

Dorset Park Neighborhood Association

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DORSET PARK

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Inside This Issue

- Dorset Park Community Hub 2
- Canadian National Institute for The Blind (CNIB)
- The Extra Mile Ministries' Financial Literacy Program 3
- Parents Informed Educated and Ready to Respond (P.I.E.R.R)
- Resident Action Grants (RAG) 4
- Take Back The Night
- E.S.L 5
- Centennial College
- Bendale BTI
- Community use of School
- Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association 6
- Sponsors/In Kind Donations
- Submissions/Contact

Youthtopia: Our Promise, Our Power

“The concept is simple. In a perfect world, we would celebrate the promise of youth.”

On December 15, 2012, the **Dorset Park Youth Service Provider Network (DPYSPN)** hosted Scarborough’s biggest showcase of youth excellence in the arts. The concept of Youthtopia is simple: in a perfect world, we would celebrate the promise of young people. Youthtopia represented a community-wide effort to cultivate the creative talents of youth in song, dance, visual arts, photography, and poetry towards a mass expression of the values, beliefs, ideals, and dreams that define their generation.

The theme of this year’s event was **“Our Promise, Our Power,”** reflecting the mission of Youthtopia to “build communities through the promise and power of youth”. Approximately 300 people from across the Greater Toronto Area attended the performance showcase at the Scarborough YMCA, which featured 38 youth artists in 17 different performances. Performers captivated the audience with their raw talents in art. Youth in attendance also had plenty to contribute as they loudly cheered in support of their peers’ efforts. During intermission many even took to the stage to freestyle with the performers.

In the end, a panel of guest judges representing the music and art industry awarded trophies and a cash prize for the top youth performers based on talent, performance quality, originality, and audience impact. Winners included: spoken word artist, Charles Manzo (from Jean Vanier Catholic Secondary School) in 1st place; dance group, TNT Freestylez (including Kristoff Felix, Orlando Small, Ana Mutolo, Chris Fuller) in 2nd place, and singer Tatiana Carefoote (from David and Mary Thompson Collegiate Institute) in 3rd place.



Continued....

The Dorset Park Youth Service Provider Network would like to thank all community partners whose leadership contributed to the success of the event, including: Agincourt Community Services Association, the City of Toronto, Youth Vision In Action (YVIA), Rosalie Hall, Dorset Park Youth Advisory Council (DPYAC), Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Scarborough YMCA, Teen Organized Responsible Community Helpers (TORCH), and the Ontario Trillium Foundation. Our greatest thanks goes to the youth of Dorset Park and surrounding Scarborough communities for their passion and inspiration.

For more information on Youthtopia, please contact or visit the following:

Email: youthtopia12@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/youthtopia2012

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Youthtopia12>
dpyvia@gmail.com

Thanks to Jeanine, Chantal and Jaclyn

Dorset Park Community HUB



Dorset Park Community Hub Opens!

On November 1st, the Dorset Park Community Hub opened its doors to the community. At the community hub, residents will be able to find access to FREE computers, resources as well as community programming. We are excited to have numerous community partners on site including the lead agency Agincourt Community Services Association, CNIB, ACCESS Employment, VHA Home Health Care, Youth L.E.A. P.S, John Howard Society of Toronto, FAME, Tropicana Community Services, Extramile Ministries, as well as Action for Neighbourhood Change. Through December and January, community partners will be starting programs related to employment, youth, supports around mental health, newcomer and settlement and much more. The space can also be made available to local community groups who want to start local initiatives in their community. The Hub is located at 1911 Kennedy Road, Unit 105. The operating hours are Monday to Friday from 10am to 6pm. Please stop by or call 416-292-6912 for more information.

Thanks to Laura Harper

Canadian National Institute For The Blind (CNIB)



The CNIB Low Vision Clinic at Dorset Park Hub services Scarborough residents living with vision loss. The Low Vision Specialist will conduct Low Vision Assessments that provide information to clients and their families, training in the use of low vision optical devices and non-optical aids, and instruction on how to maximize residual vision. The goal is to promote independence and service is available to individuals ages 6 and up. Assessments are by appointment only. Eye Doctors usually refer their patients to CNIB but individuals can also request service by calling the CNIB National Helpline at 1 800 563-2642.

Thanks to Roxanne Hazell-Blackman

The Extra Mile Ministries' Financial Literacy Program



The Extra Mile Ministries will be offering free weekly classes on financial wellness at the beginning of 2013. You don't have to be great at math or reading. The basic principles of personal finance are easier than the majority of classes you took in high school or college. It just takes following some simple steps.

