

POINT *by* POINT

Issue 21

Spring 2007

POINT

People and Organizations in North Toronto

Presents

"Jazz with a Cuban Beat"

Featuring

Jane Bunnett

Soprano Saxophonist & Flutist
2006 Juno Award Winner

with

Hilario Durán

Pianist
2005 Juno Award Winner

Thursday, May 10, 2007
6:30pm - 9:30pm

Christ Church Deer Park

1570 Yonge Street

Tickets \$50
(Advance or At The Door)

Hors d'oeuvres & Desserts
Cash Wine Bar
Silent Auction

POINT by POINT
Newsletter
sponsored by

The Rotary Club
of
Toronto-Forest Hill



Tell us what you think!

POINT is undertaking a comprehensive review of the North Toronto Community

Why?

- It is five years since we last "took the pulse" of North Toronto.
- We need to identify the changes in our community since then.
- Also essential is establishing what the community considers to be the major changes of the last five years.
- We also know we need to improve the equity and accessibility of our programs to those of our residents who face the most serious disadvantages to ensure they can participate more fully in all aspects of our community's life.

Key aspects of our review will be:

- A survey questionnaire to all readers of our Newsletter;
- A random mail survey to about 100 - 200 residents, businesses and agencies in our area;
- An online questionnaire available through our website;
- Focus groups, including ones with parents of students, service/community agency leaders, seniors, faith communities, businesses and community leaders.

Next steps:

- The results of our surveys and focus groups will be used to make adjustments to our programs and services to ensure our work relates as closely as possible to the needs of our residents.
- They also will be used to set new

targets for our broad strategic goals as an agency for the next five years.

How you can help:

- Complete the questionnaire included with this Newsletter and return it in the enclosed envelope.
- As our regular donors, volunteers and service beneficiaries, you are key participants in this initiative. Your views on how to serve our community better are important.
- Should you have questions, please contact us:

Phone: 416-487-2390

Fax: 416-487-9276;

E-mail: point@pointinc.org



POINT Volunteer Barbara Moran interviews Mary Remedios

PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS
IN NORTH TORONTO

POINT

Pointing the way.

Are you interested in learning
Microsoft Word?

- ◆ Microsoft Word commonly used functions
- ◆ Working with Paragraphs
- ◆ Creating & re-sizing tables

POINT is offering Microsoft Word classes
1 evening a week for 4 weeks in May
Take this opportunity to upgrade
your computer skills!
Cost of course: \$40. or \$20. with at \$10. POINT
membership payment (\$30 total).
Call POINT for dates and times 416 487-2427 or
Visit our website www.pointinc.org



POINT Endowment Fund Grants

In 1988, POINT received a bequest to establish an endowment fund as a memorial to Countess Mary Bieniewski, supplemented by a further bequest in 2005 from the Estate of Margery J. Warren. The POINT Endowment Fund Committee has a mandate to strengthen the charitable and voluntary services of the North Toronto area. Grants are available to support local organizations with funding of training and educational workshops for their staff and volunteers, and also to assist with fees for individuals to take part in seminars and conferences. The POINT Endowment Fund provides small grants generally in the range of \$500. - \$1,500. to organizations that meet the Fund criteria.

Recent successful applicants included Delisle Youth Services, The Herbert H. Carnegie Foundation, Fairlawn Neighbourhood Centre, Centennial Infant and Child Centre Foundation, Parents in Transition, POINT, and SAINTS. Feedback received from staff and volunteers who have benefited from training supported by the Fund included comments - "It was a fantastic opportunity. We learned a great deal from the conference and will use this new-found knowledge in the community" (Forest Hill C.I. Student), and "On behalf of Centennial Infant & Child Centre, I would like to thank the Endowment Fund for its financial support allowing us to hold a workshop for our preschool volunteers, and also for staff members to attend a special training session" (CICC staff)

Applications are available from the POINT office.

Next Application Deadline: September 28, 2007.

For more information, contact POINT at 416-487-2390.

Community Events

Karen Stintz,
City Councillor, Ward 16, Eglinton-Lawrence

We will be holding our annual **Environment Day**, alongside Councillor Michael Walker, on **Saturday June 23rd, 2007 from 10:00 am - 2:00 p.m.** in the parking lot of the North Toronto Memorial Arena. This event provides the community with a great opportunity to drop off household hazardous waste, including batteries, paint cans and computers for safe disposal. Residents can also purchase green bins, blue bins and indoor water efficiency kits. Hope to see you!

A Green Plan For Eglinton Lawrence

Mike Colle
MPP Eglinton-Lawrence
May 28, 2007

7pm
Northern District Library
40 Orchard View Blvd., (Yonge St. just north of Eglinton Avenue, West)

Interested in engaging with your neighbours on local activities? Work in a small group setting to discuss efforts to be environmentally conscious and work for real change in our lifestyles. Mike wants to hear from you!

POINT

Annual General Meeting
Thursday, June 7, 2007
5:30pm - 8:00pm

North Toronto Memorial Community Centre
200 Eglinton Avenue West,
First Floor

PARKING AVAILABLE UNDERGROUND

- 5:30 • Registration and Refreshments**
- 6:00 • Annual General Meeting**
- 6:45 • Dinner & *Guest Speaker**

**to be confirmed*

THANK YOU POINT VOLUNTEERS!

