

Events

The CCVT First Light Celebration Venue Tour at 21 Old Mill Road



CCVT GIVES HOPE AFTER THE HORROR!

The Connection

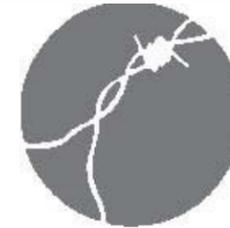
A PUBLICATION BY THE VOLUNTEERS OF
**THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
VICTIMS OF TORTURE**
SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALL CCVT VOLUNTEERS

June 2013

Volume 4

Issue 6



THE CCVT ANNUAL FIRST LIGHT CELEBRATION FRIDAY NOV. 15, 2013

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The information provided in this publication is not controlled by the CCVT, and therefore may not reflect the Centre's views.



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

SAVE THE DATE FOR

CCVT FIRST LIGHT CELEBRATION

ON

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2013

AT

THE OLD MILL

21 Old Mill Road



IF YOU HAVE AN ITEM TO DONATE FOR THE AUCTION,
CALL: (416) 363-1066, ext. 225 or ext. 228



THE JUNE 26 OPEN HOUSE AT CCVT SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

All Activities in Pictures



VOLUNTEERS' EVENTS AT CCVT SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

VOLUNTEERS' SPOTLIGHT NIGHT

- Where : At CCVT Scarborough Branch
- When : Wednesday July 31, 2013
- Time : 5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.
- Guest Speaker : Tara Hastoo, Toronto East TSO Co-ordinator
– CVITP Program, Canada Revenue Agency
- Activities : - Presentation of CRA Certificates
- Sharing Volunteer Experiences and Mix & Mingle
- Participants : All CCVT Scarborough Volunteers

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Volunteers Are Still Needed for The Summer Quest Day Program



Summer Quest July 2013 (Children 6-12)

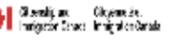


	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
1	2 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	3 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	4 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	5	
8	9 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	10 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	11 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	12	
15	16 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	17 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	18 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	19	 Ontario Science Center 10:30am-3:30pm
22	23 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	24 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	25 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	26	
29	30 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	31 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm			

Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture (CCVT)

SUMMER

For more information or to pick up an application, please contact Mbalu at 416-750-3045, 2425 Eglinton Avenue E, Unit 218 & 220, Scarborough, ON M1K 5G8, (416) 750-3045.



Summer Quest August 2013 (Children 6-12)



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
				1 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	2
5	6 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	7 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	8 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	9	Toronto Zoo 10:00am-3:00pm
12	13 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-12:00pm 12:00pm-3:30pm (Trip to Movies)	14 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	15 Winston Churchill Day Program 10:00am-3:00pm	16	Canoeing Trip 11:00am-3:30pm 
19	20	21	22	23	
26	27	28	29	30	

Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture

SUMMER

For more information or to pick up an application, please contact Mbalu at 416-750-3045, 2425 Eglinton Avenue E, Unit 218 & 220, Scarborough, ON M1K 5G8, (416) 750-3045.




June 26: The U.N. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture at CCVT Scarborough Branch

A Volunteer's Report—June 26, 2013

Once again this year, CCVT was proud to honour the United Nations International Day in Support of Survivors of Torture on June 26. An Open House was held at CCVT's Scarborough Branch, as well as the Downtown Office.

The Open House at the Scarborough location was a wonderful opportunity for clients, staff and volunteers to come together to celebrate CCVT's involvement in this important day. It was also a time to celebrate survival, new beginnings and friendship. The day also included delicious refreshments, some of which were donated by Starbucks through Volunteer Richi Rashad El Chaar.

The day's presentations began with a welcome to the many in attendance from Settlement Counselor Samar Ahamed and Trauma Settlement Counselor Mbalu Wembo. Mbalu continued by talking about the life-changing history of CCVT's 35 years of service to survivors of torture. Samar then introduced the Seniors' Exercise Group, 10 ladies who demonstrated an ambitious and energized routine. This was followed by ESL student Boody Salih who offered a moving speech about his experience of coming to Canada from Sudan. He spoke about his desire to find a better life for his family in his new home. Boody's speech was followed by the entire ESL class performing the song "Wavin' Flag". Boody, his classmates and their teacher Yaya proudly waved Canadian flags to the music as they raised their spirited voices. They did such a wonderful job that the group taught the song to all those in attendance, offering a command performance later in the program. It was certainly one of the most memorable performances of the day. During the break that followed, a talented volunteer offered beautiful henna designs - on hands and even feet - to anyone who wanted them. Following the break, it was time for the Seniors' Group to take the stage for a beautiful, intricate dance. The eight ladies looked exquisite with their colourful attire, pearl necklaces and spring flowers in their hair.

