

DORSET PARK

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March Break Event

On Tuesday March 15th , 2016, the Dorset Park Community HUB hosted a March Break Event for Dorset Park residents. More than 80 people registered for the event. It was a fun-filled afternoon with a pizza lunch and games for the whole family. Everyone enjoyed the activities and were really excited. Parents and their children played games together that were very interesting and unique. We would like to thank the volunteers, staff and residents who took part in the event. Resident loved it and were asking to have it again in the future.

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Dorset Park Communications

Dorset Park's Communications Group is made up of residents and service providers who collaborate to increase communications in the community. Since 2011, the group has been putting together Dorset Park's quarterly newsletter and website to highlight programs in the community, share resident stories, promote events, recognize work, and much more. Please check out the website at www.dorsetpark.com, where you can also find past editions of the newsletter.

In 2015, the Communications Group put together a Dorset Park Directory for the community. This resource can be found at the Dorset Park Community Hub and other local agencies, as well as on the Dorset Park website. The directory provides individuals living and working in the community with information about all the services that are available in the M1P postal code.

Thank you to Yonghai, Suganthine, Abeer, Malsan, Shua, and Mohiba for supporting communications in DP!

Thanks to Alison Mackenzie

Imagine 2016

On Tuesday February 9th, 2016 I initiated a program for youth between the ages of 14- 18 that reside in both Canlish and Glamorgan. Through an unbelievable partnership from Ryerson University, I accompanied 15 bright eyed youth at 930am, many whom had never left Scarborough down to Ryerson for a full day of learning, fun, and inspiration. Youth received a guided tour of the campus, engaged in a thought provoking discussion with the number #1 ranked Ryerson Rams men's basketball team and was fortunate to attend a basketball game.



In many Neighborhood Improvement Areas (NIA) as identified in 2005 by the City of Toronto (formally priority neighborhoods), youth live hour by hour and day to day with dreams and life goals barely formulated before being interrupted by violence, undiagnosed trauma, criminalization and an extensive list of complex mental health challenges. This initiative initiated drive, restored a sense of motivation by providing a realistic starting point and platform to the participant's future goals through tangible information and concrete strategies. Many thanks to Ryerson University and the men's basketball team for this unforgettable experience and to the youth who remain committed on being the best version of themselves possible, no matter the barriers they face.

Thanks to Michael Kissi



ACCES
EMPLOYMENT
Making Connections



START Program

This nine-week program provides women with industry-recognized Certifications in Customer Service, Computer Training, Job Search Support, Coaching & Job Shadow Placements

Thank You for HIRING our clients in 2015...

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ Ontario Ministry of Labour | ✓ Clientele Logistics Inc. |
| ✓ Shopper Drug Mart | ✓ Hazzam Lali Creative for Seniors |
| ✓ Elections Ontario 2015 | ✓ Ontario Conservatory of Music |
| ✓ Scotiabank | ✓ Rogers |
| ✓ ACCES Employment - Scarborough, Markham, Toronto | ✓ IT Solutions Services for Pan Am/Para Pan Am Games 2015 |
| ✓ Barbara Schiller Commemorative Legal Clinic | ✓ Sears Canada |
| ✓ Yee Hing Centre for Geriatric Care | ✓ Hilton Hotels and Resorts (Markham) |
| ✓ Express Realty Inc. | ✓ Triperformance |
| ✓ GSES Secure Solutions Ltd | ✓ Joseph Building Maintenance Service Group for Pan Am/Para Pan Am Games 2015 |
| ✓ ASLUN Group Inc. | ✓ Scarborough Community Legal Clinic |
| ✓ Canadian Tire | ✓ DSG Professional Group Inc. |

April 18th – June 17th, 2016

Scarborough 2100 Ellesmere Road, Unit 250 and Toronto 489 College Street, Unit 100

Women must be Ontario Works recipients (OW - Ontario Social Assistance program)

