

**Dorset Park  
Neighborhood  
Association**

416-332-0997  
dorsetparkna@gmail.com

# DORSET PARK

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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### About Dorset Park

Dorset Park is a growing community in Scarborough, Ontario. The neighbourhood is bordered by Highway 401, Midland Avenue, Birchmount Road and Flora Drive (the hydro line). In the early 1900's, the area was largely agricultural, originally named after a village in England. At present, Dorset Park has become a booming suburb of Toronto with a population of just over 24,000.

Dorset Park has a mixture of dwellings with a concentration of high rises to the north and houses and townhouses to the south. The area most known in

Dorset Park is the strip running along Kennedy that is filled with big box stores, computer shops and furniture stores.

The area is quite diverse with many residents speaking languages other than English at home. The two main pockets of languages spoken other than English are Tamil and Chinese, but you will find many other languages being spoken in the area including Tagalog, Gujarati, Urdu, Arabic and many more. Well over half of the population immigrated to Canada after 1991 and 33%

have immigrated here after 2001.

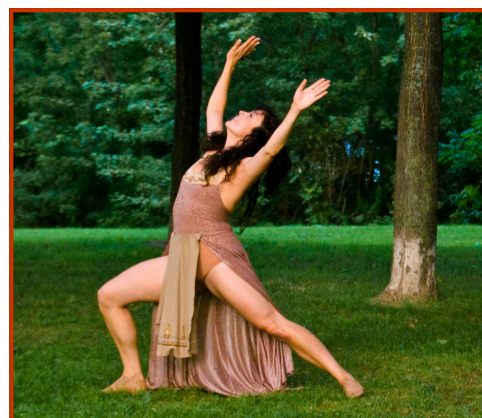


### Dorset Park Day 2011

Dorset Park Day is an annual community festival where residents, service providers, businesses, politicians and many more come and celebrate the Dorset Park community. It is a day where people can meet their neighbours, have some fun, enjoy some food and get familiarized with services available in the community.

This year's festival will occur on **Saturday June 25<sup>th</sup>** from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm at McGregor Community Centre and Park (2231 Lawrence Avenue East). Entertainment will be provided by Dusk Dances. Dusk

Dances will showcase a group of Dorset Park youth who have been working closely with a choreographer to put together their own dance performance. There will be lots of food for all to enjoy. The children will enjoy children's games and face painting. A service fair will be held for the community. There will also be Youth Appreciation Awards where youth from the community will be recognized for their contribution to community work and volunteerism. Dorset Park Day will take place rain or shine; so please come to show your support. If you are interested in volunteering or need



Dusk Dances to perform on Dorset Park Day ([www.duskdances.ca](http://www.duskdances.ca))

Above: Santee Smith in Kaha:wi  
Photo by Ömer Yükkseker

more information, please call Laura Harper at 416-332-0997.

Thanks to Laura Harper

## FREE Summer Programs

**Dorset Park Day**, Saturday, June 25, 1-6 pm at McGregor Park Community Centre, 416-332-0997

**TD Summer Reading Club & Word Out Teen Summer Reading**, July & August, Agincourt branch, 416-396-8943; McGregor Park branch, 416-396-8935

**Saturday Family Movies**, Saturdays, 2 pm at McGregor Park branch, 416-396-8935

**Free Girls Yoga (For ages 13-21)**, Tuesdays July 5-August 16, 4 pm at Glamorgan Jr. Public School, 416-332-0997

**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

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

**Citizenship Workshop**, Tuesdays, 1-2 pm, June 7-28 at Newcomers Centre, 1911 Kennedy Rd. 416-292-6912 ext. 226

**Seniors Conversation/Social Cafe**, All Wednesdays in June, 10-11 am at Newcomers Centre, 1911 Kennedy Rd. 416-292-6912 ext. 226

**Resume Clinics**, Mondays 3-4 pm at Newcomers Centre, 1911 Kennedy Rd. 416-292-6912 ext. 226

**Workshop: Planning Summer Activities for Your Children**, Wednesday, June 8, 2:30-4 pm at Newcomers Centre, 1911 Kennedy Rd. 416-292-6912 ext. 226

**Free Yoga Classes**, Tuesdays in June, 11-12 pm at Newcomers Centre, 1911 Kennedy Rd. 416-292-6912 ext. 226

### Project H.E.A.L.

H.E.A.L. stands for Healthy Eating Active Living. Join us for a fun and interactive 6 week workshop and learn about healthy food choices, nutrition, and physical activities. Each workshop will provide valuable information to support participants moving toward a healthier life style. The group will also have the opportunity to experience different physical activities together and set achievable personal goals. Being active is very safe for most individuals; however if you have any concerns about your physical ability in joining this program, we encourage those individuals to consult with their physician before registering with Project H.E.A.L. The project will be happening throughout the year in the Dorset Park and Steeles/L'Amoreaux neighbourhoods. Please contact Vivien Chung or Sarpreet Khara for more information at 416-321-6912 Ext 225. Registration is required.

*Thanks to Vivien Chung*

### Appreciative Inquiry Workshop

The buzz about Appreciative Inquiry (AI) Workshop Training - Jan 2011 - was spreading like "wild fire" to the communities of Dorset Park and Scarborough Village. Rosemary Bell, a strong advocate, leader and spokesperson for the communities pushed to get the training underway. She recruited many service providers and community residents to attend. It was a very worthwhile, beneficial, transformative and stimulating training.

