

**Dorset Park  
Neighborhood  
Association**

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# DORSET PARK

## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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### 2nd Annual Back to School BBQ Picnic



Working on the Community Banner

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012 we held our second annual Back to School BBQ Picnic event at McGregor Park Community Recreation Centre. To our surprise the response to this event was very well received. There were people waiting for the event from 8am! The turnout was over 400 people who were able to enjoy a day filled with games, prizes, food, and most of all having a good time connecting with others within their community! A few highlights of the event was the Basketball Tournament that was hosted by Youth Vision in Action, face painting provided by Toronto Public

Library, games provided by the City of Toronto, and the Fire Truck from Toronto Fire. We cannot forget the ice cold water provided by Salvation Army that was very refreshing on such a hot August day. This has been an event that has helped many community residents and their children prepare for the upcoming school year. For our *children* the *importance* of going to *school* is unparalleled. We must encourage them to perform at their best as they are our future. Events such as this one would not be possible without community partnerships. 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: Action for Neighbourhood Change, City of Toronto (Parks, Forestry & Recreation), Youth Vision in Action (YVIA), Salvation Army, Staples, Toronto Public Health, Toronto Fire, Toronto Public Library and the Newcomer

*Thanks to Aleem Sufi*

### Halloween Scare & Commons Lounge Grand Opening

BOO! Come and get your scare on! Dress up and make your way down to McGregor CRC (2231 Lawrence Ave East) for a Halloween scare. The TORCH youth group will be holding a haunted house. When you ask? On Saturday, October 27th from 5:00 to 7:00pm. Ages seven and up are welcome to come, and it's only 50 cents per person to come in! Join us if you dare, for a Halloween scare!

At McGregor Park CRC (2231 Lawrence Ave East) the Commons Lounge Grand Opening will be on Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 11am until noon.

Thanks to Aryana & Zack



Community Banner



Salvation Army Staff



Registration



Line up for the Backpacks

**YOUTH IN ACTION FINAL TOURNAMENT**

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, the Youth in Action Soccer League concluded with a final tournament at McGregor Park Community Centre that included a series of competitive games, pizza party, raffle prizes, and an awards presentation where winners received medallions. The final tournament was the culmination of Dorset Park’s very first summer soccer program, which ran for 9 weeks throughout July and August with the goal of promoting ongoing healthy and active living for youth. Youth In Action Soccer was sponsored by Canadian Tire Jumpstart and organized by the Dorset Park Youth Service Provider Network through a partnership between Agincourt Community Services Association and the City of Toronto. In a final evaluation survey, youth participants reported high levels of satisfaction with the program and identified benefits that included: improving their skill level in soccer, increasing their physical activity, making new friends, and simply being able to play a sport they love. Although the program was launched as a pilot initiative, the partners hope to build on this positive feedback and bring the soccer program to Dorset Park on an annual basis.



Coaches, Players & YVIA - Youth In Action Soccer League

**T.O.R.C.H**

We are T.O.R.C.H and we want to bring forth change to our community. As being youth ourselves, we have a better understanding of what youth go through. Therefore we want to get youth more active. By hosting many events, not only will youth have fun and enjoy themselves, they will also have a chance to get away from their worries and relax. We want to provide a safe environment for them as well. Youth only live once, therefore this moment in our lives should be treasured.



**YOUTH RESEARCH PROJECT – CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS!**

The Dorset Park Youth Service Provider Network is conducting an exploratory research study on youth’s quality of life in Dorset Park. Jaclyn T. San Antonio, as the Youth Service Coordinator of Dorset Park, is the principal investigator of this project and is working in consultation with multiple stakeholders in the community including youth, youth outreach workers, and neighbourhood coordinators. The overall purpose of this project is to develop a profile of youth in accordance with a quality of life model. Through a combination of surveys and focus groups, the tools developed will examine the well being of Dorset Park’s youth as this relates to health, education, employment, safety and community engagement. The results of this study will develop a foundation of knowledge that informs, sustains, and builds upon existing youth programs and services in Dorset Park.