Samar introduced client Ranji Kanagasabai who began by thanking CCVT for arranging the day's event. She spoke about CCVT's useful services and mission to help, advise and counsel any one who had been a victim of torture, including psychological, physical and emotional abuse. Ranji ended her speech by sharing what she liked most about CCVT, which was spending time with the other ladies. She said that her time at CCVT filled her with happiness and peace. "Thank-you CCVT," she added.

It was at this point in the day's event that the floor was open to anyone who wanted to perform a song or a drama. Samar began the impromptu performances by singing with a client. As everyone began to encourage each other to perform, clients offered their talents by singing in Tamil, Arabic and French.

The final performance of the day was a comical play, presented in Tamil, by the Seniors' Group. The story was about a mother coming to Canada after being sponsored by her daughter. The story included her going to CCVT for all the help that she needed, including tokens, snacks, bananas and tea in the ESL class, and yoga classes. Thanks to Thilaga's translation of the story, all in attendance were able to understand the humour and meaning of the story.

CCVT's Open House in honour of the United Nations International Day in Support of Survivors of Torture on June 26 was a wonderful success. It was a day for the CCVT community to join together in thankfulness, and to enjoy each other's company, culture and talents. It was also a day to remember those who still experience torture in many countries today. CCVT's mission to educate, and to offer hope and healing continues.

By: Lisa Papineau, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch



**RELIGION, PEACE AND VIOLENCE:
A MULTI-FAITH DIALOGUE ON LIBERATION AND JUSTICE
JUNE 26, 2013 PANEL DISCUSSION AT THE METRO HALL
35 YEARS WITH SURVIVORS**

A Volunteer's Report



"There are people who are suffering beyond description. They are innocent people; they didn't bring this upon themselves. They are the victims of the sins of other people. And while it's hard to see, it's important to understand that these people exist."

By: Mia Farrow

The **"Multi-Faith dialogue on liberation and justice"** took place on June 26th, 2013 was an interesting brain storming than a scholastic lecturing. The natural blend of philosophy, religion, ethics, humanism and practical social work was really reflected throughout the session.

The key note by Sharif Ahmed, a Bangladeshi Blogger and a Human rights activist kindled the light for this warm session. Samira Kanji, the president and CEO of Noor Culture Center narrated their experience and reflections on Islamic religion and its approach towards survivors of torture. The approach which promotes the Islamic society nourishing the well being the people who join together in Canada from different countries and from different cultures is really wonderful.

David Novak, an astonishing professor of Religion and Philosophy from the University of Toronto presented a rather striking view of the Jewish tradition and its impact on Society. It was an interesting lecture on Constructive Religious approach toward Social Work. ("He is a founder, vice-president, and coordinator of the Jewish Law Panel of the Union for Traditional Judaism, and a faculty member & vice-president of the Union for Traditional Judaism in Teaneck, New Jersey. He is a faculty member of the Department of

Talmud and Halakha at the Canadian Yeshiva and Rabbinical School, Toronto")*
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Novak).

Another exciting presentation done by Vina Kandavanam reinforced the importance of the cultural nuances while we deal with survivors and he highlighted the Hindu religious traditions and its value systems.

Catholicism was an important area to reckon with especially in its approach towards human rights. This was really reflected in the Noble speech delivered by Jack Costello, a Jesuit priest. He is the Director of the Jesuit Refugee and Migrant Service, Ontario. He is a Professor in the University of Toronto and the long 25 years of teaching experience was reflected in his insightful sharing, proving himself as a living real Social activist.

Gerald Filson, an extra ordinary philosopher with a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Education moved the session to higher heights through his exceptionally remarkable presentation. He has extensive experience in this area both in Canada as well as in developing nations like India. The Baha'i Community of Canada is blessed through his Directorship for public Affairs.

