



**Scarborough
Women's
Centre**

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Women at the Centre

Winter 2008 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello, my name is Yvette Bailey. I was elected President of the Board in September 2007. I work as an Administrator for Operation Eyesight, a non-profit organization focused on international development. I have been on the SWC Board for the past two years and have been enjoying every moment of it. Before being elected President, I was the Corporate Secretary. I also chaired the Strategic Planning Committee and was a member of the Fundraising Committee. The SWC does great work for women in the community and I am happy to be a part of such a great cause. I believe that women play an important role in any community and they should be respected and encouraged to achieve their full potential.

During the next year the Centre will continue to explore different avenues to increase revenue for the organization, to build our capacity and to increase our outreach to women in the community. In order to achieve our goals, we will work on forming partnerships, collaborations, connecting with the community and involving women in volunteer roles that are not exclusively direct service or Board related. We will be increase our outreach to women in the community through new programs such as the Young Women's

Outreach Program to help young women better prepare for their future and make positive choices in their lives; an outreach program for Newcomer Women; and in partnership with Birchmount Bluffs Neighbourhood Centre, we will be offering several workshops for women with disabilities, designed to help women with disabilities improve their self esteem, build healthy relationships and establish healthy boundaries.

In 2008, we will celebrate the milestone of 25 years of service to the community. We will keep you informed on how we will be celebrating this occasion.

I would like to thank everyone for your continued support!

Yvette Bailey, Board President

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWSHIP AWARD

Executive Director Lynda Kosowan was named a "Paul Harris Fellow" by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International this summer.

Nominated by the Rotary Club of Scarborough, the award is made "In appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding

and friendly relations among peoples of the world".

Congratulations to Lynda for this recognition of her 20+ years of work at the Centre!

STRENGTHENING OUR SCARBOROUGH COMMUNITY

We are thrilled to announce that the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario has given us a grant of \$218,000 over 3 years to work on partnerships, collaborations, community connections, and expanding our services into high priority neighbourhoods in order to ensure that our services make a deeper impact on Scarborough. Please stay tuned for updates on our progress.



You are invited to our wonderful Spring Tea fundraiser sponsored by www.theindulgentfoodie.com

Enjoy a **spectacular fashion show** Bring family and friends! **Everyone is welcome**

When: **Sunday, May 4th 2008**
Check out our website for details.



WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Our Annual Meeting on September 11th, 2007 was a great opportunity to celebrate the Centre's accomplishments over the past year. Former Board President Vicki Bismilla, who is now VP, Academic and Chief Learning Officer at Centennial College was our keynote speaker on "Women in Leadership: Inspiring Success, Celebrating Diversity".

The following new Board members were elected by the membership. Welcome!

♥ **Arianna Bhagwansingh** is a Scarborough resident, who arrived in Canada in 1994 from Trinidad and was referred through Charity Village. She is currently Regional Financial Controls Manager, for a national corporation, and has previous experience in internal auditing at an international corporation. Arianna has a B.Sc., and MBA, and is working on her accounting designation (CMA)

♥ **Christine Miranda** is a Scarborough resident, referred through abc.GTA. She is the Director of Administration and Finance at a non profit organization. Christine completed the Emerging Leaders program on non profit management in 2006, and has been on our Finance committee since January 2007.

♥ **Irene Rey** referred through Volunteer Toronto, is the National Policy Development Consultant at major financial firm. She has previous experience in insurance analysis; and as an Exercise Physiologist, and Fitness Facility Manager. Irene has her M.Sc., Kinesiology.

♥ **Roslyn Shields.** Referred through Charity Village, she is a Community Support, Development and Research Specialist at a large mental health organization and works in the areas of direct service, community development, advocacy and research. Previous volunteer work includes Advisory Board Member, Consumer Survivor Information Resource Centre. Roslyn has her MA in Community Psychology. She has been on our Strategic Planning committee since March 2007.

We are recruiting new Board members for the coming year. Information about their governance responsibilities is on the website. Please contact our Executive Director.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

Two board members completed their terms, and we are thrilled that they will continue to be involved with the Centre. We wish to acknowledge and thank:

♥ **Samantha Singh** A Scarborough resident, Samantha joined the Board in 2003, and has served for 4 years. Responsibilities included: Chair, Program Evaluation Committee; Fundraising Committee; Governance Committee; Executive Committee; Service and Program Needs Committee, and member, Access

Committee. She was Board President from 2005 to 2007.

