Neighbourhood News

Spring 2013 A Publication of Central Neighbourhood House

Central Neighbourhood House
Since 1911

Our Mission

To engage the skills and talents of the people of our community,
to foster social justice
and to build a vibrant neighbourhood
where everyone lives with dignity and respect.

Young campers on a water excursion escaping the heat of the city

In This Issue

Message from the Executive Director	1
Bright Ideas Symposium	2
Annual General Meeting	2
Winchester Community Garden	3
Engage! Send a Kid to Camp	3
Tutoring	4

CNH Programs

- Childcare Services
- Children's Programs
- Community Development
- Family Support
- In Home Services
- Friendly Visiting
- Summer Day Camp
- Street Survivors
- Easy Access Voicemail
- Stroke Survivors
- Vulnerable Seniors
- Women's Club
- Youth Programs
- Tutoring

WWW.CNH.ON.CA

Message from the Executive Director

What will we do with our next 100 years? After our very successful centennial celebrations in 2011, that question has been on our minds. That's why we've begun getting together with community members each spring to have a day of 'blue sky'; a day to imagine the possibilities in our neighbourhood. Last year's Symposium was a treasure chest of ideas, and we're looking forward to more on May 25th.

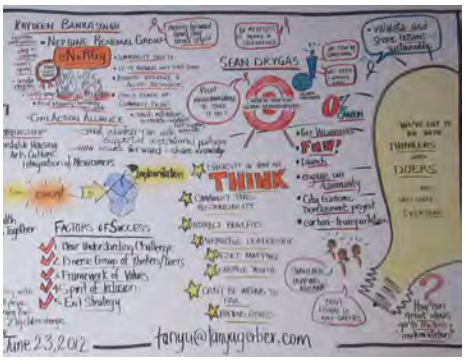
Whatever CNH has been in the past 102 years, one thing doesn't change; we belong to the neighbourhood, and we change to meet the needs of the people who live in Regent Park, St. James Town, Moss Park and all the places in between. Another thing that hasn't changed is that CNH belongs to you. Without our program participants, volunteers, donors and staff, we couldn't exist. That's why, with our first community newsletter since 2007, we're inviting you to join us. Become a member, participate in one of our many programs, be a volunteer or, if you can, make a donation to help us provide great services like tutoring kids who struggle with schoolwork, free after-school programs, youth activities that keep our young people safe and protecting seniors from homelessness. This is your chance to make CNH your own!

- Elizabeth Forestell

2nd Annual Bright Ideas Symposium

Join us on May 25, 2013 from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Last June we launched the Bright Ideas Symposium, bringing together community stakeholders to hear guest speakers with compelling stories of challenges faced and solutions found. It was an uplifting day and a catalyst for identifying issues and collective brainstorming.



Tanya Gerber graphically recorded the energy and excitement at the 1st Bright Ideas Symposium

We had $27,000 from fundraising efforts during the 100 Years of Neighbours celebration and designated this money to fund a project that otherwise would not happen. The submission process was simple – a brief outline was all that was required. In September, a selection committee reviewed the submissions. The winner was Outside Looking In (OLI) an innovative Aboriginal Dance program for youth. The program creates teamwork, perseverance and goal-setting and instills dedication, commitment, focus and determination. The partnership with the Toronto Council Fire Native Cultural Centre has had amazing results.

This year, Tracee Smith of Outside Looking In will be our keynote speaker to bring us up to date on this original and exciting project.

Notice of 101st CNH Annual General Meeting

When:

Saturday, May 25, 2013
Business Meeting will begin at 12:30 PM
Refreshments will be served

Where:

Central Neighbourhood House
349 Ontario Street
Toronto, M5A 2V8

All Welcome

Please call ***416-925-4363 ext. 134*** or email ***tpalmo@cnh.on.ca*** to let us know you will be attending, so we can prepare space, materials and refreshments for you!

Current Members: If you have not yet renewed your membership for the year 2013, please fill out the attached form. In order to vote at the AGM, you must renew your membership prior to the beginning of the AGM ***no later than 12:30 pm on Saturday, May 25th*** by fax, email, mail or in person.

Childcare is available but must be arranged in advance. Please let us know ***as soon as possible***, if you will require childcare, and the ages of your children. Just call ***416-925-4363*** and say you will be attending the AGM and need childcare.

