

point by point

JANUARY 1991

VOL. 8 NO. 5

POINT NEWS

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE ONE STEP CLOSER

The Community Centre in Eglinton Park has been given the green light. Calls from POINT members to our elected officials have had an effect. The Provincial Cabinet has rejected an appeal to overturn the earlier Ontario Municipal Board approval. The project has now been put out for tender and application has been made for a building permit.

POINT has received many calls congratulating us on the article in the November issue of POINT BY POINT. However there were questions related to increases in building costs. The report in our November 1990 newsletter which stated "....a very small dedicated group of local residents.....pushed up the cost of the facility four-fold", was incomplete. Many factors have caused an increase in the cost of the centre. Added features such as the underground parking garage and an indoor and outdoor pool, additional studies and inflation have been major contributors along with the tactics employed by those opposed to the centre.

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UNITED WAY PRAISES "VERY EFFECTIVE" POINT - AWARDS FUNDING INCREASE FOR 1991

POINT has received another vote of confidence from the United Way of Greater Toronto. The United Way Board of Trustees has announced that POINT's allocation for 1991 will be \$30,108. This represents an increase of \$10,539, or 53.9% over our allocation for 1990. The United Way includes the following "Rationale for Recommendation" in their announcement: The panel has recommended the full additional request (\$9,658) to allow the organization to function 12 months per year. This would fund a full time Executive Director (presently 10 months per year), increase clerical help from 15 hours per week to 25 hours per week, and hire a bookkeeper 12 hours per month.

POINT is a well managed, lean operation. Its volunteers have an excellent understanding of its status of operations. While its focus is entirely local, the agency is very effective in completing the work it undertakes. POINT was funded through a 3 year funding agreement from 1988 to 1990, and therefore did not have the same opportunity for additional increases as agencies reviewed during those years.

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people and organizations in north toronto
P.O.I.N.T. INCORPORATED



A United Way Member Agency

59 Briar Hill Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1H8 Telephone 487-2390

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POINT PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS - 1991 YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

As we head into a new year, members and friends of POINT will be interested in knowing what activities we'll be undertaking in 1991. As usual, it's a long list, but here's a brief outline:

On-going, long-term projects include work with and for Seniors' organizations in the North Toronto community. We'll be updating the Seniors' Directory again this year for example.

The Suicide Prevention Network has been a long-time personal commitment of Joan Osler, POINT's Executive Director. As chairperson, she represents POINT's link with this important organization. Also this year, POINT will be sponsoring and organizing a Suicide Prevention Training Program for professionals - those working in the field or with young people (like school guidance counsellors, for example).

Housing needs continue to be of expanding interest to individuals and groups within our community and POINT is getting more involved here, as well. For example, POINT has taken a major leadership role in North Toronto Interfaith Homes. It's a group of North Toronto residents representing several faiths and community organizations concerned about housing needs in the North Toronto area. It's chaired by Nan Percival who also chaired POINT in 1988-89. Now POINT is establishing a new Housing Committee to continue research into housing issues.

POINT is also maintaining a keen interest in North Toronto Youth. We have sponsored or co-sponsored several public meetings

Also on this packed agenda is a meeting with Day Care providers in North Toronto at which current Day Care needs in this community will be addressed. POINT's annual Agency Marketplace for Social Service agencies serving the North Toronto community is planned for next September and another Skills Workshop to address the needs of volunteer organizations specifically is also to be scheduled this year, although it will be smaller in scale than last year's highly successful two-day workshop.

These are the major activities planned for 1991 - not to mention POINT's annual Theatre Night in April and our Annual Meeting in June. It's more than enough to keep POINT's 15-member Board and two-person administrative staff extremely busy. So if you would like to become further involved in our community by taking part in any of these activities, we'd love to have your help. Please contact our office (487-2390) to indicate your interest and the time you have available. After all, many hands not only make work lighter, they usually make it better too.