What exactly is Appreciative Inquiry? It's a theory, a learning/



*The first residents AI workshop*

lifelong process that we can apply to any community, agency and/or organization to bring about change, stimulate creative ideas, problem-solving process, and a

*(Continued on page 4)*

### Transformed Spaces, Transformed Lives Garden Project

Transformed Spaces, Transformed Lives, Dorset Park's new garden and green learning initiative is here! Beginning this spring, residents from across Dorset Park will be turning their living spaces into

green paradises. Participants will also take part in different workshops and planning events throughout the season. Kids will also go through their own program called Seeds in My Stuff

where they will learn how to grow plants and do their part to care for the environment. Stayed tuned for more updates on this exciting new project!

*Thanks to Margaret Brimpong*

## Dundalk Walkway

Community residents within Dorset Park are extremely concerned with the current unsafe state of the walkway located between 120 and 100 Dundalk. The condition of the walkway has been an important issue to the community for many years now, and there has been no real movement in addressing the

challenges. Residents have been meeting to discuss next steps in alerting the city to the dangers of an unsafe and poorly maintained walkway. The walkway is heavily used and is seen as an important asset to the Dorset Park community. During last May's Dorset Park Discovery walk (supported by the Jane's Walk initiative), resi-

dents presented the history of the advocacy done to date and highlighted areas of improvement and areas of neglect. If you would like to be a part of this advocacy please contact Action For Neighbourhood Change-Dorset Park at 416-332-0997.

*Thanks to Malsan Gananendran*

## Foodies Community Kitchen Program

From April to May, a Foodies kitchen program ran out of the 6 Glamorgan Avenue recreation centre led by Margaret Brimpong, the Dorset Park Food Security/Community Garden Coordinator. Participants discussed ways to make smart shopping choices, shared lifestyle experiences, and learned how to make popular comfort foods quicker and healthier.

*Thanks to Margaret Brimpong*

## Dorset Park Hub: Progress Update

The activities for Dorset Park Hub are simultaneously progressing in space (approx. 10,000 sft at 1911 Kennedy Road) remodelling and the partnership development with fellow organizations. The partnership facet of the hub is mostly done. So far, eleven organizations have signed partnership agreement of who will offer programs and services at the hub. More partnerships will be signed. A Steering Committee for the Hub has been formed and an orientation was already held in March.

The space layout drawing for the hub has been done. The architect is now making the adjustments of the drawing based on reviews and feedbacks. Side by side, the tender process for facility construction has also been done.

*Thanks to Malsan Gananendran*

## Dorset Park Discovery Walk

On Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup>, members of the Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association and Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) organized a Jane's walk in the north section of the community. Jane Jacobs was a famed advocate for cities and public spaces in Toronto. To honour her work Jane's Walks bring together local residents and visitors for a leisurely and guided tour of different areas of Toronto. The walks give people a chance to connect, and learn something new about a neighbourhood. On this beautiful Saturday morning the Dorset Park walk was held with an intimate and diverse group of walkers from as far away as Montreal. The walk was an edu-

cational two hour stroll through the streets and spaces nestled between the 401 to the North, Ellesmere to the South, Dundalk to the West and Kennedy to the East.

Starting in Glamorgan Park, the walk leader began the tour with a description of the diverse mix of people living in the community. He told the group how the park is used on nice days. He also gave a recap of the tragic death of 22 year old Kristian Thanapalan in the park and how that seminal moment became a turning point for previously isolated groups rallying together so that our public spaces will not be taken away by a random act of violence. Other stops along the way included the site of

the planned Community Garden on the greens of 6 Glamorgan, the location of the proposed Community Hub at 1911 Kennedy, the ANC office, and the infamous walkway connecting Dundalk to the grounds of Glamorgan Jr Public School. After handshakes, e-mail exchanges and goodbyes, walkers left. The walkers were excited about returning in a year's time to see the fully functional Community Garden and Community Hub! Special thanks are in order to Margaret Bimpong from the ANC and all others involved in organizing this 2011 Dorset Park Discovery Walk, for a job well done. We look forward to more participants next year.

*Thanks to Bryan Heal*



## Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association

### Vision:

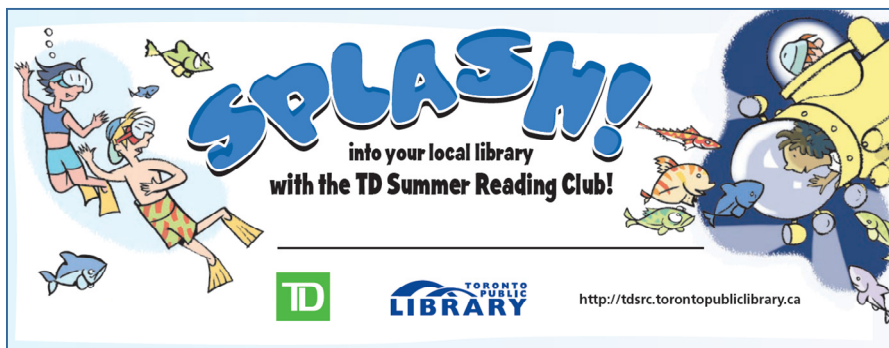
We dream of a safe Dorset Park where people know their neighbours, take pride over their community and are able to access programming.

### 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](mailto:dorsetparkna@gmail.com).



### 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](mailto:dorsetparkna@gmail.com). The deadline for the next issue is August 1, 2011.

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strength-based approach for engaging people (residents), families and youth in building a positive and healthy community in which they live. This "wild fire" movement

of AI came to Dorset Park community residents on Mon, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>/11 led by Genevieve, Malsan, and with the help of Donna a resident of Dorset Park/Glamorgan. We started our first AI residents information sharing and training... as

one resident said, "wow, never heard of AI before, this is good, we want more of this in Dorset Park"... Stay tuned readers, you'll be hearing more about AI in Dorset Park.

*Thanks to Genevieve Joss*

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