POINT by POINT

Issue 7 Fall 2000

3rd Annual

North Toronto

Community Fair

- Displays by local non-profit agencies on social, health, and recreational programs.
- Healthy Eating cooking demonstrations
- Blood Pressure Clinic and Massage Therapy
- Taoist Tai Chi demonstrations
- Draw Prizes...and more!

See you and your family at the Fair !

Saturday, October 21, 2000
11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at the
Yonge Eglinton Centre
Centre Court

For information call POINT at 487-2390

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Caregiver Handbook Now Available

On June 28, 2000 POINT and its PLANTSS Committee (Planning in North Toronto for Seniors' Services) launched the newly published Caregiver Handbook. The goal of the project was to support caregivers while they provide the best quality of life possible for the seniors whom they are taking care of, and at the same time, maintain their own well-being and a positive outlook.

The Caregiver Handbook is a step by step guide that offers information and guidance to caregivers of senior family members, friends, and neighbours in North Toronto. It addresses issues such as support services for the caregiver and care-receiver, role of the Community Care Access Centre, available in-home services, respite care, Power of Attorney, health care, transportation, types of accommodation facilities, and hospice/ palliative care. The Handbook is intended to help caregivers who often do not know where to turn for specific information and assistance in dealing with the demands of care giving for a senior at home.

The Caregiver Handbook was developed under the leadership of Joan Berndt, Chair of the PLANTSS Committee, in partnership with a supportive group of individuals and organizations. Many individuals, caregivers, and care-receivers offered their valuable input and participated in focus groups to indicate what topics and issues would be important to include in the Handbook. Many North Toronto and Toronto seniors' services organizations and agencies shared their expertise and materials in the development of this Handbook.

Funding for the Caregiver Handbook was provided by the Ontario Seniors Secretariat in recognition of the International Year of Older Persons, and the support of Mr. William Saunderson, former Eglinton-Lawrence MPP, and Isabel Bassett, former St. Andrew-St. Patrick MPP, and their local IYOP Committees.

The Caregiver Handbook is available for $1.00 from POINT, located in the North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Avenue West. For more information, call POINT at 487-2390.

Housing Situation Continues To Worsens

P.OI.N.T. Inc (People and Organizations In North Toronto), North Toronto's social planning and development agency, has a Housing Sub-Committee which is focused on improving housing choices for seniors in this part of the city.

However, given the nature of the deteriorating situation with respect to affordable housing in Toronto as a whole, we feel that we must turn our attention to the larger picture. The housing situation for seniors in North Toronto cannot be improved while the housing situation continues to worsen overall. A recent report "Where's Home? A Picture of Housing Needs in Ontario reveals the following:

- Rents are increasing at a rate faster than inflation.
- A growing gap is evident as tenant incomes decline while home owner incomes increase.
- Rental housing production has fallen 92% from the average of the first half of the 1990's.
- Almost one-quarter of tenants in a cross-section of eight Ontario cities are at potential risk of homelessness.
- Increased homelessness, shelter and food bank use, and waiting lists for subsidized housing are all indicators of a growing crisis in affordable housing.
- Declining vacancy rates and a projected demand for 80,000 new rental units by 2001 indicate a deteriorating situation as almost no new rental housing is being built.
- Recent provincial legislation partially removing rent controls in the current context is not bringing about a renewed supply of rental housing and can only result in higher average rents and worsening affordability.

We support the position of the Report of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force, that the federal and provincial governments should re-enter the housing field for the provision of new subsidized housing. Priority should be given to those in need i.e. the homeless and those on the waiting lists for rent-geared-to-income (RGI) housing. Even though such programs would be national or province-wide, Toronto would likely be perceived as getting more than it's "rightful share" of the resulting housing units. However,Toronto also gets more than its share of those in desperate housing need i.e. unemployed people from across the country who come here seeking work, new immigrants, etc.

