

**Dorset Park  
Neighborhood  
Association**  
  
416-292-6912  
dorsetparkna@gmail.com

# DORSET PARK

**COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**

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### English Circle for Women



English Circle for Women is a multicultural program providing English as a second language for Dorset Park residents. The program is funded by United Way of Toronto. We are a group of women who organized English Circle for women supported by the ANC "Dorset Park". With the support of ANC, a group of 20 women started meeting at the beginning of April, 2008 every Monday and Tuesday from 9 am to 11 am at 6 Glamorgan recreation room and started to run an English conversation circle. The group has existed for more than four years with the support of donor money, Toronto Community Housing's Social Investment Fund and ANC. The English circle supports over 60 women and 30 children to enable women to learn English and feel their children are both safe and also learning. Classes are held from 9-12 two mornings a week, the time was split between beginner and intermediate, it is women only and free childcare is provided.

This year, we have a unique experience of partnering with CAP "civic awareness project" by providing 7 workshops and a trip to the City Hall and the Queen's Park. The curriculum developed for this project guides a series of civic literacy workshops and projects. In these workshops, we will be delving into political processes in Canada, including the roles and responsibilities of the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government and electoral processes at each level. Participants will have the opportunity to go to City Hall and Queen's Park where they will meet City Councillors and Members of Provincial Parliament. Participants will also learn about the publically funded organizations and institutions that exist to enhance their wellbeing such as schools, social assistance, hospitals, community housing etc. As well, these workshops will educate participants on social justice advocacy currently carried out by not for profit organizations and the strategies or tools that they employ to necessitate change.

Moving forward, we are hoping to run our English circle at the south of Dorset Park. To serve the other parts of the community. We encourage everyone to support us and help us in finding a space in the south, primarily around Mc Gregor Community Center area.

For more information, please call Abeer Ali at 416-302-3089 or Suganthine Sivakumar at 647-782-7406

## FREE Winter Programs/Updates

**English Circle for Women**- Mondays & Tuesdays 9-12 pm at 6 Glamorgan 416-302-3089

**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**-Wednesday 1-3 pm at 6 Glamorgan

**Soccer Club**, Tuesday 6-8pm at Glamorgan Park. 416-302-3089 7-12yrs  
\$20.00 Administration Fee

**After School Program**-3:30pm-5:30pm at 6 Glamorgan 416-299-9872

**The Girlfriend Club**  
Where: **McGregor Park CRC**  
When: **Wednesdays/**  
Who: **GIRLS ONLY 13-19yrs**  
Time: **3:30-5:30pm**  
**\*\*\*Snacks will be provided\*\*\***  
Maggie Bozdarov (416) 396-4921  
Emelda Hodiwala (416) 438-6880ext225  
Kavita Bala (416) 438-6880 Ext: 278

**Job Fair**  
*Employment opportunities for ALL youth 15 to 25 years age !*  
Monday March 12, 2012, 12 to 4pm  
Scarborough Civic Centre (150 Bor-

ough Drive) 416-396-5523 or 416-791-0954

**March Break Job Fair**  
*Spring board Employment Services*  
Monday March 12 & Tuesday March 13, 2012, 12pm-5pm  
Don Montgomery Community Recreation Center (2641 Eglinton Avenue East) 416-849-4421 x 223

**March Break programs @ the library**  
Family Film-March 13 & 14 2-4pm  
Super Science-March 14, 2-3pm  
Ian Crawford's Mystery- March 16, 2-3pm  
Family time-March 16, 11-12pm  
416-396-8935

### Settlement Counselling @ the Library

The Newcomers' Centre and Toronto Public Library, McGregor Park branch have built a very strong partnership to provide a full range of services for newcomers in the community. Since July 2011, a settlement counsellor has been at the McGregor Park branch every Tuesday afternoon from 2 pm to 5 pm to provide settlement-counselling services. The library is an ideal location as it has valuable resources for newcomers, such as ESL and language learning materials, careers and job search, eBooks and other electronic resources, computers and Wi-Fi, Museum + Arts Pass, etc. In addition, various workshops have been offered, such as Financial Literacy, Job Search, Newcomer Orientation, Youth English Conversation, etc. Many people have had questions about how we can help newcomers. Here are the answers.

#### What is Newcomer and Settlement Services' purpose?

The objective of our Newcomer and Settlement Services is to facilitate a smooth integration and adaptation of newcomers to Canada by providing services such as reception, orientation, translation, interpretation, connection to community resources, solution-focused counselling, general information and employment-related services.

#### What can a Settlement Counsellor Provide?

##### **Needs assessment:**

Our Settlement Counsellors assess newcomers' needs, strengths, challenges and resources available within their own system. Newcomers are assisted in goal-setting, establishing priorities and developing realistic action plans to facilitate their settlement and integration process

##### **Information & Orientation:**

Guidance and information are provided to newcomers to cope with everyday needs including housing, banking, shopping, transportation, access to social and health services, and their rights and obligations in Canada.

