

Dorset Park Neighborhood Association

416-292-6912
dorsetparkna@gmail.com

DORSET PARK

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Dorset Park Neighbourhood Association (DPNA) Christmas Party

The DPNA Christmas Party was held on Friday December 16th 2016. Although, it was cold and snowy outside we had a fun time with great food and warm smiles.

Thanks to everyone who came out to celebrate the holiday season with us. Special thanks to the following committee members who worked hard on this event.

Sherene, Helen, Rana, Rikaza, Prema, Suganthine and Kasthuri who has found a full-time job we wish her well.

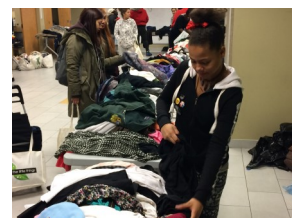
Thanks to Sherene Lowe



Annual Youth Clothing Bank

On November 24th 2016 - Rosalie Hall in collaboration with the Dorset Park Community Hub hosted the winter edition of its annual Youth clothing bank. With over 90 families and youth in attendance, Rosalie Hall's Youth Clothing Bank was again a tremendous success. This year's initiative was profiled through NOW magazine whose writers attended the event. What continues to overwhelm organizers is the unbelievable response generated for the immediate need of the most basic clothing items. Through the clothing bank, youth and their families are able to address needs and lift a financial burden by allocating monies elsewhere. We thank the volunteers and donors from across the city who continue to contribute their time, energy and most importantly their belief of this initiative as the clothing bank continues to address and eliminate barriers.

Look out for Rosalie Hall's upcoming Spring/Summer Clothing Bank in the coming months. For more information on the Youth Clothing Bank, contact - Pradheepa Simonpillai 416.438.6880. x278 or Michael Kissi 416.438.6880 x274



Dorset Park Community Hub

Updates from the Dorset Park Community Hub:

Garage Sale – On November 11th a garage sale was held at the Hub. The sale was well received, a variety of items were on sale with lots of great deals.

Agency Information Fair – An agency Information Fair was held on October 12th. The fair was organized by the Dorset Park Network Employment Committee and featured information and resources from the various employment and other agencies in Dorset Park.

Holiday Cheer Event – A Holiday Cheer Event was held on November 26th to ring in the Christmas Season. The event was for families in the community and featured arts and crafts, activities and giveaways

Upcoming Events – There are a few events coming up at the Hub. Please look out for more information in the coming weeks - March Break Event, International Film Day

We are located at 1911 Kennedy Road, Unit 105, and are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 6pm. Come by for a visit or call 416-292-6912 for more information!

The Dorset Park Hub is a place where everyone has equal access to a wide range of programs, services and supports.

Thanks to Yvette Bailey

6 GLAMORGAN SOCIAL EVENINGS

COME AND JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF SOCIALIZING
WITH FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS.

ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- BOARD GAMES
- CARD GAMES
- ARTS & CRAFTS
- PUZZLES



LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.



WHERE: 6 GLAMORGAN AVE (REC ROOM)

WHEN: FRIDAYS @ 6:30 – 8 PM

WHO: EVERYONE IS WELCOME

The Youth Hub

@ 6 Glamorgan Ave

KICK-OFF SESSION!

Wednesday, January 18th

from 5:30 pm – 7 pm

in 6 Glamorgan

at the Recreation Room

Are you between 14 – 19 years old?

Interested in exploring VOLUNTEER or WORK opportunities?

Love to play SPORTS? Explore ARTS? Develop SKILLS?

Join us at the Youth Hub!

Questions? Contact us:

Michael at 416-438-6880 ext 274 / mkissi@rosaliehall.com

Pradheepa at 416-438-6880 ext 278 / psimonpillai@rosaliehall.com

Toronto Community Housing



ROSALIE HALL
A YOUNG PARENT RESOURCE CENTRE

Financial Services Connections™



This program provides internationally-trained financial services professionals with practical job search information and connections with employers in the financial sector. Participants learn how to integrate into the Canadian workplace and how to effectively communicate with colleagues and clients within the financial services industry. 81% of graduates are employed in their field within one year of completing the program.

PROGRAM DESIGN

- One-to-one support from an employment consultant who is knowledgeable about the sector
- Referrals to job openings and connections to employers
- Access to mentors who are professionals in your field
- Recruitment and networking events
- Academic training from a recognized educational institution
- Business and workplace communication training in a Canadian context
- Orientation to your sector in Canada
- Job search support and preparation
- Continued coaching and support after you're hired

COST

- The fee for this program is \$500. This fee offsets the training or academic portion of the program and may be eligible for full reimbursement through the Ontario Bridging Participant Assistance Program.

LENGTH

- 5 weeks, full time

LOCATIONS

Toronto: 489 College Street, Unit 100
Phone: 416-921-1800
Scarborough: 2100 Ellesmere Road, Unit 250
Phone: 416-431-5326
Mississauga: 151 City Centre Drive, Suite 600
Phone: 905-361-2522

REGISTRATION AND QUESTIONS:

- To register for the program, please attend an information session. Call an ACCES location above to sign up.