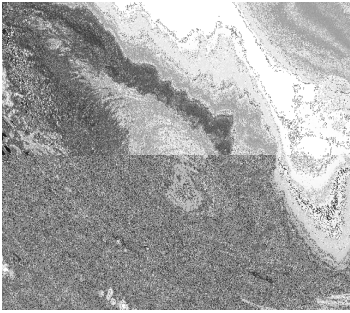
Samantha and her family have held three fundraising events on behalf of the Centre, including a golf tournament this summer. Samantha has her L.L.B. and has practiced litigation law in the insurance industry. She is currently teaching law at a community college. She is expecting her second child in March 2008. Samantha will continue to participate on the Fundraising Committee.

♥ **Sarah Ahmed** joined the Board in 2004, and has now completed her 3 year term. Sarah is a Certified Management Accountant; with a BA in Economics. She is currently the Controller for a non profit organization. Sarah was Treasurer from 2005 to 2007. In this role, she has worked with the ED and Bookkeeper to streamline financial management reporting systems so that the Board has the information it needs to maintain sound stewardship of agency funds. Sarah will continue to participate on the Finance Committee.



WOMEN AT THE CENTRE is a publication of Scarborough Women's Centre. Letters and suggestions are very welcome.

Please forward to
Lynda Kosowan, MSW, RSW
Executive Director and Editor of
this publication
ed@scarboroughwomenscentre.ca



WOMEN FOR ALL SEASONS

One of the things that has always interested me is the changing of seasons in Ontario. For each season there is preparation, adjustment, change, and enjoyment. As the colours are changing this Fall I am enjoying the beauty of the reds, oranges, and yellows.

As Winter approaches I pay attention to the Evergreens and their consistency. No matter the weather, they keep their green. This is a reminder to me that I can be constant in all seasons. Not the same, necessarily, but that I can weather all storms. It's not invincibility. It may be bending with the wind, uprooting myself and starting again elsewhere, or maybe even developing new and deeper roots.

As the Spring approaches, I focus on the restoration and growth of the trees that looked almost dead. In Summer, I notice the varied colours and the lushness of everything.

As you experience your change of seasons, it can be if you choose, a time for assessment, change, and enjoyment. Working and resting may be painful for us all but needed at times.

As we go into the New Year, let us assess what is needed, prepare, change what needs to be changed, and focus on enjoyment.

Have a joyful New Year as you take steps to work towards your goals. If you need help in this process please contact the Scarborough Women's Centre to explore programs that may be useful in this process.

Jacynth Fennell
Case Manager/Counsellor



YOUNG WOMEN'S OUTREACH UPDATE

The Centre continues its commitment to serve young women. Our Young Women's Peer Outreach provides volunteer opportunities where young women use creativity to spread awareness on the issues they face. We also offer educational workshops on topics like Building Self-Esteem, Teen Dating Violence and Learning to Build Healthy Relationships.

As we all know, teenagers today are living in a technology-based world where communication is done through the Internet. We have learned that the traditional means of outreach are not as effective with young women. We are exploring the use of the Internet to get young women involved, as well as informing them on the important issues.

By using popular sites such as Facebook and MySpace, young women can easily interact with one

another, discuss issues and share their own personal experiences. We hope by using the web, young women will have easier access to support and information.

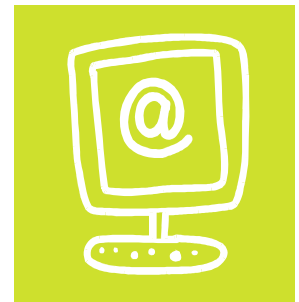
This combination of in-person and Web 2.0 connection will make it possible to give young women insight into their options and opportunities at a very important time in their lives.

Young women are always welcome to volunteer with the program.

We are very grateful to Junior League Toronto and Alcoa Foundation for their support in making the Young Women's Outreach possible!

Sophialigaya Santos
Young Women's Worker

Have you seen our Website?



Did you know that you can make an online donation through our website?