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DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR OFFICE ASSISTANT

Do you live in North Toronto, are interested in your community and willing to work Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. year round? Good verbal communication and WordPerfect skills required. Apply your skills and interest to a progressive organization working with volunteers to plan social services in North Toronto. Send your resume to P.O.I.N.T. Inc., 59 Briar Hill Avenue, Toronto, M4R 1H8, by January 31, 1991.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LOTS TO DO FOR WILLING VOLUNTEERS

The Volunteer Centre of Metro Toronto is sponsoring activities during the coming months. On January 23, a Program Information Session will describe Good Neighbours, a safety net to those in need, particularly isolated seniors and persons with disabilities. On February 19, there will be an Agency Open House at the Volunteer Centre, 344 Bloor Street West, and on March 26, an information session for "new" Co-ordinators of Volunteers. The week of April 12 to 27, Volunteer Week, will include a Corporate Volunteer Fair. For more information about any of these events, please phone 961-6888.

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FAMILIES IN ADOPTION

What? An informal support group for parents who have adopted or are considering adoption.

Who? We are families in Metro Toronto. Some of us have adopted privately, others through Children's Aid (or equivalent). Our children currently range in age from infancy to 12 years.

Why? To learn, and share information on adoption-related issues. To establish networks of support. To create opportunities for our children as they group up, to know other adoptees and their families.

How? Through informal discussions, invited speakers, book and film reviews, and family get-togethers.

When? Usually the last Sunday in January, March, July, September and November. Where possible, we include a children's program so that the entire family can attend. Meetings are generally held

from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., and occasionally in the evening, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Donations toward the cost of the program are requested.

Where? Toronto area, usually in members' homes.

For more information call:

Pat and Aaron Fenton 487-9938

Sabina and Alan Erlich 483-6665

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BLYTHWOOD SPONSORS FILM SERIES

The Christian Education Committee of Blythwood Road Baptist Church is running a film series, free of charge, at the church and welcomes your participation.

They will be showing the new Dobson film series, "Turn Your Heart Towards Home". The films vary in length from 40 to 60 minutes and will be shown at 7:00 p.m. on the following dates:

January 20 - A Father Looks Back; January 27 - Power in Parenting: The Young Child; February 3 - Power in Parenting: The Adolescent; February 17 - The Family Under Fire (not recommended for young audiences as there is some explicit information on abortion and pornography). Each film will be followed by small group discussions and refreshments.

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FOREST HILL LIBRARY SCHEDULES FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Forest Hill Library, 700 Eglinton Avenue West, presents the following activities for the month of February:

Thursday Afternoon Films/Activities:
February 7 - Eduardo Uruguayo, A Tale of Two Mosques; February 14 - Special Program: Diamonds - Everything You Need to Know with Anna Malarek, Gemologist; February 21 - Yugoslavia, Ziveli: Medicine for the Heart; February 23 - Serengeti Diary, Songs of a Distant Jungle. All at 1:30 p.m.
Boys and Girls Activities: February 2 - Feature Film - Bedknobs and Broomsticks; February 9 - Won't You Be My Valentine? - films, stories, activities; February 16 - Number Please - films, stories, activities; February 23 - Toot-Toot! Trains and Trucks

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- films, stories, activities. All at 10:30 a.m. Children and parents welcome for all programs. Limit 100. All programs subject to change.

Baby and Toddler Preschool Groups: Preregistered programs continue.

Friendship Club: Seniors Activities: bridge, etc. Monday and Tuesday, Noon to 5:00 p.m. Call 393-7706 for more details.

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FREE ASSISTANCE WITH TAX RETURNS FOR PEOPLE WITH LOW INCOMES

Beginning February 19, and continuing through to April 30, the Central Eglinton Community Centre will be sponsoring an Income Tax Clinic every Tuesday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Four Saturday dates are available from 9:00 to 12 noon: March 16, March 30, April 13 and April 27. A qualified volunteer will be available at these times to assist you in preparing your 1990 Tax Return. This service is available to any resident of Metro Toronto with a maximum income of \$17,000 for a single individual or \$24,500 for a senior couple or an individual with a dependant. For further information, call 487-4096. Appointments are necessary. Call early as space fills up quickly.