Upcoming Dates:

SCARBOROUGH
Program Start Date: February 27, 2017
Info sessions: Jan 18, 25 & Feb 1, 7, 15, 22 @ 10am

TORONTO
Program Start Date: January 30, 2017
Info sessions: Jan 19 @ 10am; Jan 26 @ 2pm

MISSISSAUGA
Program Start Date: February 20, 2017
Info sessions: Jan 17, 24, 31 & Feb 7, 14 @ 10am

www.accesemployment.ca

Making Connections

Sales and Marketing Connections



Sales and Marketing Connections prepares internationally-trained sales and marketing professionals for the Canadian job market quickly and effectively.

Program Components:

- Understanding the Local Sales and Marketing Labour Market
- Connecting to the Canadian Labour Market
- Sector Specific Job Search
- Digital Marketing, including a focus on emerging trends in content marketing, and the development of corporate policies
- Comprehensive Scenario Based Business Communications
- Project Management for Marketing Professionals, (clients will receive 35 profession development Units) on completion
- Mentoring opportunities
- Employer Guest Speaker
- Job Retention

Pre-Registration is Required

To register please contact: Faye Matthew-Hess

Email: fayemh@accesemployment.ca or Call: 416-431-5326 ext. 2401

Next Program Starts
February 27th, 2017
ACCES Employment, Scarborough
2100 Ellesmere Rd, Suite 250
Information sessions Dates:
Jan 12, 19, 26 & Feb 2, 9, 16, 23
Sessions start at 10:00 a.m.

Language for Workplace Connections

Professional Communication & Soft Skills

The Language for Workplace Connections program helps job seekers who want to improve their English language communication skills and learn more about Canadian workplace culture. This highly effective program is suitable for individuals with any professional background.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

- The program focuses on workplace communication topics that prepare job seekers to find employment. You will develop:
 - Strong business presentation skills
 - Effective business writing skills
 - Enhanced grammar and pronunciation
 - Improved understanding of Canadian workplace culture
 - Resume writing and interview skills

PROGRAM DESIGN

- Receive valuable in-class instruction
- Participate in expert-led job search workshops
- Develop your LinkedIn profile to improve your online professional presence
- Practice online interviewing through SparkHire (latest software used by companies to pre-screen interview candidates)
- Network in Speed Mentoring® events

UPON COMPLETION

- Upgrade your official Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB)
- Receive a Language for Workplace Connections Certificate of Completion
- Work one-on-one with an Employment Consultant, join a bridging program, or take other employment focused workshops

LOCATIONS

Toronto: 489 College Street, Unit 100
Phone: 416-921-1800
Scarborough: 2100 Ellesmere Road, Unit 250
Phone: 416-431-5286

LENGTH

5 weeks, full time

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Permanent Resident or Protected Person
- CLB: 6 in at least one skill area

COST

This program is **free** for all participants

REGISTRATION AND QUESTIONS:

- Contact Greta Perris at 416-921-1800 ext. 2217, or gperris@accesemployment.ca
- Call an ACCES location above to register for an information session

SCARBOROUGH

Start Date: February 21, 2017
Info sessions: Jan 24, 31 & Feb 7, 14 @ 1:30 pm

TORONTO

Start Date: January 16th, 2017
Info Sessions: Dec. 22, 29 & Jan. 5, 12 @ 1:30 pm

www.accesemployment.ca

Toronto District School Board offers FREE CAMP SPACE

Are you thinking of
running a **March break Camp**?

Priority Schools Initiative (PSI) will start
accepting March Break applications
on **Tuesday January 3rd 2017**

Deadline for all applications is
Friday February 10th 2017
Apply now to reserve your free space!

Visit our website at www.tdsb.on.ca/psi or
call (416) 395-4829 for more information

2017
March Break



The Priority Schools Initiative program as one of the resources in the Dorset Park community. Glamorgan is the main PSI school in the community and community organizations and groups can obtain free permit to use the school.

2017 CITY BUDGET MATTERS: TRANSIT

At the City Budget Town Hall held on December 14, 2016 at the Dorset Park Community Hub, residents voiced concerns about transit and the proposed 2017 City Budget. Residents said that the budget does not make **effective use of our resources**. There is no need for an expensive one-stop subway extension to Scarborough. Scarborough needs more than one stop and a more extended network within Scarborough. Community members also raise concerns that the budget does not include funds for increased **bus service**. As well, the budget does not include **a fair fare system**. The 2017 City Budget proposes increasing individual fares but that does not mean increased or better services. The budget includes a 10 cent fare increase for adult tokens or 3.4%, and a similar fare hike for Metropasses, resulting in \$28.7 million in new revenue. Residents asked, why do public transit users have to pay higher fares? **Rider accessibility** was also talked about. More needs to be done for riders with mobility issues and special fares are needed for low-income riders.

How does the 2017 City Budget square with the recommendations made in the **Poverty Reduction Strategy** (PRS) which was unanimously adopted by city council in 2015? The PRS recommends that the City of Toronto “Make transit more affordable for low-income residents” and “Improve transit services in the inner suburbs,” however, the 2017 City Budget does nothing to make these recommendations a reality.