Main House
Childcare Services & Administration
349 Ontario Street
Toronto, ON M5A 2V8
Tel: (416) 925-4363
Fax: (416) 925-1545

In Home Services
365 Bloor Street East, Suite 1807
Toronto, ON M4W 3L4
Tel: (416) 649-1000
Fax: (416) 645-1010

Winchester Daycare
Heritage Building
15 Prospect Street
Toronto, ON M4X 1C7
Tel: 416-920-1034
Fax: 416-920-9703

Email: central@cnh.on.ca **Website: www.cnh.on.ca**

Winchester Community Garden *How green is your thumb?*

Neighbours came out to celebrate the opening of the Community Garden at Winchester Square Park

The community garden launched last year was a great success and a vibrant example of CNH's community development thrust. We held a total of six workshops (including Gardening 101, pesticide education, and an introduction to sub-irrigation systems). We planted and harvested various fruits and vegetables including okra, tomatoes, celery and herbs. Community feedback was rich with appreciation of the way the garden brought residents together to improve their neighbourhood, and how beautiful it was when all the flowers blossomed and vegetables grew.

"I enjoyed looking at the garden last summer. This year I don't just want to enjoy looking at it – I want to be involved, because I am a very good farmer and gardener, and I have an agricultural background," said local resident Linda de la Cruz, who is now growing seedlings for the garden and is committed to taking other leadership roles.

Just go to Facebook and friend Winchester Square Garden to keep up-to-date.

Engage! *Send a Kid to Camp*

CNH has been running Summer Camps for more than a century and we do it with excellence. We believe camp is an experience every child should have. Our wonderful kids (ages five to 13) come from diverse communities in Regent Park, Moss Park and St. James Town. Without full sponsorship, many would miss out on the fun-filled, team-building activities we are planning for this year's July and August sessions.

"My daughter truly enjoys the camp and staff and she always has great memories that stay with her throughout the year."

We are proud that our **Leader in Training (LIT)** program gave 15 young people a chance to develop leadership skills and gain valuable work experience while supporting the camp over the course of last summer and pleased so many of them are returning.

Join with us and Send a Kid to Camp

- ☐ I would like to send a kid to camp for one week for $75
- ☐ I would like to send a kid to camp for two weeks for $150
- ☐ I would like to send a kid to camp for the whole summer for $750
- ☐ I would like to contribute $_____

For more information, call 416-925-4363 x134. Cheques payable to Central Neighbourhood House (note Camp) or go on line to www.cnh.on.ca and choose the Send a Kid to Camp designation.

☐ I'd like to receive Neighbourhood News by e-mail: _____

CNH Tutoring Program - *Helping Kids Grow*

Books were put aside for a while as learners from the Tutoring Club take time out to enjoy the Annual Ice Cream Social

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

Stacey W. attended the CNH Tutoring Program on a weekly basis for five months. Prior to participating, Stacey hated homework and Stacey's father dreaded the nightly routine of fighting to get her to do it. English was the second language of Stacey's loving parents and this added to the challenge. At homework time, Stacey would shut down, unwilling to even try. The whole family was frustrated, but no one more so than Stacey herself.

When Stacey first met Leah, her volunteer tutor, they worked together to set goals. They started out small. The first goal was to improve the results of Stacey's weekly spelling tests. Stacey got her spelling words on Monday, met with Leah on Tuesday, and had her weekly test on Friday. Leah knew what it was like to struggle in school and she shared her own experience with Stacey. Leah inspired Stacey to believe she was just as capable as any other student. She made the session fun but stressed that hard work and commitment were the key to success. Stacey left with a study plan for every day leading up to the test.

The following week Stacey ran into CNH with a huge smile on her face. Her first words were ***"Leah, I got 9 out of 10 on my spelling test!"***

Stacey became a new kind of student. She saw herself differently. She *was* different. She *was* someone who could succeed. There were lapses when the old Stacey would return. But with each small victory over the course of five months, Stacey's attitude toward learning and school dramatically changed. She was a winner, confident and proud of her abilities.

"What I like best is that when I finish one kind of homework, Leah tells me to put it in my backpack. Little by little I don't have as much to worry about. At the end of tutoring all of my homework is inside my backpack – finished"

United Way Toronto

Central Neighbourhood House
Since 1911

Central Neighbourhood House
349 Ontario St
Toronto, ON M5A 2V8