
KEY NOTES



North York Women's Centre: Opening Doors for Women

Exciting Changes in the Works!

Exciting changes are in store for the NYWC in 2007.

Our two-year community outreach project is well underway. We are recruiting women to participate in a revamped facilitator training and will support them in delivering groups in their communities. This year, our focus will be in the neighbourhoods of Jane/Wilson and Flemingdon Park. We would like to acknowledge the support of our community partners, Doorsteps Neighbourhood Services and Flemingdon Neighbourhood Services, in this initiative – and, of course, the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF) for funding to make it happen. We couldn't do it without them.

Many of you have expressed concerns about how difficult it can be to find us, while others have worried that the poor lighting on the street and around the building makes us feel unsafe. Well, we are finally in a position to do something about it. Thanks to another OTF grant – this time to the Caribou Community Collaborative, a coalition of community groups we share the building with – we will be able to replace the entry doors, increase lighting on the property and enhance signage. We are also working with Toronto Hydro to improve the street lighting in the area.

Equally exciting is the proposed widening of Bathurst Street to accommodate left-hand turn lanes and the installation of traffic signal lights at the intersection of Bathurst and Caribou/Dell Park.

No more taking your life into your hands to get to/from the bus stop!

With financial support from the Ontario Women's Directorate, we have been able to install a new telephone system in the NYWC office. NYWC staff now have individual extension numbers and voice mailboxes, making it easier for you to get in touch with us. Rest assured that the new telephone system has not reduced our commitment to personally answer all calls that come in during office hours.

Finally, we have started planning for our annual NYWC picnic and are working hard to make this year's the best ever. Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 23, 2007. We look forward to seeing you there.

~ Iris Fabbro, Executive Director

Staff Directory

Iris Fabbro, Executive Director - ext. 25

Melissa Wong, Program Manager - ext. 24

Mulu Haddis, Volunteer Coordinator - ext. 27

Maribeth Christensen, Administrative Assistant – ext. 25

General Voicemail – ext. 21

NYWC in the Community: International Women's Day Events

- Driftwood Community Centre -

As in previous years, the North York Women's Centre had the opportunity to be part of the Planning Committee for the International Women's Day (IWD) celebration this year at Driftwood Community Centre. The celebration took place on March 9, 2007 and was an amazing success. The event was organized by many community agencies including, the North York Women's Centre, Black Creek Community Health Centre, Jane/Finch Community & Family Centre, Delta Family Resources Centre, Driftwood Community Centre, Jane/Finch Community Legal Services, Yorkgate Seneca College, The Centre for Spanish-Speaking Peoples, JVS Toronto and Northwood Neighbourhood Services.

Activities of the day included an exciting music display by Figrove Drumming Group, African Dance performances, information displays, door prizes and much more. Women were treated to manicures, hair braiding, mehndi/henna, and massages. It was great to see some people win prizes that were donated by the NYWC and others.

The IWD Planning Committee also organized an educational workshop about immigration law related to violence against women. The special guest speaker for the day was Sue Johansen, of the Sunday Night Sex Show. She spoke about sexuality and HIV/AIDS.

This event was an opportunity for all women to connect with each other, learn about issues that affect them, and become aware of the resources that are available in their communities.

~ Mulu Haddis, Volunteer Coordinator



A sample of some of the festivities from the Driftwood IWD Event –
The Figrove Drumming Group and an African Dance Performance!

NYWC in the Community: International Women's Day Events

- Ryerson -

March 10th, 2007 marked a busy Saturday for women across Toronto. Among the many events to celebrate International Women's Day, the North York Women's Centre participated in an IWD fair hosted by Ryerson University's student union and women's centre.

The fair consisted of forty-eight diverse exhibitors who offered display boards and plenty of resources for women to take, as well as numerous workshops that focused on topics such as breast care, poetry writing, war resistance, and raising minimum wage. Altogether it was a very colourful and warm atmosphere that nevertheless strongly reflected everyone's passion around national and international women's issues.