Participants will be given a \$5 honorarium for completing a survey and/or a \$25 honorarium for participating in an individual or focus group interview. For more information on this research project and how to be involved, please contact Jaclyn T. San Antonio at 647-269-6912 or [sajaclyn@agincourtcommunityservices.com](mailto:sajaclyn@agincourtcommunityservices.com)



We are an organization dedicated to providing services and supports to the African/ Caribbean-Canadian community. We offer culturally reflective services for youth between 16-24yrs of age that have recently been incarcerated or have had conflict with the law. We provide holistic reintegration supports and also are currently accepting enrolment for our alternative learning school in partnership with TDSB. Please contact us for more information: 416-613-2920 or [www.redemptionservices.ca](http://www.redemptionservices.ca)

## BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Youth Vision in Action (YVIA) and Teen Organization Responsible Community Helpers (TORCH) hosted the first Back To School Youth Basketball Tournament at McGregor Park Community Centre. The tournament was the newest component introduced to Dorset Park’s Annual Back To School BBQ in order to expand the reach of the event to high school students. Winners of the tournament received Back To School gift certificates to support the purchasing of school supplies that are relevant to the needs of high school education. This year’s tournament champions were John Kukanesan, Branaan Rehna, and Mathu Santhivakumaran with runner-ups, Sisivat Kim and Kidejan Kugaharan.



YVIA, T.O.R.C.H & Players



Playing Ball



Tournament Champions

**DPYAC** -The Dorset Park Youth Advisory Council is a community initiative dedicated to assessing the needs of Youth in the Dorset Park Neighborhood. Geared towards developing youth lead and youth focused initiatives, we have developed a sports pad and a lounge at the McGregor Park CRC with the support from the community and other organizations. The group continues to develop new projects to keep youth in Dorset Park engaged. We offer the youth a place to participate in safe fun activities, along with supporting them in developing themselves in the society they live. Our mission is to help the youths we interact with in any way we can and guide them to the resources they need whether that resource be other organizations or job and educational supports. The youth in Dorset Park should enjoy their community and be able to attain the necessities needed in their lives. That is why enhancing the experience of youth in the Dorset Park community is our priority.

*Thanks to Ronaldson Williams*

### A SHORT COURSE ON HUMAN RELATIONS

The Six most important words

*“I admit I made a mistake “*

The Five most important words

*“You did a great job”*

The Four most important words

*“What is your opinion?”*

The Three most important words

*“If you please”*

The Two most important words

*“Thank you”*

The One most important word

*“We”*

The Least important word

*“I”*

This little “Short Course” will surely encourage members of the different groups to be more dedicated as community leaders, all for the betterment of self and the community development working as a team. It pays to continue your education, Be Happy!

*Thanks to Gloria Rose*

**What is happening at Bendale -Humber College -Dual Credit Program**

Bendale B.T.I. students have been participating in the Dual Credit Program at Humber College in the area of Horticulture for a number of years. Our students have demonstrated great success at the college and stand to gain a college credit and a high school credit by the end of the program. The Dual Credit Program began this year on Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Participating students really enjoy the hands-on programming that Humber offers and they really get into the college experience first-hand.

**Grade 9 Urban Outdoor Experience Trip 2012**

This year, our grade 9 students had the opportunity to attend the Evergreen Brickworks through the Outward Bound Partnership with Bendale, and spend the night at Fort York, located in downtown Toronto. Bendale B.T.I. has been offering leadership development programs for our grade 9 students for the past several years. This program provides our students with a unique opportunity to develop and enhance their personal and leadership skills.

The Urban Outdoor Experience Trip reinforces teamwork, sharing and cooperation among students. It helps teach them the value of trust and respect, and often leads to enhanced relationships within our school community. We are positive that this investment of time will provide a solid foundation for the participants in their first year of High School and beyond. Activities during the trip provide positive role models and encourage personal excellence as well as helping to develop student self-confidence and good-character attributes.



**Greetings from TDSB Trustee David Smith, Scarborough Centre, Ward 19**

I trust that you all enjoyed a happy, safe and memorable summer season.

As I am writing, the leaves on the trees are turning - - it's a new season, and with that, it's time to bring you up to date on the work that occurred over the summer, as well as new initiatives underway right now.

Trustee Smith is very pleased with those students who took time to develop their skills and experience through the successful **Focus on Youth** summer student job program. I'm sure you all found the program rewarding in many ways. Please remember to register early for next summer!

**Leonard Braithwaite School**, hosted by **Winston Churchill Collegiate** is now open. The Program, with Province-approved high school curriculum written with **Africentric** cultural relevance, is named after Ontario's first black member of the provincial parliament. For more information please log on to TDSB web-site or call Winston Churchill @ 416-396-6883.

Finally, despite the Ontario Government's recent halt to 5-year capital plans, Trustee Smith was able to keep certain priority projects benefitting Ward 19 in development - - including the new state of the art school, **Bendale Thomson**. Stay tuned for more updates as progress continues.

