

# POINT *by* POINT

Issue 23

WINTER 2008

*Seasons  
Greetings  
And  
Happy New Year  
From the POINT  
Board and Staff*

*Thank you to all  
our dedicated  
volunteers  
and  
Special thanks to  
our generous donors  
and funders*



Watch for exciting  
upcoming POINT  
40th Anniversary  
Celebrations  
(1968-2008)

**POINT by POINT  
Newsletter  
sponsored by  
The Rotary Club  
of  
Toronto-Forest Hill**



## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL NORTH TORONTO COMMUNITY FAIR

"I can't believe it has been ten years already that POINT has been organizing the *North Toronto Community Fair*". said a participant from a local North Toronto agency. "It just seems to get bigger and better every year!".

That seems to be the overall consensus from agency representatives that have participated in recent Fairs such as: The Anne Johnston Health Station; Central Eglinton Community Centre; North Toronto Historical Society; North York

Women's Centre; Parents in Transition; SAINTS (Student Assistance in



North Toronto for Seniors); Self-Help Resource Centre; Second Mile Club (Orchard View Branch); SPRINT (Senior Peoples' Resources in North Toronto); Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, Health Information Centre; Toronto Police Services, 53 Division; Toronto Public Health; Toronto Public Library, Northern District Branch; and Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels.

Once again we filled out all the available floor space in Centre Court inside the Yonge-Eglinton Centre. Rio Can is the new property manager of the Yonge-Eglinton as of this year. (This is why there are a lot of renovations going now.) We were very appreciative of the mall merchants that donated a prize that several members of the public won in the free draw during the course of the day. We thank and acknowledge: Pharma

Plus via The Rexall Foundation; Reitmans; Grand & Toy; Indigo (2 gift certificates); The Source; HMV Canada; and Cotton Ginny.

The positive atmosphere emitting from shoppers talking with the various service providers increased noticeably, when over the lunch period, renowned local Soul singer, Jay Douglas treated everyone to his exquisite voice and many great songs that allowed us to sing along. Jay was accompanied by Rick McIntosh on the electric piano.

And if that wasn't enough to top off a



great  
day,  
after  
we had

selected our many draw prize winners, the Artists' Garden Co-operative, who had interacted with many people during the Fair to contribute to the creation of art work, presented POINT with the finished piece. Our goal to reach out to as many people as we could that day to inform them of programs and services run by non-profit agencies in North Toronto, as well as having fun doing it, was accomplished!

PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS  
IN NORTH TORONTO



*Pointing the way.*

## North Toronto All Candidates Meeting

POINT held an All Candidates Meeting on Sunday, September 30, 2007 at the North Toronto Memorial Community Centre.

This meeting offered an opportunity for local residents to engage in the electoral process, and learn about the political views of the candidates who were running in the provincial election for the Eglinton-Lawrence riding.

POINT also invited Brigitte Nowak, a Referendum Resource Officer from Elections Ontario to give a presentation on the Mixed Member Proportional Referendum which community members had to vote for or against on election day.

The event was well attended by the community and was chaired by Michael Muller. Michael Muller is a professor of Architecture at Sheridan College and has lived in North Toronto for over 30 years. He was deeply involved with POINT in the design and construction of the North Toronto Memorial Community Centre.



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### Q & A

**Q:** Can POINT help me get a job?

**A:** POINT is a community information and referral service; we are not a formal employment service agency. We are aware however, of many organizations throughout Toronto that offer general services such as: resume writing, interview skills, job search skills, etc. As well, POINT is aware of a number of employment-based agencies that serve specific groups like older adults, women, various disabilities, specific languages, youth, hard-to-reach, etc. So as your local community information centre, we can direct you to agencies that best suit your needs.

Having said that, POINT recently began offering up to a six week *Job Finding* workshop series specifically for newcomers. These workshops, currently being offered on Saturday mornings, cover getting to know many websites that have job postings, as well as learning different techniques for resumes and interviews. Also, POINT offers a free one-on-one resume critique clinic, by appointment only.

POINT does have a job bulletin board where organizations and companies send us job postings regularly. We also have an "Employment Training Binder" that lists many workshops throughout the city related to aspects of the job search. Also, POINT's website has a Programs & Services web page; on this page is a Job Links section leading you to the type of services outlined in the above paragraph.

### ***Free Job Finding Workshops***

- ♦ Know how to prepare a dynamic resume & cover letter
- ♦ Familiarize yourself with commonly asked interview questions and get to know tools and techniques used by successful job searchers.
- ♦ Access websites for specific job types and careers.