With our table conveniently located at the entrance of the student centre, Maribeth Christensen and I were in a perfect spot to greet enthusiastic visitors and reach out to interested women. It was great to see the crowd of marchers arrive with their banners and signs demanding better childcare, no more violence against women, and a \$10 minimum wage. A big thank-you to everyone who helped make the afternoon a great success in connecting Toronto's women to valuable resources, and in celebrating all the strong, witty, and dedicated women of this world!

~ Milena Boden, 2006-2007 Placement Student

A Big THANK YOU to NYWC's Past and Current Volunteers

Happy National Volunteer Week to our valued Volunteers!!!

On the occasion of the National Volunteer Week (April 15-21), the staff and Board at the North York Women's Centre would like to say thank you to our past and current volunteers. We truly appreciate you for contributing your time, energy and skills to support our programs and the Centre.

We would also like to thank all volunteers who recently participated in filling out the volunteer survey. We appreciate your time and comments, and will make every effort to consider your suggestions. Your feedback will help us identify ways in which we can improve our volunteer program.

~ Mulu Haddis, Volunteer Coordinator

Farewell NYWC...

Considering that I have only had one placement to complete for my Social Work studies, I am immensely relieved to have gotten the opportunity to do be here at the North York Women's Centre. I could not have chosen a more perfect setting to give me my first insight into the world of small community organizations. The last eight months have been filled with challenging and amazing projects, such as co-facilitating support groups, participating in outreach events and fundraising activities, as well as learning the ropes of staffing the office.

As I reflect on my time here, I have to reiterate what all the placement students before me have written in their past "farewell" articles: THANK YOU to everyone who is a part of this irreplaceable organization! I am so grateful to have met and worked with you, and you have made a deep impact in my life. To borrow Maya Angelou's expression, you are all "she-oes" to me and to the countless other women that you serve!

~ Milena Boden, 2006-2007 Placement Student

Thank You to our Supporters

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their recent donations to the North York Women's Centre.

\$500 and over

Mary Ellen Anglin
Nancy Bardecki
Sherry Nelligan
Andrea Rosen

\$200 and over

Richard Borins
Stephen Fraser
R.J. Lang School
Victoria Park Collegiate Institute
Pam Weir & Sunnybrook Staff

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Lauri Maki
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Claudia White

To \$99

Mekdes Abebe
Shirley Herron
Kwan Ling Li
I. Lovello
Carmen Mancini
Anne Pilgrim
Paulette Ramsey
Rose Weinberg

Thinking about donating to the NYWC? We have various ways to donate that make the process simple and easy.

Please call us to discuss your options or any questions you may have

Community News

The NYWC would like to send its condolences to **Melissa Wong** and her family for the passing of their loved one, **Janine Williams**. Our thoughts and best wishes are with them in this difficult time.

The NYWC would like to say farewell to all of its 2006-2007 departing placement students: **Ronit Abramov**, **Milena Boden** and **Angela McKenzie**. Best of luck within your future academic and professional pursuits!

We would like to congratulate past (2005-2006) placement student, and current administrative assistant, **Maribeth Christensen**, for getting into graduate school. She will be staying on with us in September, while pursuing a collaborative program in Political Science and Women's Studies.

The NYWC would like to welcome its new volunteers: **Hira Arshad Bokharee**, **Juliet Cheung**, **Simone Alleyne-Clarke**, and **Cheryl Wilkinson**. We thank you for your interest in the NYWC and look forward to having you involved with the Centre!

Farewell wishes go out to all of our departing volunteers and facilitators. We would like to send a special "goodbye" to (now past) Board of Directors members **Carmen Mancini** and **Trish Thomas**.

And, as always, NYWC is full of expecting mothers...

Congratulations go out to **Ronit Abramov**, one NYWC's recently departing placement students, who is expecting her second child (a boy!) on April 30th!

We would also like to send our best wishes to **Ada Esonwanne**, a past office volunteer, who is expecting her first child very soon!