## THE HUB: FROM BLUEPRINTS TO REALITY

It's coming soon!

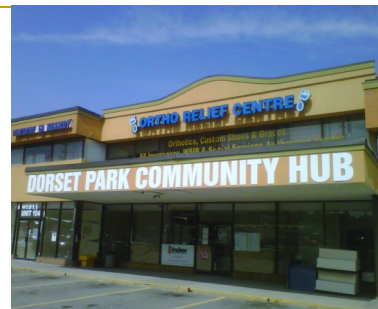
After many meetings, planning sessions and community consultations, construction is now in its final stages before the doors to the much anticipated Dorset Park Community Hub will be open for all.

This past month a group of 15-20 residents and members of the local Neighbourhood Action Partnership (NAP) were given an early look at the new space. Community members were excited to see the blueprints come to life on a tour that began in the large and welcoming open-concept lobby, and continued through to the public computer lab, community kitchen, 150-person meeting room accessible to residents, and the offices of the partners who will soon be offering FREE programs and services to community members of all ages and diversities.

Anyone who walks by the plaza at 1911 Kennedy Road today can now see the large white sign on the outside of the Hub, while contractors are hard at work making sure the inside will soon be ready for the Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association (DPNA) and the more than 15 community organizations to move in and finally be able to call Dorset Park 'Home'.

In the coming months, residents and local businesses can expect see flyers and invitations as the Hub prepares to open its doors and I encourage everyone to attend and help welcome all of the new staff and volunteers of this new community landmark into the Dorset Park family.

In the meantime, if you or a group would like to receive more detailed information or arrange for a tour of the Hub yourself, please contact the DPNA at [dorsetparkna@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetparkna@gmail.com) or 416-292-6912.



## Walk into Health – One step at a time

Walking is the number one physical activity among Canadians. It is easy to do and it is free. Regular walking has many health benefits. It can increase your energy level, improve your mood, help you to reach or maintain a healthy weight, and lower your risk of diabetes and heart disease. Start with as little as 10 minutes each time. Every week add more minutes to your walks until you reach at least 30 minutes a day 5 days a week.

Here are some great tips to get walking.:

Walk with others (your friends and family)

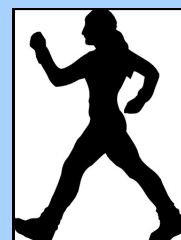
Join a walking group in your neighbourhood, community or workplace.

consider walking indoors at a local mall or community recreation centre. Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation offer drop-in fitness walking classes at various recreation community centres for a small fee. Some malls like Scarborough Town Centre, Parkway Mall, Eglinton Square Shopping Centre open their doors as early as 6 a.m. for walkers.

Borrow a pedometer to help you start and keep walking. A pedometer is a small tool that counts your steps while walking. It is recommended to walk 10,000 steps a day for good health. Your local libraries, Kennedy/Eglinton, Maryvale, and McGregor Park, loan out pedometers for free.

Enjoy and have fun walking. Get healthier....one step at a time!

For more information, call Toronto Health Connection at 416-338-7600 or [www.toronto.ca/health](http://www.toronto.ca/health)



# 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.
4. Promoting beautification projects where people can feel proud about living in their community.

If you would like to get involved, please call 416-292-6912 or email us at [dorsetparkna@gmail.com](mailto:dorsetparkna@gmail.com).

Special thanks go to Salvation Army and Little Caesars for providing lunch on Mondays and Thursdays for the Students Lounge Program. The Students Lounge is a lunch time program offered twice a week (Monday's and Thursdays 11:40am - 12:30pm) for students of Winston Churchill, the program is held at McGregor Park Community Centre in the commons room



Councillor Michael Thompson, Ward 37

**RE: Graffiti Summit - Please join us as we need your input!**

Graffiti vandalism is a major problem in Scarborough Centre Ward 37 and across the City. Join Councillor Thompson, City staff & graffiti experts to help develop a solution that works for our community. If we work together, we can eliminate tagging, promote urban art and beautify our neighbourhoods.

**When: Saturday, October 13,**

**Where: McGregor Park Community Centre - 2231 Lawrence Avenue East - (Commons Lounge)**

**Time: 10am-2pm**

**For More Information call: 416-397-9274**

**or visit: <http://www.councillorthompson.ca>**

## Call for Submissions

The Dorset Park Community Newsletter is calling for submissions focusing on safety, programming, unification and beautification and/ or other topics of interest to the Dorset Park community. Please email your submission to [gmalsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com](mailto:gmalsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com)

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