**When:** Saturdays, 9:30-12:00

**To register,** call 416-487-2390 or visit POINT at 200 Eglinton Avenue West.



## A Tribute to Joan Osler



On June 21, 2007, POINT honoured Joan Osler for 35 years of outstanding volunteer service and community leadership in North Toronto at a celebration dinner held at the Toronto Cricket Skating and Curling Club. This was the second event organized by POINT to honour an exceptional contributor to the life of North Toronto and to sustain "The Anne Johnston Fund" (est. 2004) to support POINT's work. In conjunction with the establishment of this fund, POINT decided to recognize persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the life of North Toronto. Anne Johnston was selected as the first recipient of this distinction in 2004 and Joan Osler was the second honoree this past June.

Joan Osler has worked to improve North Toronto life in many sectors, with some of her most recognizable work coming during her 26-years as Executive Director of POINT. During that time, she joined with a team of dedicated volunteers and worked tirelessly to turn North Toronto from an under-served community to a flourishing neighbourhood with plenty of programs for local residents. "When I joined in 1972, there were no services for people of any age in North Toronto....we managed to get a community centre in North Toronto (North Toronto Memorial Community Centre), the Anne Johnston Health Centre and saw the start of groups like SPRINT (Seniors Peoples Resources in North Toronto) and HINTS (Housing in North Toronto for Seniors).

While her impact is obvious throughout North Toronto, her proudest achievement resonates in schools across Ontario. She was one of five founding members of Prologue to Performing Arts, an organization that has brought professional dancers, musicians and other performers into schools to share their craft with students. "One thing I was concerned about was that the only children going to the theatre were children from wealthy families. I wanted to ensure that all children had that opportunity".

She has also given freely of her time to the Canadian Opera Company, the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Sistering, the Junior League of Toronto, the North Toronto Hockey Association and a number of other local organizations.

Joan currently remains an active member within the community by continuing to give her time to notable worthy community programs.

Thank You Joan!



## United Way's "Days of Caring"

Workers from companies that donate money to the annual United Way Campaign can donate in another way. "Days of Caring" allow corporate employees to volunteer their time to United Way member agencies to experience delivering the many services agencies provide to Torontonians.

On October 3rd, POINT was thrilled to have three hard working volunteers from the pharmaceutical company, Janssen-Ortho to assist in serving meals to North Toronto seniors, along with setting up before, and cleaning up after the meal. This Community Dining program is the one mentioned in detail on the back of this newsletter. Tracey Ramsay, Claudia Richard and Amanda Macchiusi all did a superb job helping us and interacting with the seniors. "I found it worthwhile to better understand non-profits and how they benefit from donations from United Way and the impact they have on the community," Ramsay said.



## Saturday Cafe Socials

welcomes nannies and caregivers to have fun in an informal group setting while gaining valuable information on accessing community resources.

Participants support each other, network, and receive first hand information from service providers. In so doing, they explore future career and training options. Saturday afternoons are a mix of self care, coming together to deal with a shared concern or problem, and listening to guest speaker(s) on various topics. Each week announcements are made on employment, volunteer opportunities and events which may be of benefit to the participants. To register, call 416 487- 2390 or visit POINT at 200 Eglinton Avenue West.



## POINT welcomes Grace Lamothe

Grace Lamothe joined the POINT staff team on October 10, 2007.

Grace is the new Administrative Assistant. She has replaced Carolyn

Seager who retired from POINT last June. Grace will be providing administrative support to the Executive Director and POINT Board, various committees and events and managing the annual Income Tax Clinic as well as many other activities. Grace has extensive experience working in both the private sector and the non-profit sector. Please drop by the POINT office to say hello to Grace.

**Mark Your Calendar !**

- ♦ **Free Job Finding Workshops** Saturdays, 9:30am - 12:00. To register call POINT at 416-487-2390 or visit POINT at 200 Eglinton Avenue West
- ♦ **POINT Legal Advice & Government Form-Filling Clinic**  
Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday - 9:30am - 12:00pm by appointment only  
For more information call POINT at 416-487-2427
- ♦ **Saturday Café Socials (POINT Program for Nannies & Caregivers)** - Every Saturday 1:30-3:30pm. To register, call POINT at 416-487-2390.

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

Wednesday Lunch	Friday Dinner	Sunday Brunch
<b>December</b> 5 Birthday Lunch & Bingo 12 Lunch & Learn 19 Christmas Lunch	<b>December</b> 21 Christmas Dinner & Dance	<b>December</b> 9 Brunch
<b>January</b> 9 Birthday Lunch and Bingo 16 Lunch 23 Lunch 30 Lunch	<b>January</b> 18 Dinner and Movie	<b>January</b> 13 Brunch 27 Brunch
<b>February</b> 6 Birthday Lunch and Bingo 13 Lunch 20 Lunch 27 Lunch	<b>February</b> 22 Dinner and Dance	<b>February</b> 10 Brunch 24 Brunch

**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 Buczek, Charm Darby, 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**

**Editor:**  
Diane Werner

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**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: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**

Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Membership Fee:**

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



Charitable Registration # 10785 0422 RR 0001