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"BE NICE. CLEAR YOUR ICE."

It's winter in Toronto, and that means it's time to "Be Nice. Clear Your Ice." The City will be running commercials on local television and radio stations starting January 7 for seven weeks, to remind residents and property owners that they are required to clear ice and snow from the public sidewalks surrounding their homes and businesses within 12 hours after a snowfall. The City has this advice for snow shovellers:

. Remove snow from sidewalks and

driveways while it's still fresh; snow that is trampled or which has thawed then frozen is much harder to shovel.

. Always shovel snow from sidewalks and driveways back on to lawn or boulevard, never onto the road where it can become a hazard.

. Don't bury fire hydrants under a mound of snow.

Senior and physically-disabled citizens are entitled to free snow and ice clearing, as long as they apply in advance for this service. Applications can be obtained by calling the Department of Public Works and the Environment at 392-7768, weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. TDD users please call 392-0678.

All other City residents and property owners must shovel their own way clear. Property owners who fail to do so will find the City's cost for clearing snow and ice added to their property tax bill. The City charges \$3.60 per metre, which can really pile up. So, don't slip up this winter, remember to "Be Nice. Clear Your Ice."

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MORE INFORMATION ON AIDS

The Board of Health is presenting an AIDS Public Forum and Fair, at 12 noon, Saturday, February 26, at 519 Church Street Community Centre. This will be followed by a meeting of the Board of Health at 2:00 p.m., which will focus primarily on matters relating to AIDS. For more information, call 392-7307.

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GERIATRIC PROGRAM SEEKS VOLUNTEER CHAIRPERSONS

The Regional Geriatric Program of Metro Toronto is seeking two dynamic, high-profile individuals to chair their community advisor panels, in the Northern and Eastern Service Areas. This organization is a consortium of health care facilities in affiliation with the University of Toronto, and is responsible for the planning and co-ordination of specialized geriatric services. In order to respond to local community needs, a Community Advisory Panel will be convened

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in each Service Area. Each Panel will include representatives from seniors, senior's advocacy groups, and health and social service providers. Applicants for the position of chair will need proven negotiating and communication skills, and must have an established presence in the Service Area of interest. Experience at the senior management and/or Board level and a commitment to integrate health and social services is essential. Application deadline is January 18. For more information call 759-2662.

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PALLIATIVE CARE TO BE DISCUSSED

At the General Meeting of Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities, Dr. Larry Librach, Director, Palliative Care Services at Mount Sinai Hospital and Nora Stearns, Clinical Nurse Specialist, will discuss "Caring for Dying Patients and their Families: the Role of Palliative Care." This will take place on Monday, January 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Bedford Park United Church, 100 Ranleigh Avenue. For more information, call 447-0502 or 489-4193.

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IS YOUR GROUP ELIGIBLE FOR A CITY GENERAL AND RECREATIONAL GRANT?

The General and Recreational Grant Program of the City of Toronto provides small grants to community groups to help them respond effectively to the needs of disadvantaged citizens. Grants are given in two categories: General Grants to support disadvantaged citizens in participating in basic community activities, and Recreation Grants to help provide leisure or sports activities for disadvantaged citizens. The deadline for 1991 grant applications is February 1. For more information on General Grants call 392-0406, and on

Recreation Grants, 392-6590 (east) or 392-6669 (west).

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GROUPS RECEIVING CITY GENERAL AND RECREATIONAL GRANTS

Here is some information to help you keep in touch with community activities and resources. These programs are all supported by the City of Toronto Grant Program. "Coming Together: Support Groups for Immigrant Women" is a resource kit including a User's Guide, 12 session plans, handouts in English, Portuguese and Cantonese, and a Resources Section. This is available from Access Alliance, 509 College Street, Toronto, M6G 1A8.