Referrals welcome from ALL interested women receiving Ontario Works - priority consideration for immigrant women on Ontario Works

Contact: Arlene Chin - Coordinator, START Program, (416) 431-5326 ext. 2463

This is a POES Employment Essentials program funded by the City of Toronto

EMPLOYMENT
ONTARIO



www.accesemployment.ca



Language for Workplace Connections

Enhanced Language Training (ELT) - All Professions

Connect with employers and improve your communication skills for the Canadian workplace! This popular program can help you develop your skills to gain employment and succeed in your career. After completing the program, you can work with one of our Employment Consultants or join a specialized bridging program. We will help you connect with employers.

Course key topics:

- Canadian workplace culture and communication
- Professional writing and presentation skills
- Small talk and networking
- Developing your self-confidence
- How to sell yourself in 30 seconds
- Conversation and telephone skills
- Job search best practices

Course Start Date: April 25th, 2016

Length of program: 5 weeks, full-time

Info sessions: April 7th, 14th, April 18th, 25th @ 1:30 pm

Location: 2100 Ellesmere Rd, Suite 250, Scarborough

To learn more about this program, please contact **Greta Perris** at gperris@accesemployment.ca or call 416-921-1800 ext. 2217.

Eligibility Requirements:

- * Permanent Resident or Protected Person
- * Canadian Language Benchmark (CLB) Level 5-8

Please bring your CLB assessment results and your PR Card/Landing papers to the info session.

www.accesemployment.ca

Women's English Circle

The Women's English Circle celebrates International Women's Day at the Hub. With in our circle the ladies are happy to share their stories of empowerment

What is International Women's Day:

"Every 8 March International Women's Day (IWD) celebrates the achievements of women of past and present throughout the world. The first International Women's Day was run in 1911 in some European countries such as Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. More than one million women and men rallied to campaign for women's rights to work, vote, education access, equality and end discrimination. By 1975, IWD was officially recognised by the United Nations and has continued to gain international recognition. In some places like China, Afghanistan, Russia and Burkina Faso, IWD is a national holiday. This day is also an occasion to inspire commitment to the future challenges that women face in making further progress.

If great improvements have been made, we must be aware that everywhere around the world women are still victims of many injuries and parity is far from obtained. It is important to remember that in Australia Indigenous women are the most vulnerable and marginalised group in Australian society, routinely subjected to violence." (Google)

The ladies took some time out of their learning schedule to celebrate women from around the world who have made a difference as well as celebrate themselves and their many accomplishments as well as talents. The program was filled with laughter, fun games and of course good food.

Some of the ladies prepared a small talk highlighting the lives of influential women such as Malala Yousafzai who has been fighting for women's right to education in Afghanistan this was presented by Prema. Also a brief speech about Margaret Thatcher, who was the first female UK prime minister, was given by Thiligavathy. The ladies were also serenaded by a few of the students who sang in their native languages: Danny; Chinese, Latha; Tamil, Farusan; Afghanistan dance, Valliamai; Tamil poet and Sarajoni; English song. One of the students, Siran, and a couple of the teachers Ida and Nisreen gave brief talks about what the day meant to them. The program came to a close with a fun game, a relay race and a bit of fun dancing.

March was a very busy international month of celebratory days. Afghanistan and Iran celebrated New year's which is a 2 weeks long celebration, as well as Mother's day which was celebrated by many Arabic nations.

Thanks to Suganthine Sivakumar



Dorset Park Community Hub

The Hub is getting busier as spring approaches, there are a number of upcoming activities

Income Tax Clinics – Free Income Tax Clinics were held at the Hub during the month of March and will continue during the month of April .

National Canadian Film Day – The hub will be participating in the National Canadian Film Day on Wednesday, April 20. Join us on April 20 for the screening of the film Welcome to Canada. The movie will be shown at 11am. National Canadian Film Day is a one day celebration of Canadian culture through film, with screenings being hosted across the country by varying community groups and organizations. The event is hosted by Reel Canada, the purpose is for all Canadians to have access to a great Canadian film. A flyer for the event will be out shortly.

