



HARBOURFRONT COMMUNITY CENTRE ANNUAL REPORT 2009



COVER PAGE: GRANDMOTHERS IN THE GARDEN COOKBOOK STORIES, SECRETS, AND RECIPES

A Welcoming Place for All

A Letter to Our Community Members

Our neighbourhood is growing at a rapid pace and Harbourfront Community Centre (HCC) is actively preparing to meet the needs of this changing community.

Over the past year, we completed our multi-phase Community Needs Assessment project. Our online survey asked for detailed feedback on everything; from our programs, services and special events - both now and in the next 5 years, to our communication strategies, customer service, and recommendations. The survey was completed by a wide range of community members representing all ages and the diverse makeup of our neighbourhood.

We learned a great deal. We know that the majority of people who participate in our programs and services are very satisfied with the quality of what is being offered. Interesting to note was the fact that many could not predict what their future needs would be. Our catchment is in transition - having grown by 167% in population over the past 5 years and with further development continuing; it's reasonable to expect that many people will come and go in the community.

There were a number of suggestions for new programs which our Program Committee is adopting. As we suspected, HCC will continue to work on increasing our public profile and finding new ways to spread the word about all the great activities that are going on at the Community Centre. Thanks to positive survey feedback, we are now keeping people informed about what's happening through our recently launched email notification system – another great reason to become an HCC member!

One thing is for certain, HCC will continue to offer a welcoming place for all and our programs will complement our community. For instance, HCC supports an active older adult's population and we are proud to be designated as an Elderly Persons Centre by the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care.

This year one of our popular programs, Seniors Connect: Community Kitchen published "Grandmothers in the Garden ~ Stories, Secrets and Recipes" a cookbook which offers 59 recipes from around the world! This cookbook is the result of a year-long project that was generously funded by a grant from New Horizons for Seniors. Senior women were encouraged to share their cooking skills and personal experiences with each other and the Harbourfront community. They grew organic vegetables and herbs in the nearby Fort York Community Garden plot, prepared healthy meals and learned together as they shared and celebrated their rich cultural heritage. Interested in trying a new recipe? Cookbooks are available for \$20 each and 100% of proceeds will support HCC Seniors programs.

Thanks to the ingenuity and tremendous efforts of HCC volunteer, Greg Lucas, we have made great strides forward in technology. He has led the development of three important databases – membership, program registration and room rental.

These systems will have a positive impact on improving our efficiency. Our participants and customers will benefit from the streamlined registration and booking processes and HCC will have access to valuable data needed for planning future needs. We greatly appreciate Greg and the many volunteers (nearly 300) who support HCC. Without them we would not be able to provide the level of service that we do.

While we are fortunate to have the financial support of community members, corporate partners and government funders, HCC must continue to fundraise in order to match the rising demand for subsidized fees and additional programming needs. The option of cutting services and reducing community support does not fit with our mandate which includes providing responsive programs and services in an atmosphere of belonging as well as respond to the particular needs of youth, children and isolated adults.

We are proud of our Family Program staff and volunteers who undertook a new fundraising initiative this year by organizing HCC's 1st annual 5K Family Walkathon. In spite of the rainy weather, we had a great day! Thanks to the hard work and generosity of walkers and corporate sponsors – Advocis and our two local Sobeys stores (and their staff members); we surpassed our goal of raising \$5000.

We continue to strengthen existing community partnerships and work together to build new relationships. Many of our innovative programs simply wouldn't be possible without the financial support of community-minded corporations such as:

- The Mural Transformation Project has transformed the lives of many youth. We are very fortunate to have the support of the RBC Foundation - thank you for believing in us!
- Our friends at Monarch Corporation, Scotiabank, Harbourfront Centre, Toronto Police 14 Division and the Radisson Hotel donated toys, books and money to purchase gifts for our annual Holiday Toy Drive. You made many families very happy over the holidays – thank you!
- We truly appreciate the unwavering support of a special group of employees from TBWA\Toronto who have dedicated their personal time to provide expertise and financial support for our programs – you know who you are and you've made a real difference in the lives of many.

