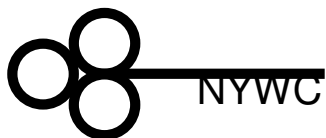

KEY NOTES



North York Women's Centre: Opening Doors for Women

Ladies and Gentlemen, Presenting...

Sunday May 28th 2006 was a beautiful spring day for a NYWC event. It was also prophetic of the quality of concert that was to be performed. I was given the responsibility to welcome everyone to the NYWC "A Spring Salute to Mothers" concert and I thought of Winston Churchill's words - "We make a living by what we do, but we make a LIFE by what we give." These words resonate with me because it is no small thing what volunteers do by giving of themselves so generously to NYWC events such as this.

Opera Encore, lead by artistic director Richard Valdez, graciously donated its voices and talent. The cast included **Barbara Fris, Linda Marcinkus, Herb Brown, Algirdas Kynas** and Richard Valdez. In keeping with the theme of the concert "A Spring Salute to Mothers", the first act of the concert opened with music dedicated to Mothers, songs like Mama by C.A. Bixio and Mother Marchee by Young, Olcott and Ball. For the second half, we were delighted with musical theatre songs from South Pacific and Fiddler on the Roof. As a finale, Opera Encore closed the concert with a magical Climb Every Mountain from Sound of Music. Thank you Opera Encore.

The concert was successful in raising over \$800 in ticket sales and donations. Event revenue such as this is integral to the Centre's continued free program and service delivery – every little bit counts!

Whenever a small non-profit, such as NYWC, puts on any event, much of its success can be contributed to generous donations. We would like to acknowledge **St. Philip the Apostle** Church for lending us the church space, as well as thank our other supporters: **Starbucks** at Don Mills and York Mills who donated our complimentary coffee and pastries, and everyone who sold tickets as well as gave up their time to plan the event and ensure a fantastic concert.

The NYWC looks forward to our continued partnership with Opera Encore in making this concert an annual fundraising event for the Centre. Keep a look out for news about next year's concert in the winter edition of Key Notes!

~ Trisha Cipriani, Fundraising Committee and Board of Directors member

The NYWC Picnic was a Success!

On June 10th from 11:00am to 3:00pm we held our annual picnic in Earl Bales Park. This year's picnic was better than ever! In previous years the main purpose of the picnic was to celebrate the contribution of volunteers to the Centre. This year we decided to also invite group participants to the picnic in recognition of their role in the NYWC. We also changed the menu: instead of hamburgers and hot dogs, we served healthy wraps and salads thanks to generous donations

from **Fortino's** (Lawrence Square), **Lady York Foods** and **Dominion** (Keele/Wilson). NYWC Program Manager, Melissa Wong, spent several hours the day before preparing all the wraps and salads. The great food made up for the fact that it was a little chilly during the first few hours of the picnic.

There were about 50 people who attended the picnic throughout the course of the day. Things heated up in the afternoon, along with the weather. I felt that there was a real sense of community at this year's picnic. Volunteers and participants got to meet each other for the first time. It also gave participants a chance to be reunited with other participants that they had connected with in groups. I certainly enjoyed seeing everyone again and hope to see everyone next year.

~ Melanie Schranz, NYWC Program Worker

News at the NYWC

A lot has gone on at the NYWC this summer and, looking to the fall, there is still lots more to come! Here is an update on important NYWC news:

The NYWC will be holding its **16th Annual General Meeting** on Monday September 18th, 2006. Refreshments and registration will begin promptly at 6pm. This year we will be celebrating seventeen years of "opening doors for women". As is tradition, there will be a business meeting, as well as a fun side, including volunteer recognition and the chance to mingle with other volunteers and members. We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, please contact the Centre.

The NYWC will be holding a **Silent Auction** at the AGM. We are very excited about the donations that will be up for auction and you should be too! Some donations include passes to the ROM and Second City, gift certificates for Prime Restaurants, as well as gift bags/baskets from the Toronto Women's Bookstore, Jazz FM. and Mario Lupo Hair Design. Start your bidding!

The Board of Directors will be proposing some changes to the organization's by-laws at this year's AGM. The proposed changes will be sent to all members with the AGM mailing. If you don't receive

a copy and would like to see them, please contact the NYWC for a copy.

The NYWC's **Strategic Planning** process is well underway. To date, it has resulted in, amongst other things, a new mission and vision for the Centre. An operational plan to guide the NYWC over the next 3 years is in the works, with many exciting proposed changes. Read more about NYWC's strategic planning process, on the next page.