Social Lab – To foster a spirit of collaborative work between partners at the HUB, Hub Partner Youth Leaps is inviting all partners at the Hub to drop-in the last Friday of every month at the Youth Leaps office to share and discuss their respective programs and services for the community. These casual monthly drop-ins at the Youth Leaps office (117) will serve to build rapport among partners and create an open space to share new ideas. Ultimately, the goal is to create a Social Lab within the HUB constituting partners and residents tackling programmatic challenges and refining services for the community through creative ideas.

During the winter residents attended the AGO Family Event on Sunday March 6th over 100 residents took part in a trip to the Art Gallery of Ontario. Residents and their families were able to visit the AGO for free to tour the various art displays at the Gallery and participate in a number of fun activities for families and kids. Children were able to make art, play games and take part in the kids gallery, they were also given activity bags. Free transportation was provided for residents to attend the event. The event sponsored by United Way and the AGO brought together communities from mid and east Scarborough.

Thanks to Yvette Bailey

Essential Skills Upgrading at the Toronto District School Board www.upgrademyskills.ca

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

The TDSB offers free upgrading for adults who want to improve their essential skills. We can help you prepare for: adult high school or a GED preparation course, upgrading at college, job skills training or 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 spot call 416-396-6904.

An assessor from the Essential Skills Upgrading program with the TDSB will be at the Dorset Hub for an information session, and registration regarding adult non-credit upgrading on the second Thursday of each month. Upcoming dates are: April 14th and May 12th 10 a.m. – 12p.m.

Please register with staff at the front desk.

Thanks to Hellen Pantis-Tassis

Safety Ambassador Group

Safety Ambassador Group was busy this winter. We had our first fundraising in November 2015 and Toonie Tuesday soup sale which was fun and successful.

We attended the Mental Health and Mental Diseases training in November. We learned a lot about mental health and how we can assist with a sick person.

Navigating City Properties training was very helpful.

Ghada and Lamyaa attended the Christmas pot luck at 41 Division, which was exciting. Meeting the police made us feel more relaxed and confident around them.

There were some incidents in the area that made some residents not feel safe. Residents were asking lots of questions about the break-ins and other incidents that had happened in the community so we planned a community safety meeting at Glamorgan School on March 3rd. Some residents showed up at the meeting and the police officers were very nice answering questions. The Crime Stoppers briefed us about the history, how it started and how it works. We learned that the Police and Crime Stoppers are two different organizations. Calling the Crime Stoppers is always anonymous, if you feel that you need to report anything and you don't want to be identified; Please call 416- 222- tips (8477)

Thanks to Lamyaa Hassan Safety Animator in Dorset Park



Happy Women's Club

Happy Women's Club started in September of 2015. It is a drop in program, which welcomes women 18 years old and up. We provide arts and crafts activities, once a month make a healthy recipe together in class and monthly workshops that focus on women's health. The most famous activity is stocking flowers. Stocking flowers is an amazing activity we all enjoy. We have noticed that making flowers is a very good way for women to use their fine motor skills, especially for seniors.

In February, we invited Esther from the Alzheimer Society to do the workshop and it was very successful, women were very engaged, sharing stories and asking questions. The presenter focused on Alzheimers in general and we learned that it is one of many parts of Amnesia. We will have another workshop on brain health in late March or early April in order to give the women all the information they need to understand the disease.

The program runs every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at Dorset Park Hub.

Come and join our group, we always welcome new members.

Thanks to Happy Women Team Lamyaa, Ghada and Diaa



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. Safety
2. Program/Services

3. Food Security/Community Garden

4. Employment

5. Communications

If you would like to get involved please call 416-292-6912 ext 315

www.DorsetPark.com

Call for Submissions

Everything about the Community



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

gmsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com

416-292-6912 ext 316



Action for Neighbourhood Change

Supported by