"Preparing for Change", a group work manual on opportunities for advancement, provides a theoretical framework for group work with women to build self-esteem, and help with stress management. "Action on Health Barriers" is another manual dealing with health promotion for low-income women. Both are available from Opportunities for Advancement, 787-1481.

A booklet with details on clear language and design, to assist in publications for the 20% of the population who have trouble reading, is available from the Metro Toronto Movement for Literacy, 392-0006.

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NEW PROGRAM PROVIDES "BEST START" FOR NEWBORNS

Best Start is the Ministry of Health's Maternal and Newborn Health Promotion program. It aims to reduce the number of low birth weight babies in Ontario by encouraging communities to support health for women before, during and after pregnancy. Individuals, community groups, agencies and institutions concerned about the problem of low birth weight in their community and willing to develop strategies to combat it, can apply for Best Start funding. To receive information, contact: The Ontario Prevention Clearinghouse "Best Start" - Community Action for Healthy Babies" Program, 984 Bay Street, Suite 603, Toronto M5S 2A5, phone 928-1838.

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CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN MEETINGS

The Canadian Federation of University Women - North Toronto, meets the second Tuesday of every month in Eglinton United Church, 65 Sheldrake Boulevard at 8:00 p.m. Interested women graduates of accredited universities who wish to attend the monthly meetings or who would like to become members of the club should contact Jean Leach at 482-6661.

CONFERENCES SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

DYNAMIC EDUCATOR TO SPEAK ABOUT DISCIPLINE AND CHILDREN

Barbara Coloroso, and education and well known lecturer and workshop leader, is the guest speaker at a full day workshop titled "Kids Are Worth It", sponsored by the Ontario Camping Association. Her subject on this occasion is discipline, a potential for a positive force in family and school life as she sees it. An acknowledged expert in the areas of discipline and positive school climate, her delivery of a storehouse of common-sense principles and techniques for successful youth leadership is both witty and dynamic. Barbara Coloroso's credentials include her time as a classroom teacher, a lab school instructor, university lecturer and workshop leader across North and South America as well as Europe. The workshop, to be held January 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. in the Sheraton Centre, 123 Queen Street West, is part of a two-day Director's conference which starts January

24 and costs \$98.00. For further information contact the OCA office at 781-0525.

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CENTRAL EGLINTON COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFERS WORKSHOPS

The following workshops and seminars are being organized by the CECC:

Emergency First Aid: This course teaches basic skills to deal with life threatening situations. Topics include choking, breathing emergencies, bleeding, shock and poisoning. Three year Red Cross Certification.

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Date: February 19 and 20

Registration Deadline: February 9

Infant/Child CPR

This course is taught by a certified First Aid Instructor from the Red Cross. This course will focus on procedures to follow if your infant or child is choking and instruction in child CPR.

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Date: March 19 and 20

Registration Deadline: March 9

For each program: Cost: \$30 for CECC members, \$35 for non-members (this fee includes all materials and certification)

Location: Davisville Public School

If you are interested in attending both courses, a combined fee of \$50 for CECC members and \$60 for non-members will be offered.

Financial Security Planning for Seniors:

This financial planning seminar is an eye opening presentation of real life experiences, facts and information that are vital to making wise financial decisions that will bring security to your retirement years.

- . Three phases of your financial planning
- . Inflation
- . Income Tax
- . Investments
- . Retirement Income

Date: January 22

Time: 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Cost: Free

**CONFERENCES
SEMINARS
AND WORKSHOPS**
(cont.)

Location: Manor Road United Church, Lower Hall
240 Manor Road East
Speaker: Ted Snider, President of the SFG Retirement Investment Centre

Call 487-4096 to register. Space is limited.