The "**Donate Now**" button takes you directly to the **CanadaHelps.org** website where you can make a donation easily and quickly.

Thank you for your support!

Visit us at:

www.scarboroughwomenscentre.ca

Acknowledgements & Appreciation

January 2007 – December 2007

We gratefully acknowledge the following **government funders** for grants made to the Centre: City Of Toronto for their financial support through the Community Service Partnership Program; Human Resources Skills Development Canada - Summer Career Placement; Maytree Foundation; The Government of Ontario through Ministry of the Attorney General – Ontario Victim Support Services; Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario; The Government Of Ontario through Ontario Women's Directorate

SWC thanks the following **Individuals** for their **generosity**: Tamara Akopcan; Carol Bolton; Marie Campbell; Elaine Dandy; Ryan Demchuk; Lynn Fournier-Ruggles; Maureen Edgar; Heather Freed; Ronald Hack; Debbie Herridge; Francine Hickman; Evelyn Hill; Shizuka Ito; Nan Kosowan; Lynda Kosowan; Marcela Kupfer; Lyn McDonell; Catherine McLean; Lorraine Mackie; Christine Miranda; Jennifer Mohan; Kalia Musha; Ada Murray; Joan Phillips; Jeanette Thompson; Penni Stuart; Jess Shields.

SWC gratefully acknowledges our **Corporate, Group and Service Club** supporters: **up to \$2,499**: Agincourt Civitan Club; Business Connection Exchange; Comark Inc; Eli Lilly Canada Inc; Ipsco Saskatchewan Inc; L'Amoureux C.I; Lee Tak Wei Fdn; Malvern Cricket and Social Club; Mastermind Toys; Myron Corporation; Novopharm Ltd; OPG Employees Trust; Royal Canadian Legion; The Junior League of Toronto; Telus. **\$2,500 to \$4999**: BMO Fountain of Hope; Bank of Nova Scotia; George Lunan Foundation; The Caring Foundation; The McLean Foundation. **\$5,000 to \$10,000**: CIBC; IBM Employees Charitable Fund; Royal Bank Foundation; The Geoffrey Wood Foundation; **\$10,000+**: Green Shield Canada

Special Thanks for In-Kind Donations to: Alliance Atlantis; Art Gallery of Ontario; Ashworth Associates Inc; Aveda College; Alberto Culver; Bay Street Hoops; Bradford Group; Bonnie Bickel; Bulova Watch Company; CN Tower; Christina Trives-Miller; Cineplex Entertainment; Elaine Dandy; Druxy's Inc; Sheryl Dyke; ; Enbridge Gas Distribution Inc; Estheticare; Fairmont Royal York; HBC Foundation; House and Home Media; Il Fornello; Kelsey's Restaurant; Linda Lundstrom; Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People; Nestle; Ontario Science Centre; Erin O'Reilly; Paramount Canada's Wonderland; Royal Canadian Air Farce; David Russell; Mary Sargent; Shoppers Drug Mart; Sears Downtown - Estee Lauder; Sinfonia Toronto; Soulpepper Theatre; Starbucks; Sun Valley; Taje Mohabir; The Elgin Theatre and Winter Gardens; Textile Museum of Canada; The Art Gallery of Ontario; Timex Canada; Tim Hortons (TDL Group); Tim Howe; The Keg Restaurants; Toronto Maple Leafs; Toronto Argonauts; Toronto Symphony Orchestra; Trapeze; University of Toronto Bookstore; Unilever; Vidal Sassoon Salon; Winner Merchants Inc ; Michael Yablonsky; Yamaha Canada Music Ltd

SUPPORT THE CENTRE!!

Make a donation, become a member, or volunteer

Name: _____ Address _____

Apt. # _____ City/Province _____ Postal Code _____

Phone: _____ E-mail _____

I would like to be a member of the Centre. _____ Please send an information package. _____

Enclosed is my donation of: \$35. _____ \$50. _____ \$200. _____ \$500. _____ Other _____

Enclosed is my cheque for \$_____ payable to Scarborough Women's Centre.

Visa/MasterCard _____ Expiry Date: _____ Signature: _____

Registered Charitable # 10795 9660 RR0001

Yes, you may acknowledge my donation in your newsletter and website. Please keep me informed of Centre activities.