Harbourfront Community Centre is a very special place. Whenever you stop by, you may meet up with HCC staff, volunteers, friends, families, children, youth, and seniors. You may not know people when you first arrive but you will certainly have made a new friend by the time you leave. ***HCC is a community centre that is the center of the community.***

Tom Szutu - Chair, Board of Management
Leona Rodall - Executive Director

About Our Centre

Harbourfront Community Centre (HCC) is a non-profit organization that is supported by a volunteer board and is partially funded by the City of Toronto for administrative staffing and building-related costs. HCC fundraising efforts financially support the wide range of programs and services that are offered.

Since 1991, HCC has worked in partnership with residents and community-minded organizations to create a safe and supportive environment for people of all ages. By engaging the community, we can ensure that HCC's activities will meet the growing and diverse needs our neighbourhood.

We are proud of our accomplishments! Over the past year, HCC welcomed more than 326,101 visitors; offering over 885 program sessions and services in a 30,000 square feet multi-purpose building that includes the City School, Neo Café, St. Stephens Child Care Centre, Waterfront Public School, as well as a commercial kitchen, full size gymnasium, outdoor lighted basketball courts, children's playground and a wide variety of public meeting spaces.

Visit us and see for yourself why HCC is the heart of the waterfront community

Board of Management

Tom Szutu, Chair ~ Shelley McKay, Vice Chair ~ Lucie DiPronio, Treasurer ~ Asheber Legesse, Secretary
Rod Duncan ~ Kehinde Olorunsola ~ Joan Prowse ~ Mary Ann Rochon ~ Adam Vaughan, Councillor Ward 20

Thank you to our valued supporters

Agencies & Community Partners

- ADOPT
- Art on the Move
- Bathurst Quay Neighbourhood Association (BQNA)
- Cecil Community Centre
- Centennial College
- City School-Alternative High School, TDSB
- Community Living Ontario
- Community Police Liaison Committee 14 Division (CPLC)
- Eva's Initiative
- Evergreen Foundation
- Family Service Association (GUHD)
- Fort York
- George Brown College
- Girl Guides of Canada
- Harbourfront Canoe & Kayak Centre
- Harbourfront Centre
- Keys to Serenity
- National Yacht Club
- Propeller Centre for the Visual Arts

- Ryerson University
- Scadding Court Community Centre
- St. Stephen's Childcare Centre
- TDSB Literacy Project
- The Waterfront BIA
- Toronto Neighborhood Centres
- Toronto Preschool Speech and Language Services
- Tropicana Youth Employment
- Waterfront Public School, TDSB
- Windfall Clothing Corporation
- Youth Employment Services (YES)
- YMCA of Greater Toronto

Corporate Partners & Foundations

- Arcadia Housing Co-operative
- Advocis - The Financial Advisors Association of Canada
- CBC Radio Canada
- Canadian National Exhibition
- College Montrose Children's Place Trinity-Spadina Ontario Early Years Centre
- Connect 1 Corp
- Eva's Initiative

- Fraser Group
- "Diggin" the Dog
- Harbourfront Dental Office
- Jackryn France
- Long + McQuade Musical Instruments
- Luminato
- Maple Leaf Sports
- Neo Cafe
- Monarch Corporation
- RBC Foundation
- Raddison Admiral Hotel
- Superb Vending
- Sobeys
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Swiss Chalet
- TBWA\TORONTO
- Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- TELUS Community Investment
- Williams Coffee Pub Queen's Quay
- Wittington Properties Limited
- Windward Co-operative

Government Partners

- Community Action Program for Children - Public Health Agency of Canada

- Government of Canada-New Horizons for Seniors Program
- Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Elderly Persons Centre
- Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs

City of Toronto

- Children's Services Summer Day Camp Programs
- Community Festivals & Special Events Investments Program
- Community Services Partnership Program
- Community Safety Investment Program
- Department of Public Health
- Drug Prevention Community Investment Program
- Facilities and Real Estate Division
- Graffiti Transformation Investment Program
- Major Recreation Partnership Program
- Parks, Forestry and Recreation Department
- Toronto Community Housing Corporation
- Toronto Police Services Crime Prevention, 14 & 52 Division

Our sincere thanks to the many individuals who generously supported HCC throughout 2009!