##### **Solution-Focused Counselling:**

We assist newcomers in problem-solving process by helping them to define their problems and identify the resources that are available to them. This support focuses on the strengths of the newcomers to overcome their challenges.

##### **Referrals to Community Services:**

We provide relevant links to various resources in the community to address newcomers' immediate settlement needs, such as employment, health care, legal services, housing, education, recreation and immigration issues.

##### **Interpretation and Translation:**

We provide oral interpretation to facilitate interaction between newcomer and the community in daily life situations. Written translation is provided to help newcomers access services and translate documents limited to employment and education through the assistance of volunteers.

#### Who do we serve?

- Permanent Residents of Canada who have not applied for Canadian citizenship (less than 5 years in Canada)
- Protected Persons and Convention Refugees
- Live-in caregivers and those who are in the process of applying for permanent residence

If you would like to know more about our services, please contact us at: **Newcomers' Centre:** (416) 292-6912

[www.agincourtcommunityservices.com](http://www.agincourtcommunityservices.com) **McGregor Park Branch:** (416) 396-8935 [www.torontopubliclibrary.ca](http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca)

## Dorset Park Community Engagement Forum 2011

On Friday December 9, 2011 over 75 residents packed Glamorgan P.S, to voice their opinions on what is important to their communities. The evening began with an Icebreaker where residents had the opportunity to mingle and match with different members of their ethno racial community. Following that was an appreciation and award ceremony for the many volunteers that have dedicated their time and effort in provid-

ing essential programs, services and initiatives needed in the community.

The forum gave a sense of what is needed and lacking in the neighborhood. Top 3 priorities were emphasized and exercise conducted brought out numeral action items. Next step is to reconvene all the residents that participated to create an action plan.

Performances by local music group and dance group were displayed. Awards to resident and youth led initiatives were also given. Door prizes and raffles was a big hit.

Top 3 Priorities

1. Safety
2. Events/Unification
3. Programming

## Bendale BTI

### EcoClub News

The most wonderful thing about Bendale B.T.I. is that we are all engaged in the act of learning! In 2008/2009, we became a SILVER Eco Certified School. We have been a GOLD School since 2010. For 2012/2013, we have begun the process to become a PLATINUM Eco Certified School.

In 2010, our school expanded its partnership with Food Share and developed a market garden on our front and rear lawns - only high school in Toronto to do this! This increased our garden total to 6. Thank you, Mr. Jones and Mr. Convery, Mrs. Lowens-Varey and Garden Club Students.

The skills gained through gardening are beneficial to all students of all ages. Gardening involves experiential and cooperative learning thus making our school garden areas effective learning tools. Our gardens serve as a source of artistic inspiration and as a means of creative expression through the Art, Drama, Food School, Horticulture, Photography, Science and Tourism.

We encourage our students to volunteer and participate on the Eco Student Success Committee through the Community Service Garden, Courtyard Peace Garden, Green Tigers Eco Council, Market Gardens and Recycling Program to earn their forty hours of Community Service. (K. Lowens-Varey)

### Tech Department News

On Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 20 Construction and Horticulture/Landscape Design students went to the Distillery District with their 2 teachers, Mr. Noble and Mr. Jones, to install a hedge maze for the Christmas Market. The maze included 350 cedars and 100 planter boxes that our Bendale students and teachers constructed and painted. They worked on the project with Beth Edney (Designs by the Yard) and Frank Farangini (Bradford Greenhouses). It was an awesome installation!

Our Horticulture/Landscape Design shop has been working on setting up an Aquaculture program at Bendale in partnership with Food Share. During Semester 2, the shop will also be involved in a worm composting project. What wiggly, green news!

Six senior students will have the honour of attending Landscape Ontario's Congress at the Toronto Congress Centre on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The students and Mr. Jones will be building a 200 square foot garden at the Congress, as well as touring the show and attending landscape workshops.

## Dorset Park Community Hub: Progress Update

Renovation works are progressing well in two units (104 and 105) and it will start in the 3<sup>rd</sup> unit (107) soon after the present tenant moves into unit 108 which is being renovated now. Incidentally, the Hub covers nearly 10,000 sft space combing three different stores. When remodeled, these three different spaces will be merged as one unit and be identified as unit 105. It is anticipated that Hub will be opened in early spring.

Please contact the Neighbourhood Association at 416-299-6912 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.

### Dorset Park Tamil Dance Group





# 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 back-

grounds.

3. Promoting unification projects where residents can get to know one another.

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 416-292-6912 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 April 1, 2012.

Dorset Park Tamil Music



**Dorset Park Youth Advisory**  
**LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS.**

# INFO SESSION

**Tuesday's 4:30-6:30pm**

For more information contact:  
 Email: [dpyac@LIVE.com](mailto:dpyac@LIVE.com)

McGregor Park  
 Community Recreation Centre  
 2231 Lawrence Avenue East

Printing courtesy of :

# Toronto Community Housing