POINT held its annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, April 18th during National Volunteer Week 2007, to celebrate the outstanding contributions of time, skills, expertise, and dedication that POINT volunteers provide to our clients and the organization as a whole. Over the past year, POINT served a total of 4,267 individuals through a variety of activities including: the Community Service, Income Tax Clinics, computer and internet training, Youth Leadership Conference, Youth Development workshops, Gardening Program, developing new resources such as the North Toronto Seniors' Housing Directory. Other POINT volunteers have played a vital role by providing leadership through being Board members, working on different issues and initiatives as Committee Chairs and committee members, and giving important administrative support.



POINT Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Each year POINT and numerous other non-profit organizations across Canada pay tribute to their volunteers during National Volunteer Week who give of themselves to better their communities and the organizations to improve the lives of others. According to the "Canada Giving and Participating (2004)" Survey on Volunteering (most available from Statistics Canada) 11.8 million Canadian volunteers or 45% of the population, and the value of volunteer contribution in Canada is estimated at \$14.1 billion with volunteers contributing almost 2 billion volunteer hours to organizations – the equivalent of 1 million full time jobs!



POINT Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The Universal Declaration on Volunteering 2001, states that "Volunteering is a fundamental building block of civil society. It brings to life the noblest aspirations of humankind – the pursuit of peace, freedom, opportunity, safety, and justice for all people."

**POINT Volunteers -
"Thank you for making a difference!"**

Community Resources

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

Q. I have a friend with a four-year old child, who has recently immigrated to Canada and has temporary accommodation, but is looking to live here in North Toronto very soon. She wants to find information about health, housing, education and employment. Can you help her?

A: There are many services available for newly arrived immigrants in Toronto. The first place I would direct her to is the website www.settlement.org. This is a very informative site managed by the Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI). This comprehensive website helps newly arrived immigrants to settle in Toronto by providing orientations to their new community, as well as guidance and support to access government and community services. If you do not have access to the internet, POINT has a free computer lab for North Toronto residents to use.

POINT can help your friend find information in your area on:

- ◆ social services
- ◆ schools
- ◆ health care
- ◆ child care
- ◆ housing and recreational services
- ◆ employment programs and services
- ◆ English as a second language training
- ◆ assistance with completing government forms.

The YMCA Newcomers Information Centre is an information and referral centre for newcomers to Canada. They have a large settlement resource library and computer lab in downtown Toronto. The Centre is open for extended hours. Services are free, and no appointment is necessary.

Mark Your Calendar !

- ◆ **NEW POINT Microsoft Word Classes**
For more information call POINT at 416 487-2427
- ◆ **POINT Jazz Concert, Thursday, May 10** (see page 1 for details)
- ◆ **POINT Annual General Meeting, Thursday, June 7** (see page 2 for details)
- ◆ **POINT Legal Advice and Government Form-Filling Clinic**
Every 2nd Friday-9:30am - 12:00pm by appointment only
For more information call POINT at 416-487-2427

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.
Wednesday Lunch Tickets (\$5.50) and Sunday Brunch (\$6.00) can be purchased at the POINT kiosk desk in the Community Centre. To make a reservation call POINT at 416-487-2390.

Wednesday Lunch	Friday Dinner	Sunday Brunch
May 2 Birthday Lunch & Bingo 9 Lunch & Learn 16 Lunch & Trivia 23 Lunch & Learn 30 Lunch & Fun	May 11 Dinner Dance (Prices Vary)	May 13 & 27
June 6 Birthday Lunch & Bingo 13 Lunch & Learn 20 Lunch & Trivia 27 Lunch & Fun	June 6 Birthday Lunch & Bingo 13 Lunch & Learn 20 Lunch & Trivia 27 Lunch & Fun	June 10 & 24
July 4, 11, 18, 25 August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Wednesday lunches will continue during July & August upstairs without after lunch activities	July & August No dinner dances during July & August	July & August No Sunday brunches during July & August

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: Marg Muir
Directors: Colin Benjamin, Jason Brown, Bohdan Buczko, Phil Crawford, Charm Darby, Sue Doerr, Cynthia Luks, Anita O'Connor, Pat Taylor, Safia Wasi, Gladys Wong

Executive Director:
Diane Werner

How to Reach Us

POINT Office

Telephone: (416) 487-2390
Fax: (416) 487-9276
E-mail: point@pointinc.org
Web Site: www.pointinc.org
Open: Monday to Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Community Information Service

Telephone: (416) 487-2427
Open: Monday to Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

POINT by POINT

Editors:
Carolyn Seager and Diane Werner

Contributors:
Alma Stoneman, Pat Taylor, Janice Webster,
and Diane Werner

POINT Membership & Donation 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: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership Fee:

Individual \$10.00
 Agency/Organization/Business \$25.00

Method of Payment:

Visa Card # _____ Exp. Date: _____
 Signature _____



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

Charitable Registration # 10785 0422 RR 0001