Here's an overview of what you'll learn in each topic area of this course:

Financial Psychology. You will have a clear picture of your goal setting, relationship with money, spending and savings habits.

Accounts and Budgeting. You will know how to automate and systemize your finances so you're able to save more and stay organized.

Credit and Debt. You will know how to repair, build or maintain an excellent credit history and confidently act on your debt elimination plan.

Skill Growth. You will identify the skills that get you paid and develop a plan to improve them.

Insurance. You will have an insurance plan that protects your assets, credit, and income and manages your risk.

Investment Basics. You will be introduced to investment principles and be excited to learn more about getting your money growing for you.

Class sizes are limited so call soon.

For more details about this program, please call **Lito Paras** at **416-292-6912 ext. 307** Monday to Thursday from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. or email at: litoparas@theextramile.org

Thanks to Lito Paras

P.I.E.R.R (Parents Informed Educated and Ready to Respond)

Back by popular demand the Winter session: **Free Safety and Parenting Workshops** presented by **P.I.E.R.R (Parents Informed Educated and Ready to Respond)**.

Where: Every Tuesday, 6-8 PM, January 29, - March 26, 2013, Dorset Park community Hub 1911 Kennedy Road, Unit 105.

Where: Every Wednesday, 6-8 PM, January 30 – March 27, 2013, Dorset Park Public School, 28 Blaisdale Road.

TTC Tickets, Childcare and Snacks Provided!! For more Information please call Donna Robinson @ 416-292-6912 ext 316 or email: rdonna@agincourtcommunityservices.com

Thanks to Donna Robinson

The Take Care Campaign helps people quit smoking

Did you know that

1. Most people who use tobacco want to quit.
2. Most people who use tobacco make a few attempts to quit before they are successful.
3. Quitting is not easy, but it is doable.
4. Having a plan can help them deal with withdrawal symptoms e.g. craving tobacco, feeling down, can't concentrate.

Toronto Public Health is running the Take Care campaign to help the residents of Toronto to quit smoking. The campaign is airing in Cineplex theatres and on TTC subway platforms this December and January. Toronto Public Health is offering a free Quit Kit to the first 1,000 people to contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600 or e-mail publichealth@toronto.ca. For more information e.g. withdrawal symptoms in 17 other languages, visit Tobacco-Free Toronto webpage at <http://www.toronto.ca/health/smokefree/quittingsmoking>



Toronto Public Health
Thanks to Randa Bronte Tinkew

Resident Action Grants (RAG) APPROVED !!!!!

United Way Toronto's Resident Action Grants are small pools of money that support resident-led, grassroots projects that address the concerns of the local community. They provide a way for residents to shape activities in their neighbourhood and be a part of local solutions, and they're proof that a small investment can make a big difference. More important than the programs themselves, Resident Action Grants offer residents valuable opportunities to get to know the people in their neighbourhood and to feel a part of the community, sometimes for the very first time. Out of the sewing clubs and community gardens have grown lasting connections and friendships between residents. Through the safety audits, park clean-ups and beautifications projects, we've seen Resident Action Grants foster local leadership and encourage people to come together to better their neighbourhoods. They also help build the networks that are crucial to community change by introducing residents to local service providers, community agencies and government.

1. A Community Investment for the resident office @ The Hub - The grant will be used to purchase capital items (such as computers, software, printers and other equipments, supplies such as ink, paper ,etc) for the future resident office in the Hub so as to support resident activities in the community. The purchased capital items will eliminate the need for borrowed equipment and will allow residents to work on projects such as the community newsletter and website independently. Project partner TPL has committed to in-kind training and technical support for residents on how to edit the newsletter and update the website. In the end, residents will be self-sufficient and will be able to sustain their projects and initiatives. That said this project is not a sole focus on the newsletter or the website rather it is an investment for the Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association office located in the HUB. All residents of Dorset Park will be able to access the new space in the hub and utilize the many investments purchased for the community. We intend to run open houses throughout the year as to way to encourage other residents to interact with the space. This will allow a good flow of residents in and out of the office creating more community involvement and engagement. In addition the current active residents will have a vital role in coaching and mentoring new residents on the many engagement opportunities and services available.

2. Dorset Park Food Security Initiative - This is a multifaceted project because residents recognize that food security issues need to be addressed in a more holistic way. Funding will be used to purchase capital items to sustain the initiative. Capacity building and training, also to promote community kitchen and food security issues.

3. The Students Lounge - The Student Lounge is a drop in program that allows students a safe space to engage in fun activities such as video/board games, music and an opportunity to learn about community resources available to them. We would like to purchase capital items and snacks for our Student Lounge program. The budget also includes conducting events throughout the year as well as honorariums for the youth that will help to promote them taking leadership in the program.