Even if such programs were to start soon, it would be some time before new supply actually gets built. As an interim measure, we would like to see the provincial or federal government offer subsidies for additional RGI units within existing mixed-income projects. Those projects that have a percentage of market-rent units could, when a unit becomes vacant, have it turned over to the RGI list. This would be voluntary on the part of the providers. It would be one way to get at least some new RGI units per year when none are presently being built.

We feel that the City of Toronto could also play an important role in this difficult situation by identifying possible city-owned sites for housing i.e., parking lots which can be redeveloped with housing built above and parking underneath. The city could contribute the land while the federal and/or provincial government would provide funds for construction. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the Report of the Mayor's Homelessness Action Task Force, please contact Access Toronto at 338-0338.

Community Resources

As your neighbourhood information service, we can POINT you in the right direction!

Q *We are moving soon, and have many clothes, household articles and furniture that we want to donate to help some individuals in need. Do you know of any charitable groups to whom we can donate these items?*

A. A growing number of people on fixed incomes such as seniors, disabled individuals, single parents and low-wage earners have been affected by rising rents in North Toronto. They are experiencing great difficulty in having enough money to buy food and other necessities after paying the rent.

Here are a few suggestions to start with (phone first):

St. Michael and All Angels Common Ground Women's Centre:
611 St. Clair Avenue West
(416)-653-3593

Eva's Place: 360 Lesmill Road
(416)-441-1414

Chill Out 200 Madison Avenue
(416)-934-1227

Red Cross: 1623 Yonge Street
(416) 480-2500

Out Of The Cold Programs: Call POINT at the end of September 2000 for winter locations
(416)-487-2427

POINT Community Information Service (CIS) (416) 487-2427, located on the first floor of the North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Avenue West

Cyber Flash !

POINT is delighted to announce that we have received a grant from Industry Canada, under the Community Access Program (CAP) to set up a public Internet site in North Toronto.

The Community Access Program is a partnership between the government, the private sector and community organizations with the goal of making the Internet more accessible to everyone in Canada.

CAP has been designed by Industry Canada to establish up to 10,000 public Internet access sites (CAP sites) in rural, remote and urban communities by March 31, 2001.

POINT, a member of the Federation of Community Information Centres in the Greater Toronto Area, is undertaking this project jointly with five other Federation member agencies to operate a network of eight CAP sites across Toronto.

Call POINT at 487-2390 after October 10th for the official opening date of the North Toronto CAP site, at 200 Eglinton Ave. W.

POINT's Wish List

Help us capture those special POINT moments. POINT is seeking a 35mm camera in good condition and film to take pictures of POINT programs and volunteers in action.

All Candidates Meeting

Come and meet the local candidates who are running in the upcoming election for Toronto City Council

Location: North Toronto Memorial Community Centre
Time: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Date: To be announced, call POINT 487-2390 after Oct. 6th for the date

POINT Volunteers Receive Volunteer Service Awards

Established in 1984, the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards recognize and thank volunteers for their continuous years of voluntary service to an organization. Volunteers are the backbone of many non-profit, charitable organizations. Without the commitment and dedication of volunteers, who give freely of their time, talents and expertise, many agencies would find it hard to stay in business.

Six POINT volunteers were recognized on June 22, 2000, by the Ontario Government for their continuous commitment to POINT. Pat Taylor, Sharon Moxon, Nancy Grant, Bridie Callan, Marie Smith and Robin Smith, received the Ontario Volunteer Service Award. POINT has benefited greatly from the important contributions made by these men and women. Through their leadership, support of new initiatives and commitment to existing programs, POINT has been able to meet the needs and strengthen the North Toronto community.

Since 1994, **Pat Taylor** has been actively involved with POINT. Pat has provided leadership as Chair of the Board, and strengthened the organization by taking an active role in many aspects of POINT such as fund raising, strategic planning and human resources.