Residents at the budget forum say they want city council to increase revenue tools so that the City of Toronto can implement measures to address poverty reduction in a sustainable and effect way.



2017 CITY BUDGET MATTERS: HOUSING

On December 14, 2016, over 65 residents from across Scarborough made their way to the Dorset Park Community Hub to attend the **City Budget Town Hall** organized by the Scarborough Civic Action Network (SCAN) and Social Planning Toronto (SPT).

Despite the chilly, dark evening, residents from all over Scarborough attended and voiced their concerns about the 2017 City Budget. What follows are main points about housing.

Community members are concerned that no additional funding has been allocated in the proposed 2017 City Budget to create more **affordable housing** and no measures to address the long social housing waiting list. Residents also talked about the rise in housing costs including rent and rising property taxes which affects those living on a low or fixed income. We also learned that knowledge of housing rights is an important issue. Marginalized and racialized individuals are not as aware of their rights as a tenant and there should be funding to educate them.

Residents called for city council to advocate for **dedicated revenues for social housing**. For example, a portion of the Land Transfer Tax could be allocated to social housing. This would help to ensure more housing for seniors and different types of housing to accommodate families. As well, city council needs to create more **rent supplements** for low-income residents and create more affordable rents and ensure an **easy-to-navigate affordable housing system**. Make information more available and accessible in multiple languages so that all Torontonians have equitable access to the system.

One important outcome of the city budget forum was the deputation of Judy, a single retired homeowner living on a fixed income who spoke at the City of Toronto Budget Committee Deputations held at the Scarborough Civic Centre on Jan 5, 2017 with the help of Michael Polanyi about the real challenges she faces with property tax increases. Thanks to her deputation, we learned about the City of Toronto's Tax and Water Relief Program which provides tax assistance to people including low-income seniors and low-income persons with a disability.

Thanks to Anna Kim

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ARE VITAL FOR SENIORS IN TORONTO

At the City of Toronto Budget Committee Deputations held at the Scarborough Civic Centre on Jan 5, 2017, Ping Gu, a community leader spoke about the importance of community programs which was important given that the preliminary 2017 budget recommends a funding freeze for the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP).

“My name is Ping Gu. I am a senior living in Ward 41... Nonprofit community services or programs are very important in Toronto especially for seniors. More and more seniors come from different countries and community programs help them to engage with and integrate into Canadian society. As well, many seniors end up staying home all day long, risking isolation and mental health issues.

Community programs are necessary to provide services that will benefit seniors’ mental and social well-being...

“I personally know of the importance of community programs for seniors... I am a newcomer from China and I immigrated to Canada in 2010. In 2012, by chance, I attended the Civic Awareness Project (CAP) workshops provided by Agincourt Community Services Association (ACSA) where I learned about Canadian society, its civic culture and political system and the chance to build networks in our community, improve my communication ability in English and meet lots of friends. Through this program, I took a first important step in my integration journey.

“A few years later, in 2016, I proposed a community-based project called, “Mental Health and You,” which was intended to educate seniors about mental health. With the help of a Resident Action Grant (RAGS) support from Action for Neighborhood Change (ANC) and ACSA, the workshops were held in five different locations throughout Wards 39 and 40.

“...I witnessed the urgent need and desire for such an educational community-based program for seniors... The workshops provided these seniors with a social space to learn and enhance their well-being and the opportunity to form friendships and access to a community. These are basic social needs...

“As city council decides the 2017 budget, it is important that we understand the diverse lived experiences of seniors and ensure we provide funding for community programs that support seniors’ access to material and mental well-being. Moreover, I recommend for the 2017 budget, that city council not cut the budget for social programs that benefit seniors but rather fund more community-based programs. These are vital investments that help to support the well-being of all members of our communities.

Thanks to Ping Gu



SAFETY

SPEED

Speeding continues to be a concern in Dorset Park. Ward 40 Councillor had agreed to lower the speed limit on both Antrim Crescent and Dundalk Drive in lieu of installing speed humps petitioned by community members in 2015.

TRAFFIC LIGHT

We are still waiting on city staff to assess having a no right turn sign on red light placed on the south west corner of Antrim Crescent and Kennedy Road in order to ensure both pedestrians and motorist safety.

SCHOOL BUSES

For over a year I have observed school buses stop at every single driveway on Dundalk Drive during both morning and afternoon pick up/drop offs. This is an extremely dangerous routine and it was also brought up to Ward 20 Trustee. This issue continues to be a danger for both motorists and pedestrians.

LANEWAY behind METRO in KENNEDY COMMONS MALL.

Motorists continues to break the law in the Laneway behind Metro in the Kennedy Commons mall. There is a no turn sign on the south side of the driveway and a one way sign on the north side. The continued presence of traffic officers would help ensure this laneway is safe for motorists and pedestrians.

Thanks to Sandra Low

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

Everything about the Community



Call for Submissions

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

gmlsan@agincourtcommunityservices.com

416-292-6912 ext 316



Action for Neighbourhood Change

Supported by

