pm - 7:30 pm

-MAP Family Saturdays - Toronto His-
toric Museums: Scarborough Museum
Saturday October 22, 2011, 2:00 p.m.
- 3:00 p.m.

McGregor Recreation Centre

Mon-Friday FREE drop in programs for
youth 13-24, starting Sept 26th 3:30-
5:30pm. Barcode to register 1874518

416.396.4921 or

mbozdar@toronto.ca

Soccer Club, Tuesday 6-8pm at Gla-
morgan Park.416-302-3089 6-12yrs
\$20.00 Administration Fee

International Language Class,
Wednesday 6-8pm at Glamorgan
Jr.PS. \$20.00 Administration Fee

Youth Vision In Action (YVIA)

Dorset Park's Youth Vision In Action (YVIA) consists of three members: Jeanine Farmer, Chantal Sathi and Karar Jafar. Their fire torch has been burning for three consecutive years since the initiative started in Dorset Park Community. Change is a vague concept that is used now a days, but the YVIA's are about the implementation of an accurate, specific and achievable goal. They lay down the steps and pursue a practical vision in which they know can consolidate the youth and unify and strengthen the Dorset Park Community. Their mission is to empower and develop young people's capacity by engaging them in programs, workshops, trainings and events. In the past they have encouraged students to participate in soccer tournaments, debates about healthy relationships, free CPR training, Yoga and various volunteer opportunities.

Some of their major achievements include the creation of a youth space inside Newcomers Centre at 1911 Kennedy road and a free retreat for 25 youths from the Dorset Community that included proactive learning and fun activities. The YVIA's looking forward to another successful year where they can connect youth with jobs or volunteer opportunities. If you have any inquiries, please feel free to contact them:

dpyvia@gmail.com (416) 332- 0997

Thanks to Chantal, Karar & Jeanine

Free Dental Program

The provincial government introduced a new dental program, "Healthy Smiles Ontario" (HSO) for eligible children and youth 0-17 years old. The objective of HSO is to allow children and youth to get regular dental care to prevent cavities and gum disease. The HSO covers regular visits to a licensed dentist or dental hygienist. Services covered include examinations, x-rays, fillings, extractions, cleaning and root canal treatment. Braces and teeth whitening are not covered. To be eligible, children and youth must be 17 years old or younger, their families must be residents of Ontario, must not have dental insurance, or be covered by any other government dental programs e.g. Ontario Works and the family's Adjusted Family Net Income (AFNI) must be \$20,000 or less. AFNI is calculated on income tax. Proof of income, date of birth and address is required.

However if families do not have documents, they can self declare that they are eligible and get someone in their community like a doctor, nurse, a well known community worker, a leader of a faith institution etc to guarantee that they are eligible. The guarantor will be required to sign a form confirming eligibility of the family. Once enrolled you will be issued a card that you can take to any dentist or dental hygienist to get dental care.

To find out if you are eligible call 311. If you are not eligible for HSO, you may be eligible for other dental programs. So call.

Thanks to Dr. Hazel Stewart

Back To School Fun Festival

In partnership with the Newcomer centre, City of Toronto-Parks Recreation & Action for Neighborhood Change, hosted a "back to school fun festival" event for new comers, children, families and Youth in the Dorset Park Community on Saturday August 20, 2011.

The purpose of this event was to provide a social atmosphere for 250-300 people. The event was fo-

cused on Children and Youth however, it accommodated all ages and families. This fun event had games and activities, the participants had an opportunity to make new friends and work with others in the community. With the assistance of the Toronto Police we provided a valued social experience and brought the community together while preparing them for School.

The majority of our attendees were newcomers and low income families. We work in a priority neighbourhood and had a great opportunity to put on a free event. We also provided the students with a door prize which had a backpack filled with goodies to help the parents with the cost of going back to school.

Thanks to Maggie Bozdarov

Back to School



Community Garden Members



Youth Vision in Action



Dorset Park Hub: Progress Update

Exciting progress is being made on the Dorset Park Community Hub! With thanks to Agincourt Community Services Association, United Way Toronto and the best Steering Committee in the city - the final pieces are now being put into place, and we are one permit and eight weeks of renovations away from opening the doors to much needed community gathering spaces and a wide ranging suit of supportive services and

opportunities for residents throughout Dorset Park.

Serving the entire Dorset Park neighbourhood and beyond, the 10,000 square foot accessible space will offer FREE, year-round services to seniors, newcomers, parents, children, youth and others in need of a variety of supports. If all goes according to plan, we will be opening our doors to residents this fall. Stay

tuned for more information to come about the official launch, which will be an exciting, fun and food-filled event for the entire community!!!

Please contact the Neighbourhood Association at 416-332-0997 or dorset-parkna@gmail.com for more information or to stay up to date with the latest details of the launch party as they emerge.

Thanks to Bryan Heal

Youth Vision in Action Participants



Community Garden



CPR Training



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. Promoting a safe community.
2. Increasing accessibility to affordable programming and services for all age groups and backgrounds.

3. Promoting unification projects where residents can get to know one another.
4. Promoting beautification projects where people can feel proud about living in their community.

The Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association has 15 really consistent members, 20 more who come and go and many others on a general contact list. If you would like to get involved, please call 416-332-0997 or email us at dorsetparkna@gmail.com.

FREE MONEY. FOR YOUR KIDS. YES, REALLY.

Canada Learning Bond

You can get up to \$2,000 in free education money...REALLY! All you have to do is open a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP). You don't have to put any of your money into the plan to get this money from the Government of Canada. When you open an RESP, the Government will deposit \$500 right away and could deposit up to \$1,500 more by the time your child is 15. That's up to \$2,000 for your child's education after high school.

www.smartsaver.org | Info@smartsaver.org | (416) 966-2286

Printing courtesy of



Call for Submissions

The Dorset Park Community Newsletter is calling for submissions focusing on safety, programming, unification and beautification or any other topics of interest to the Dorset Park community. Please email your submission

To dorsetparkna@gmail.com. The deadline for the next issue is December 1, 2011.



Dorset Park Youth Council (DPYAC)

Dorset park youth advisory council is a panel of youth dedicated to civic engagement and community development. Some projects include McGregor park recreation centre sports pad and youth lounge. DPYAC has been in the Dorset park community since 2008.

wayne.connell,jr@gmail.com

Thanks to Wayne Connell

Supported by