Sharon Moxon has had a long association with POINT. Sitting on the Board in 1979, she returned to POINT in 1995 as Vice Chair and was Chair of the Board from 1996-1998. As a moving force within POINT, Sharon continued her involvement as Chair of the Fund Raising Committee and contributed to the Human Resources Committee, Community Audit Steering Committee and Community Information Service Committee.

We are living in an age of information, and accessing information is critical. Since 1994 POINT has operated a Community Information Service, which provides information and reference materials for our community. Two POINT volunteers **Nancy Grant** and **Bridie Callan** have worked diligently over the years dispersing information, sourcing and providing current community information brochures, and updating POINT's community bulletin boards.

Supporting new community initiatives, **Robin Smith** was instrumental in advocating and securing funding for the building of Ewart Angus Homes. Located in North Toronto, Ewart Angus Homes is a home for people who have Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. He has also actively participated in POINT's recent community audit focus group.

Marie Smith has been involved with POINT for eight years as a member of the board and the PLANTSS committee (Planning In North Toronto for Seniors' Services). Marie also participated in POINT's recent community audit project.

Pat Taylor and Nancy Grant attending the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards Ceremony on June 22, 2000

Mark Your Calendar !

- **3rd Annual North Toronto Community Fair**
  Saturday, October 21, 2000,11:00 a.m - 4:00 p.m. Yonge Eglinton Centre. For more information call POINT at 487-2390.
- **All Candidates Meeting**
  Co-hosted by POINT and the North Toronto Memorial Community Advisory Council, at the North Toronto Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. W., from 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Call POINT at 487-2390 after October 6th for the meeting date.

Seniors' Community Dining Program

Made possible through partnerships with: SPRINT, Parkdale Golden Age Foundation, POINT, The Departments of Parks and Recreation, and Public Health. Location: North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. West. Tickets ($4.50) can be purchased at the POINT kiosk desk in the Community

Month	Wednesday Lunch	Friday Dinner
September	27th Grand Opening Birthday Bash Bingo	
October	4th Thanksgiving 11th Birthday Bingo 18th Lunch & Learn 25th Regular Lunch	27th Halloween Dinner
November	1st Birthday Bash 8th Regular Lunch 15th Lunch & Learn 22nd Regular Lunch 29th Guest Speaker	17th Dinner

POINT Mission Statement

To serve the people who live, work and study in North Toronto by improving availability and increasing awareness of the social and health services in the community through information, education, and advocacy.

Board of Directors

Chair: Neil Campbell
Vice-Chair: Barbara English
Treasurer: William Dovey
Past Chair: Pat Taylor
Secretary: Deirdre Munroe
Directors: Philip Crawford, Columbia Diaz, Elizabeth Edmison, Barbara Fleming, Gordon Floyd, Dane Liu, Maureen McEwen, Walter Seaton

How to Reach Us

POINT Office
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E-mail: point @volnetmmp.net
Web Site: www.point.volnetmmp.net
Open: Monday to Friday
Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Community Information Service
Telephone: (416) 487-2427
Open: Monday to Friday
Hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

North Toronto Memorial Community Centre,
200 Eglinton Ave. W., 1st Floor
Toronto, Ontario, M4R 1A7

POINT by POINT

Editors:
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Contributors:
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POINT Membership Form

☐ Yes! I would like to **become a member** of POINT. My membership fee is enclosed. Please add my name to your mailing list. As a member, I will receive the POINT quarterly newsletter, voting privileges at the Annual General Meeting, and other information bulletins. A charitable tax receipt will also be issued.

☐ Name _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Postal Code: _____
Tel: (___)_____ Fax: (___)_____

Membership Fee:

Individual	$10.00
Agency/Organization/Business	$25.00

Method of Payment:
Visa____ MasterCard_____Card #_____
Exp. Date:_____ Signature_____

Cheque: Please make Cheque payable to P.O.I.N.T. Inc.

TORONTO

A United Way Member Agency

Charitable Registration # 10785 0422 RR 0001