

**Dorset Park
Neighborhood
Association**

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DORSET PARK

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Dorset Park Community HUB Open House

On Tuesday March 12th, the Dorset Park Community Hub was bubbling with energy, as more than 100 community residents came to take part in the hub's first Open House. A resident led planning committee worked hard to ensure the day was a success by planning a variety of activities. The purpose of the day was to showcase all of the great programs and resident led initiatives that are running out of the new community space that just opened in November. Resident led showcased initiatives included: the Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association, a sewing class and a safety table. One highlight of the day was the Canlish Girls group who threw an amazing bake sale that raised over \$150 for their Friday cooking program. Special thanks goes to Youthlink staff Isabell, who took the time to bake goodies for the bake sale as well. The day also showcased 9 anchor partners who ran a variety of services and programs out of the space. These partners included: the lead agency Agincourt Community Services Association, John Howard Society, Family Association for Mental Health Everywhere (FAME), VHA Home Healthcare, Extramile Ministries, CNIB, ACCES Employment, Tropicana Community Services and Youth L.E.A.P.S. For those of you who couldn't attend, drop by and visit the hub at 1911 Kennedy Road, unit 105. We are open from 9am to 6pm from Monday to Friday. Also keep your eyes open for more information on the Grand Opening that will occur on Tuesday May 7th, 2013. Thanks again to everyone for making the first Open House a success!

Thanks to Laura Harper



Important Dates

Dorset Park Healthy Living Fair: Saturday, April 13, 2013; 10am - 4pm (1911 Kennedy Road, unit 105)

Jane's Walk: Saturday May 4, 2013, 416-292-6912, (1911 Kennedy Road, unit 105)

Dorset Park HUB Grand Opening: Tuesday May 7th, 2013 (1911 Kennedy road, unit 115)

The Education Bus: Saturday May 25, 2013; 416-292-6912 Ext: 316, (Centennial College Progress Campus),

Community Kitchen Event # 2: Tuesday June 4, 2013, 1:00pm (1911 Kennedy Road unit 105)

Dorset Park Day Festival: June 22, 2013, 12pm-4pm (McGregor Park Recreation)

Dorset Park Community Kitchen Event # 1

The Dorset Park Community Garden group had their first Community Kitchen Event, it was the first of four. It was quite successful. We had a full kitchen; our facilitator from Bendale CI with two of his students and thirteen residents of Dorset Park. Our Teacher made everyone feel at ease and comfortable in the kitchen, his students were friendly too. He taught us how to handle knives properly and how to cut and chop veggies with the least amount of effort. We took turns chopping romaine lettuce and onions and other vegetables. We also had turns stir frying chicken and peppers. One of the most interesting things we learned was how to make a Baked Alaska using jelly rolls in the place of a sponge cake. The recipes we made that day were: Caesar's Salad, Chicken Fajitas, and Baked Alaska. Already we have a lot of people interested in participating in our next Event.

Thanks to Helen Clyde



Canlish Girls Group

The girls group consists of a group of young girls from the Dorset Park Canlish Community; ages 14 and up. Shua Amari a local resident and a mother took a leading role in gathering this group together; they meet at the Dorset Park Community Hub every Friday evening; from 4-7pm to engage in hands on workshops. Mrs. Amari works as a mentor for the youth in creating for them a healthy, safe environment. The group has compiled a list of possible topics that they would like to touch on, and are currently focused on cooking. Every Friday ever since the group began, the girls have been making great use of the Community Kitchen. They have been able to cook succulent dishes such as Biryani, Lasagna, pasta; and delicious desserts such as Tiramisu, Upside down pineapple cake, and pound cake. On March 12th 2013, the girls took a lead role in providing food for the Dorset Park Hub Open house, they ran a bake sale with various dishes from different cultures ranging from Kenyan, Somali, and Moroccan food. They were able to raise a whopping \$150 these were funds which have gone towards helping the girls group in their endeavors. They are hoping to continue as a group, and become recognized as positive role models for young women within their community. The girls group are looking for support in various ways: Financial donations, Fresh vegetables and fruits, Halal meat and dairy, equipment, employment for the girls, grants and bursaries. Donations can be contacted to Shua Amari at amaari55@hotmail.com

Thanks to Aisha Farah

Message from Councilor Thompson

I would like to thank all of you in the Dorset Park Community Association for your efforts to improve the health and livability of your neighbourhood. As well as working on city-wide initiatives in my role as Chair of the Economic Development and Culture Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Police Services Board, my staff and I have been active in your community and across the ward to help resolve local issues. Our focus is on making Scarborough one of the safest, most livability communities in the City. Please visit our website at www.councillorthompson.ca to keep up with the latest news and announcements affecting our community. If we can help you with your city-related issues, please call our office at 416-397-9274 or email me at councilor_thompson@toronto.ca.