**PROGRAMS AVAILABLE ON
ABUSE COUNSELLING**

Seneca College Continuing Education offers several programs to help professionals working with victims of abuse. "Violence Against Women", from February 26 to April 9; and "Elder Abuse" from February 28 to April 11. These sessions all take place in the evening, at a cost of \$80 per series, at the Newnham Campus, 1750 Finch Avenue East. For further information, call Teresa Rivero, 491-5050, ext. 2499.

SENIORS

JOHN SEWELL SPEAKS AT H.I.N.T.S.

H.I.N.T.S. Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m. in Eglinton United Church, 65 Sheldrake Boulevard. The guest speaker will be John Sewell, on the topic "The 1991 Magic Show - Creating Housing Quickly and Cheaply". For more information, call Les Davis at 226-1237.

SPRINT RESPITE CARE CONTINUES

The SPRINT (Senior Peoples' Resources in North Toronto) Respite Care program provides North Toronto clients with day, evening and weekend respite. Fees are up to \$6.80 per hour, and financial assistance is available for those who qualify. For more information call Bau St. Cyr, 481-6411.

SPRINT NEEDS VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Over the winter Mrs. Smith, one of your senior neighbours has difficulty getting to her medical appointments and Mr. Jones, an elderly gentleman has no transportation to the day program he looks forward to once a week. These seniors and others like them depend on you to get around. Join the SPRINT team and volunteer one day a week to SPRINT. We reimburse mileage, if you drive a car or you may drive our mini van. Call 481-6411.

WINTER BREAKS FOR SENIORS OFFERED

Family Service Association of Metropolitan Toronto, Seniors' Department, is offering a Winter get-away program for seniors. The holidays are held at Ruth Hindmarsh Lodge, Bolton Conference Centre. They are designed to help alleviate social isolation and loneliness, and cater to people who are able to look after themselves. For further information, call 922-3126.

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JUNE 1991

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POINT NEWS

POINT'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: A SUMMARY

Residents, agency representatives and Board members gathered at St. Clement's Church on June 4 for POINT's Annual General Meeting. Those attending heard about POINT's accomplishments over the past year, its plans for the future, and an interesting challenge posed by featured speaker, John Sewell.

Chair Carolynne Boivin reviewed the numerous activities undertaken by POINT to make North Toronto a better place in which to live. Beginning in the fall of 1990, the Board began a lengthy Strategic Planning Process designed to improve our service to the community. As a result, it was decided that POINT must: broaden representation on both Board and committees to better reflect the community we serve; broaden our funding base; expand our support staff. Significant strides are being made in these areas, as well as in refining and streamlining our basic activities.

In addition, after consultation with its advisors, POINT established Issues Committees to focus on unmet needs of specific groups or areas in the community: Youth, Seniors, Housing and Daycare.

YOUTH. Considering that North Toronto has the largest number of teens in the city, and

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SEWELL CHALLENGES "ISOLATED" NORTH TORONTO

John Sewell, who spoke at POINT's Annual General Meeting on June 4, gave a thoughtful, clear and convincing presentation on the topic of "The North Toronto Challenge: Responding to a City in Crisis".

Mr. Sewell, former Mayor of Toronto, and currently a commentator and activist on affordable housing, told his audience that the city of Toronto is in crisis and that North Toronto has stayed on the sidelines. It is time for the community to get into the mainstream, said Mr. Sewell, to help solve the problems of the city.

After studying and comparing Scarborough, East Toronto and North Toronto, Mr. Sewell was surprised at the observations he formulated about North Toronto, such as:

1. Social networks in this area are very primitive when compared with East Toronto, with its vibrant diversity of religious, political, community and legal groups. Since there are few networks pushing for change in North Toronto, it is perceived (wrongly) that problems do not exist here;
2. Social roles are more limited. Men, often professional, work downtown. While women generally work as well, men, especially, usually fall away from any "issue" group after a few meetings, possibly

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