It's now easier to **Donate to the NYWC!** By simply contacting the NYWC and giving us your banking information, you can authorize the Centre to withdraw monthly or yearly donations from your bank account. This is an easy way to spread out those donations and to consistently show your support for the NYWC. If you want money withdrawn from your credit card, this can also be done by visiting the NYWC website and clicking on the "Donate Now" button under "Memberships/Donations", by designating your United Way donation to the NYWC, or by visiting www.canadahelps.org. Thanks!

NYWC Girls Group at Marc Garneau

High school is a hard time for any teenager, particularly young girls. This past May, Melanie Schranz and I had the chance to reach out to some girls at Marc Garneau High School when we facilitated a Self-Esteem and Assertiveness group at their school. The six-week group gave the girls the opportunity to talk about the importance of self-esteem, and factors in their lives that impact their self-esteem. The girls also learned skills and tools to help them to become more assertive.

Though often quiet, the girls really appreciated having a safe space to share ideas and found the group caring and respectful. They especially loved expressing themselves creatively in art activities. In fact, we couldn't get them to leave! Melanie and I both really enjoyed the experience, and I am looking forward to developing this program further at Marc Garneau and other high schools.

~ Melissa Wong, Program Manager

Thank You to our Supporters

We would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their recent donations to the North York Women's Centre.

\$500 and over

Rollin W. Garbe Ann Wirsig
Italian Canadian Savings & Credit Union

\$200 and over

Trisha Cipriani Sue Griggs
Rachael Turkienicz Richard Valdez
Pam Weir Armour Heights Presbyterian
 Church Women's Association

\$100 and over

Varmo Investment Co. Marisa Zanini
BMO Foundation of Hope

To \$99

Olive Banton Amy Block
Lora Chan Colleen Connachan
Maria Luisa Elias Sharissa Ellyn
Nancy Forster Helen Hansen
Gertrude Holocomb Maria Kerigan
Anna Lambe Cassandra Lorde
Marilyn Luff Gurpyari Malhotra
Rhonda McEwen Carla Ribero
Maureen Richards Amanda Rotundo
Joy Simmonds Ann Simpson
Robert Sowka Trish Thomas
Rose Weinberg Patricia Wilson

Community News

We would like to thank **Maribeth Christensen and Melanie Schranz**, our past placement students, for their hard work and commitment over these summer months. They will be returning to Ryerson University and the University of Guelph-Humber in the fall to finish their social work degrees.

We would like to welcome our new volunteers: **Ada Esonwanne, Michelle Gabowicz, Uzma Gullany, Francine Kalifer, Richelle Komes Takako Nomura and Monica Ruiz**.

We would also like to welcome our new facilitators: **Akua Adutwumwaa, Christine Fung, Catherine Kormendy and Lillian Zepeda**. They recently completed the NYWC Facilitator Training program and will be starting to facilitate groups in our Fall 2006 session.

Lastly, but certainly not least, we would like to welcome **Angela McKenzie**, our placement student from the George Brown Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor Advocate Program. Angela will be working at the NYWC from September 2006 until April 2007 and will be in the office as well as facilitating groups. Be sure to say hello!

Congratulations to website support volunteer, **Renee Xu**, who is expecting a baby in the fall. She will be leaving the NYWC and we would like to thank her for all her hard work and dedication.

We would also like to congratulate **Michelle Lavergne**, a NYWC former volunteer and staff, on the birth of her second daughter, Emmerson.

The NYWC would like to wish a speedy recovery to our long-term volunteer and facilitator, **Roz Giller**. Get well soon!

Finally, thank you and farewell to our outgoing Board members, **Maria Luisa Elias, Elske de Visch Eybergen and Anne Kutty**. Maria Luisa served as Chair of the NYWC Fundraising Committee and completed a three-year Board of Directors term. Maria Luisa will be staying on as Chair of the Committee, but will be missed on the Board. Elske has recently finished her term on the Board as Co-Chair. The NYWC looks forward to her continued presence on our Program Committee but will also miss her presence on the Board. Over the years, Anne has served on many NYWC committees, has helped out at countless Bingos, and has recently completed her second three-year Board of Directors term as Treasurer. Anne will be leaving the NYWC to pursue other interests, such as her community work in India. The NYWC won't be the same without you Anne!