The lounge program is going to be run twice a week at McGregor from September 2012 to June 2013. This program will happen during the school year yearly with breaks occurring during march break, summer break and the Christmas holidays.

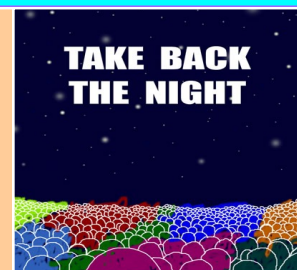
For more information please contact Malsan Gananendran at gmalsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com

Take Back The Night

While I was walking east on Ellesemere road, I realized it was nine o'clock on Sunday. Highland Farms closes soon and I need to buy a few groceries.

Suddenly ,I was startled ,my ears perk up, jarring noise sounded by me so I gazed out at my surroundings as my mind paralyze in fear!

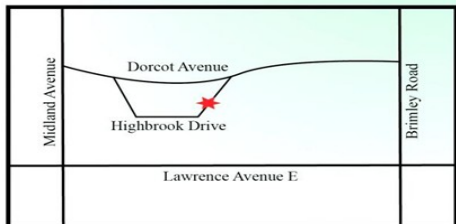
On Ellesemere was an opened up Jeep; was this my friend Sumathees vehicle? She is playing a joke on me. No it was not Sumathee it was five young women cheering back at me. Why me! And then I remembered this was because they were telling women to take back the night.



Thanks to Maureen Campbell Dorset Park Resident

FREE Adult ESL classes !

Register at Highbrook Learning Centre
39 Highbrook Drive.



- All levels available
- Several locations



Call 416 396-6909 for information
or an appointment



www.highbrookESL.ca

416 396-6909



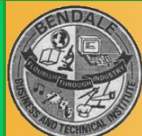
Centennial College– School of Advancement Holiday Drive 2012

On behalf of the Dorset Park community, we would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the students, staff and faculty of the School of Advancement at Centennial College for spearheading the Dorset Park Family Holiday Drive.

Over the past few months, the School of Advancement worked diligently to raise funds for residents of the Dorset Park community. As part of this holiday campaign, staff and faculty collected donations that could be raffled off through ticket sales around the Centennial College campuses. Raffle prizes included a bicycle, a tablet, a digital camera, and beautiful gift baskets, among many others. In the end, a total of \$1,875 was raised to purchase gift cards for 20 families in need—serving 36 adults and 51 children in Dorset Park.

Thanks to Jaclyn San Antonio

COLLEGE
CENTENNIAL



Bendale Business and Technical
Institute



Horticulture/Green Industries

Students in our Green Industries classes, in partnership with Food Share, have begun the first High School Aquaponics lab in the T.D.S.B. Aquaponics is a self-contained system that consists of fish and plants. The system creates an incredible cycle in which food plants grow on top of giant fish ponds. The plants provide oxygen to the water, and the fish help to fertilize the plants. Our Food School program uses the vegetable and herb plants, and one day in the future, we hope to have a fish fry with the tilapia from the ponds. Definitely something our students and staff are proud of!

Thanks to Wendy Blain

Community use of School

As a Community based group, are you thinking of running a Summer Break Camp? Do you need free space in a school?

TDSB's Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) will be accepting application for summer camp from eligible community groups from February 4, 2013 to March 3, 2013.

For more information please Visit our website at www.tdsb.on.ca/PSI or call 416-395-4833.

Thanks to Yetunde Olowokere

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. Communications
- 2. Increasing accessibility to affordable programming

and services for all age groups and backgrounds.

- 3. Safety
- 4. Food Security/Beautification

If you would like to get involved, please call 416-292-6912 or email us at dorsetparkna@gmail.com.

Multi Expressions and P.I.E.R.R (Parents Involved Educated and Ready to Respond) would like to thank the following sponsors who donated gifts and supplies to these programs:

- **Rona** 8 William Kitchen Road, Scarborough, Ontario M1P 5B7. 416-291-9961 At Kennedy Commons: Thanks to, Vibish Gurusurthi, Branch Manager, and Kim at the customer service Department.
- **Coliseum Cinemas** at Scarborough Towne Center.
- **Metro** at Kennedy commons for providing gift cards.

Thanks to participants who attended the workshops, to guest facilitators, and volunteers who made the fall sessions a success.

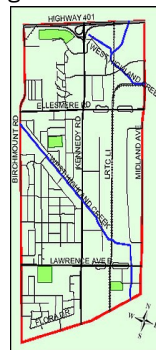
Thanks to Donna Robinson

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 gmaisan@agincourtcommunityservices.com

www.DorsetPark.com

Everything about the Community



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