What We Offer

Family and Preschool Children's Resource Programs

Baby Program Drop-In
Baby & Me Pilates
Children's Hip Hop Dance
Children's Ballet/Creative Movement
College Montrose OEYC Early Years Satellite
Community Outreach/Community Building Initiatives
Education Programs/Workshops for Adults & Children
Growing Up Healthy Downtown
Healthy Project
Information/Referral/Support Services
Read, Rhyme & Sing - Ontario Early Years Satellite
Parent & Child Drop-In
Parent/Children Recreational Programs
Parent Advisory Committee
Pre-School Dance

School Age Children's Programs

Bollywood for Kids
After School Recreational Program
Children's Drama & Visual Art
Children's Jazz and Hip Hop
Children's Sport Drop-In
Family Gym
Kids' Karate
Kids Chanbara Classes
March and Winter Break Camp
Magic Hands Workshops
Room 13 Art Studio for Children
Summer Day Camp

Youth and Pre-Teen Programs

Break Dancing
Co-ed Basketball Clinic
Cooking
Girl Guides
Guys Night Out
Graphic Art Program
Harbourfront Warriors
Health Living Workshops/Discussions
Homework Help
Lakeshore Entrepreneurial Art Project
Mural Project
MJ Rocky's Youth Boxing
Pre-Teen Drop-In Program
Teen Yoga
Youth Advisory Group
Youth Basketball Drop-In
Youth Drop-In Program
Youth Employment Program
Youth Wilderness Adventure Project
Youth Open Gym

Senior and Community Programs

Art Therapy for Women
Adults Games Night
Adult Community Kitchen
Clothing Exchange & Distribution
Community Computers
Community Kitchen
Community Festival
Community Knitting and Crochet
Fort York Community Garden
Graffiti Transformation Program
Gentle Yoga for Seniors
Harbourfront Chorus
Keys to Serenity AA
Liberty Village Toastmasters

Senior Connect:"Grandmothers in the Garden"
Senior Connect: Community Kitchen
Senior Social Club
Stretch and Tone for Seniors

Community Recreation Programs

Adult Basketball Drop-In
Adult Karate
Adult Table Tennis
Adult Volleyball/Badminton/ Soccer
Art Therapy
Ballroom Dance
Belly Dance
Body Blitz Boot Camp
Bollywood Dance
Bootiful Body Boot Camp
Cardio & Toning Classes
Hip Hop Pilates
Jazz Fitness Fusion
Latin & Salsa Dance Classes
Personal Trainer Support
Pilates
Stretch and Tone
Weight Room Services
Women Only Weight Room
Yoga Classes
Tai Chi

Economic Development and Resource Initiatives

Regular User Group Programs
Rental Facilities
Special Event Hosting
Student & Volunteer Placement
Volunteer Support & Development



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**The City of Toronto is
our Core Administration
Operating Funder**

Did you know...

In 2009 our Community Centre:

- ◆ Invested \$538,058 to operate 885 program sessions which was a 5.5% increase (48 more sessions) over 2008.
 - ◆ Generated \$67,789 from 473 rental events which attracted 16,632 participants.
 - ◆ Worked with 262 dedicated volunteers, 38 co-op placement students and employed 72 staff including 30 youth who gained valuable work/life experience working and volunteering in 366 different types of programs.
 - ◆ Invested over 531 volunteer hours in the development of a new membership and program registration database system and facility rental reservation system for the Centre. Future work in 2010 will include building donor/fundraising database. When completed, this suite of tools will streamline administrative processes and better track revenue streams in the management of all programs and services at the Centre.
 - ◆ Partnered with TELUS Community Investment to enable 12 youth from the Harbourfront community to launch LEAP (Lakeshore Entrepreneurial Arts Project) which trains youth in professional music production and business skills.
 - ◆ Secured core and ongoing funding from the Ministry of Health, Long Term Care, Province of Ontario, designating HCC as an Elderly Persons Centre serving 60 seniors in its first year of operation
 - ◆ Delivered a New Horizons for Seniors, Government of Canada grant Grandmother's In the Garden; Stories, Secrets, and Recipes project which supported up to 50 seniors working on various aspects of the project and the many other local community partners to explore their cooking talents with members of Harbourfront's family programs and resulted in the publishing of their cookbook – congratulations all!
 - ◆ Collaborated with Harbourfront Communityfest, BQNA, Waterfront Good Food Market, Waterfront Public School, Waterfront Daycare and the City School, Fort York and the Waterfront BIA to engage the community in 41 community events and initiatives throughout the year including the Community Fall Fair in September 2009.
 - ◆ Lobbied City of Toronto Public Health Drug Prevention Community Investment Program to successfully maintain financial support for the HCC's After School Project in 2009, which then engaged community parents in creating their own non-government financial sustainment solution which will maintain the project in ongoing years.
 - ◆ 6 youth artists with support from HCC's Artist-in-Residence created an original mural on the HCC boat.
- The 6 youth artists will be part of the Art on the Move launch with 3 other community partners in June 2010.
- ◆ Constructed a secure server room to house updated server equipment, replacing outdated 2004 equipment which will allow future IT growth; and converted part of the youth program space into the TELUS Music Studio with thanks to the City of Toronto Facilities Management and City of Toronto Information and Technology Department.
 - ◆ Completed the 2nd phase of the buildings security upgrades and finalized the capital building plan project to allow for the proper disability drop-off area along Queens Quay to better service our building participants.
 - ◆ Responded to worldwide and local pandemic H1N1 planning measures during the fall of 2009 to ensure that all community services would be maintained in the event of widespread outbreak.
 - ◆ Launched HCC's Youth/Room 13 Blog in the spring of 2009 – harbourfrontcc.blogspot.com.
 - ◆ Raised \$5,000 in partnership with local businesses Advocis, Sobey's in the first HCC 5K Walkathon October 2, 2009.
 - ◆ Teamed with TBWA\Toronto November 2009 to produce a live auction fundraising event which raised funds in support for 45 children to participate in Room 13 – our children's art studio program.
 - ◆ Sold ROOM 13 greeting cards designed by the children artists with all proceeds going to support the program.
 - ◆ Installed on permanent display 100 plus of framed HCC historical memorabilia throughout the Centre, recognizing 19 years of community tributes and community support of the HCC.
 - ◆ Organized first annual Youth Job Fair in conjunction with Toronto Community Housing, YES in June 2009 which attracted 200 plus youth.
 - ◆ Grieved with the youth and community members over the death of two youth participants and created a memorial tribute to these youth in partnership with the community. In memory - Patrick and Brook.
 - ◆ Partnered with seven community agencies – Dixon Hall, Frontline Partners with Youth Network, Hispanic Development Council, Lakeshore Area Multi-Service Project (LAMP), Scadding Court Community Centre, Syme Woolner Neighbourhood and Family Centre to form a Youth Violence and Community Safety working group with the goal of producing a Youth Workers' Crisis Response Guide. This project is supported with funding through City of Toronto Community Safety Investment Fund.

Our Statistics January - December 2009

Revenue generated from our space bookings is used to support our programs.

Category	# of Program Groups	# of Sessions	Category	Statistics
Family Programs (0-6)	12	41	Student Co-op Placements	38
Children & Pre-Teen (6-16)	18	40	Volunteers & Community Service	262
Youth (16-24)	13	52	Individuals Served	16,632
Community Programs - All Ages	13	42	Participant Visits	326,101
Health & Wellness - Adult	39	126	New Membership Base (People)	652
Outdoor Special Events & Courts	3	3	Membership Base (User Groups)	8
Café & Space Rentals	229	473	Hours of Volunteer/Co-op Service	8,341
Program Group Rentals	39	108	Hours of Service Provision	42,824
Total	366	885		



"Grandmothers in the Garden" photos taken by our community member photographer Hannah Sherrett www.photohannah.com