Thanks to Jedrek So

Safety In Dorset Park

Over the last while, a resident has started to take action in addressing issues around safety in Dorset Park. Specifically, there has been a lot of work done around signage and ensuring the proper signage is present and clear in the community.

Below is an update as to where things are at:

- 1) Kennedy Road & Antrim: A NO THROUGH sign is required, along with a Yield to Pedestrian sign.
- 2) Antrim/Dundalk 3 way stop: A toppled sign was replaced thus enabling the School buses to stop safely and allow children to exit buses and cross street. Also requested a SENIOR SIGN, due to the high volumn of seniors who live in the area
- 3) Kennedy/Glamorgan: NO TRUCK SIGNS, one was cleaned and one was replaced.
- 4) Dundalk/Glamorgan: Requested issuance of a driveway sign for 6 Glamorgan as current one is faded.
- 5) No Parking Signs along Dundalk: signs are in various stages of wear and tear. Currently working to get signs replaced.
- 6) Snow removal: Snow removal has been particularly bad this year and most days, most of the sidewalks are far too dangerous to walk on. The Snow is piled up by the side of the road continually and subsequently falls on to poorly cleared sidewalks. The walkway to Glamorgan School has been very difficult for parents to traverse. Followed up with city and it was explained that there is a 3 weeks clearance date. Community members must advocate to get these clearance period reduced.

If anyone is interested in working with me on some of these issues, please call and leave a message at 416-292-6912, ext 315

Thanks to Sandra Low

STOP study workshops to help people quit smoking this March 2013

Toronto Public Health is partnering with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health to provide STOP Study workshops in several Toronto locations this March. The STOP (Smoking Treatment for Ontario Patients) Study is a treatment study using nicotine replacement therapy (i.e. nicotine patch) to help people quit smoking. You may be eligible to participate in this study. **To find out more and see if you qualify, call Shannon at 416-397-4883 or Xavier at 416-338-2672 Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Screening takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

Confidentiality is assured and medication is free of charge.

Thanks to Elaine Bach

Health: A Civic Matter

The first Civic Health Awareness Fair was held at the Dorset Park Community Hub on Tues. March 26, 2013 by Civic Awareness Project (CAP) Leadership participants in partnership with the Dorset Park Women's English Circle. This event showcased residents' ideas for local civic activities to address a variety of health issues generating a community dialogue about possible steps to improve the health of our neighbourhoods and also showing the relationship between health and civic engagement. Communities in Dorset Park face a number of health challenges owing to under-resourced neighbourhood infrastructure, walkability issues due to car and industrial centered design, and the need for more health-oriented community programs. Community action is vital for addressing health issues. Watch for Rogers TV Talk of the Town which came by to check out this event! As well, more information about this event will be shared at the Healthy Living Fair (Sat April 13) and the CAP Roundtable to held mid-April 2013. Contact Anna Kim at ACSA for more details.

Thanks to Anna Kim



YOUTH L.E.A.P.S

Youth Leadership in Educational Attainment through Partnerships in Scarborough (LEAPS) is a youth-led initiative committed to supporting students in Scarborough's East-End priority neighborhoods. We work with youth from ages 14-28 to provide support for educational success within the school and community. Our services include:

Grade-8 transitional programming, high-school academic tutoring, school reintegration, student/parent advocacy, youth council, academic planning/counseling, and assistance in post-secondary applications for colleges, universities, apprenticeships and Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP). On March 4th, 2013 we launched our Academic Support Afterschool Program (ASAP) in the Dorset Park Community! Community members and youth participated in games, workshops, and a presentation of our new Tutoring Program available to Dorset Park Residents on Mondays and Thursdays from 4-7pm and on Saturdays from 10am-1pm. Registration is still available! The program offers a combination of tutoring, homework and class work help, as well as recreational and social supports. Students will receive light refreshments, bus tickets, and their 40 hours volunteer service for graduation. Call 416-292-6912 for more information.

Thanks to Rahma Siad-Togane

T.O.R.C.H

Winter Wonderland

The TORCH Youth Group at the McGregor Park Community Centre has pulled off another tremendous event yet again, called "Winter Wonderland." Having been held on December 29th, 2012, the event took approximately 4 meetings to plan, which ultimately became a great success. This event's success was due to the combination of many ideas in the group, which resulted into one grand event. Fortunately, all ages could enjoy the fun! Families had the opportunity to enjoy time on the skating rink, and were invited into the newly-opened youth lounge, where the group offered free hot chocolate and a variety of snacks. To entertain the children, small art workshops were held where the kids learned how to make winter-related crafts. There was also a gingerbread decorating component to the evening where everyone got to make their own gingerbread man out of a selection of sweets! The evening concluded with many people relaxing around the TV to watch a film! Overall, the evening ran smoothly and the Dorset Park Community was very pleased to have attended such a festivity. Everyone is waiting for another event like this!



Karaoke Night

The TORCH Youth Group at the McGregor Park Community Centre has pulled off another fantastic event called "Karaoke Night," which was held on March 13th, 2013. The event was a huge accomplishment by the group as youth came out to sing their hearts out with such a small amount of planning time. It was tried to accommodate every type of genre from Bollywood to pop, so that everyone could sing the type of song they enjoy. "We were very pleased to see the turnout and were even more excited to see how many young talented singers we had in our community," said by one of the members of TORCH. As this was a competition, there were four judges who marked the singers on their vocal ability and stage presence. "It was very hard to choose a winner because there were many strong vocalists that came," said one of the judges. In the end they had narrowed it down to one contestant, but surprisingly the singer believed that one of the other singers deserved it more than him and handed over the HMV gift card to the singer who he felt deserved it the most. Once again, the TORCH was able to organize another successful event and is planning another spectacular event soon. So, keep your eyes open!

Thanks to Jody Gyivicsan

JANE'S WALK 2013



Planning is underway to bring the annual Jane's Walk back to Dorset Park over the May 4-5th weekend, and *organizers are looking for volunteers!* If you are a student or community member looking to complete your hours; or a service provider, community group or business interested in learning something new about your surroundings while meeting friendly neighbours along the way – then sign up now! Volunteers interested in the following areas are encouraged to apply:

Office/Administrative tasks and helping make the perfect 'route map', Social Media, E-mail, Blogging and Telephone promotion, Internet and Library research on 'walkability' issues, Picture taking, note taking, making signs and other event day tasks.

SIGN UP NOW or send any questions to bryan.heal@gmail.com! Service hour completion forms and references or volunteer work provided are available upon request.

Jane's Walk is a tradition inspired by the legendary activist Jane Jacobs and her vision of healthy neighbourhoods and where residents from all walks of life take an active role in their communities in helping shape sights, sounds, smells and spaces.

Thanks to Bryan Heal

John Howard Society of Toronto

The John Howard Society of Toronto provides support services to people in conflict with the law and adults at imminent risk of coming into conflict with the law in order to facilitate positive change and achieve community reintegration. Our office at the Dorset Park Community Hub offers the following services:

Housing Program Housing support services are provided to men recently released from provincial and federal facilities to receive assistance to obtain and retain housing. Housing assistance will be available through partnerships and referrals to private landlords, public housing providers, and, other agencies that offer housing assistance and follow-up support services.

Record Suspension/Pardon Program Our staff will work with you to assist you in acquiring a Record Suspension/Pardon. Completing this process helps to reduce any stigma and shame associated with past involvement in the Justice System. It will increase your chances of accessing employment, housing and other services. Take this important step towards new beginnings by contacting our office to schedule a confidential meeting with our Record Suspension worker.

Domestic Violence Program The Partner Assault Response (PAR) program provides services to men who have been charged with a domestic offence. Clients must be mandated by court or probation to access this program.

Scarborough Mosaic Addiction Response Team In partnership with Vasantham, SMART offers group counseling sessions regarding their use of alcohol and other drugs. These sessions are available in English or Tamil. We also facilitate information sessions regarding the criminal justice system and addiction issues from a harm reduction perspective.

For more information regarding any of our services, please contact our office at the Hub during our office hours: Monday to Thursday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and Fridays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Our phone number is 647-849-1541.

Thanks to Chris Iantorno

Essential Skills Upgrading at the Toronto District School Board

Are you interested in upgrading your reading, writing, math and digital technology skills?

TDSB offers free upgrading for adults who want to improve their essential skills. We can help you school or a GED preparation course Upgrading at college Job skills training Employment

We offer both full and part time classes at various locations across Toronto. Want to learn more? Come to one of our information sessions. We will answer any questions you might have and help you determine if our program is right for you. To reserve a space at an information session, call 416-396-6904.



Thanks to Susan Lefebvre

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

I trust that you all enjoyed a brisk, but happy and safe Winter season, participating in the many community events around **Ward 19**. I'm happy to inform you of some activities I have recently been involved in.

I am also pleased to report that we are off to a great start with **Community Design Team Committee** meetings regarding the construction of **Bendale Thomson**, the new state of the art school replacing **Bendale BTI & David & Mary Thomson**.

Community Engagement

It has been great to see so many of you come out to my many events held since September: the **School Council Chair & Co Chair Christmas Brunch**, and two **Ward Forums** which have seen outstanding participation and community interaction – they just keep getting better. The success of my **Ward Forums** comes not only as a result of our informed and distinguished guest speakers, but from the strong interaction I see amongst us all, as a result of the important and timely topics brought forward for discussion. I urge you and your neighbours to attend these **Forums** – refreshments and child care are always available. It is through these gatherings that we continue to build and maintain a strong, safe community for our students and their families.

Next Ward Forum: Thursday, April 11, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. General Crerar P.S., 30 McGregor Road, Scarborough.

Staff Meet & Greet - April 19/2013

Fun Fair 2013

Finally, I am excited to announce the **3rd Annual Trustee David Smith Scarborough Centre, Ward 19 Community Fun Fair** on June 22, 2013, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at: Glen Ravine Junior Public School, 11 Gadsby Drive

Thanks to Novlette Mitchell

Education Bus

Parents and student come together for half day to find out answers to questions on what parents and youth need to know around opening the doors of education opportunity at Centennial College for them and their youth. Youth will have an opportunity to connect face to face with Centennial College staff to answer their questions they need to know around post secondary educations. Parents will receive information such as: student loans, bursaries, scholarship etc..

9:30am-12:30pm, transportation will be provided. 416-292-6912 Ext: 316, rdonna@agincourtcommunityservices.com

Thanks to Donna Robinson

The Extra Mile Ministries



Financial Literacy Program:

We would like to empower the community residents with a needed life skill to become able to afford their goals, lifestyle and aspirations

Financial Literacy Definition:

Possessing the skills and knowledge about financial matters to confidently take effective action that best fulfills one's personal, family, and global community goals.

Benefits of Financial Literacy:

Following is a list of the benefits of financial literacy. Think about what each of them means for you.

Ability to live your desired lifestyle. Imagine that you could spend all your days doing exactly what you love. What would you be doing? How would you spend your time? Whom would you see, and what activities would you choose?

Free time. Achieving financial freedom means you can spend more of your day doing those things you enjoy.

Independence and self-sufficiency. Do you wish you didn't have to report to work every day? Or maybe you love your job, and just want to work a three-day week once a month. Either way, financial literacy helps you achieve the independence to work when and how you want.

Security. Whether you're working toward getting your first job or planning for retirement, having your finances secured is critical to your future success.

Making a positive impact. Once you become financially literate, you can afford to give back—you can make a real difference in the world.

Helping family and friends. Many high school students tell us they want to learn about money so they can help out their families. And lots of adults want to help others too. Imagine being able to pay a loved one's rent during a tough time. How good would that feel?

Fun. Buying toys, traveling, gaining status in the community—all these are benefits of becoming financially literate too.

Thanks to Lito Paras

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

Dorset Park Healthy Living Fair

ACSA is hosting a Healthy Living Fair in your community! The Healthy Living Fair will help inform healthy living choices made by you and your family on a daily basis. The objective of this event is to provide you with a healthy living message and information that can be incorporated within your daily life.

Dorset Park Healthy Living fair: Saturday, April 13, 2013, 10am - 4pm (1911 Kennedy Road, Unit 105)

Thanks to Aleem Sufi

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.

www.DorsetPark.com

Everything about the Community



Call for Submissions

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

gmalsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com

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