Buddhism is one of the noblest living styles and widely accepted all over the Globe. Mr. Michael Kerr, the coordinator with Karuna Community Services – the community development and Social service volunteer network of the Buddhist Communities of greater Toronto, narrated their approach and philosophy towards the victims of torture.

Finally the amazing facilitator Paulina steered the session with vibrant coordination. Her exceptionally informative facilitation method was professional and colorful.

This has made me think rather differently, empathetic and motivated to have a better perspective of this day in light of the survivors. Let's hope that we can do a better job to bring some peace for our clients.

"We are all victims because of the circumstances, but I'm not sure what to say to any one who has lost a loved one. I know the feeling myself, and words just don't do much to ease the pain."

By: Lonnie Earl Johnson

By: Jose James, Volunteer , CCVT Scarborough Branch

CCVT GIVES HOPE AFTER THE HORROR!

Volunteer Activities and Events

**Welcoming New Volunteers at CCVT Scarborough Location
The Volunteers' Orientation Session on Monday June 10, 2013**



- ★ 1. Sherine Ali
- ★ 2. Sonia Shantikumar
- ★ 3. Mischele Morgan
- ★ 4. Nishya Hurtig
- ★ 5. Anne Simon
- ★ 6. Kimberly Lansdowne
- ★ 7. Angie Trif

- ★ 8. Judy Fe Jose- Larong
- ★ 9. Vera Oppong
- ★ 10. Raheeq Khalil
- ★ 11. Johan Yogaretnam
- ★ 12. Sahana Shanmugam
- ★ 13. Nazreen Sinnen
- ★ 14. Lula Kahsay

*By: Juliette Ntege, Volunteer Coordinator,
CCVT Scarborough Branch*

Volunteers' Activities

Tips for Befrienders

May 29 - July 20, 2013 – DOC NOW Festival

Enjoy FREE viewings of the work of graduating students from Ryerson's Documentary Media Master of Fine Arts program, including films, photography, and installations. Various venues and exhibitions are located throughout Toronto. Visit the festivals website for further details: <http://docnow.ca>.

June 6 – August 29, 2013 – EAST SCARBOROUGH FESTIVAL MARKET

Visit St. Margaret's Parkette at 4130 Lawrence Avenue East from 2 – 6pm on Thursdays throughout the summer and have some fun with games, food, music, and local vendors! Admission is free.

July 3 – August 28, 2013 – FREE FLICKS

Watch films under the stars at the WestJet Stage in the Harbourfront Centre every Wednesday night throughout the summer. All films are free and are start at approximately 9pm rain or shine.

You can also head to David Pecaut Square and catch free outdoor movie screenings that begin just after sunset. Some of the movies scheduled to show are: Sleepless in Seattle, The Way We Were, Clueless, Sense and Sensibility, Roman Holiday and The Notebook. Feel free to bring your blanket or folding chair!

July 5 – 21, 2013 – SUMMERLICIOUS

Remember that restaurant that you've been meaning to check out? Well...it's the perfect time to do it! Over 190 restaurants across the city are participating in this year's Summerlicious event and are offering three course fixed-price menus. So, treat yourself to a delicious lunch or dinner at that place you've always wanted to try! Visit www.toronto.ca/summerlicious for a full list of participating restaurants and menus. Don't forget to make a reservation as tables will be limited.

July 5 – 26, 2013 – CULTURA FESTIVAL

Visit Mel Lastman Square every Friday night (6-11pm) and enjoy a celebration of music, food, art and film for FREE. Enjoy performances, buskers, and delicious food from 6 – 8pm, a musical act from 8 – 9pm and stick around to watch a feature film screening from 9:15 – 11pm.

July 13 – 14, 2013 – SALSA ON ST. CLAIR

It's time for Telelatino's 9th annual Salsa on St. Clair festival! Come celebrate the Latino culture and the world of salsa dancing on St. Clair Ave. West between Winona Drive and Christie Street. There will be live music, dance lessons, delicious food and family fun. The festivities start at noon each day and run until 11pm (Saturday) and 9pm (Sunday).

July 18 – September 5, 2013 – DANCING ON THE PIER

Join the Toronto All-Star Big Band on July 18, August 1, 15, 22, and September 5 down at the Harbourfront Pier for a night of live music and dancing by the water. Admission is FREE, so put on your dancing shoes!!

July 5 – September 6, 2013 – MUSIC IN THE SQUARE

Every Friday night from 6 – 9pm, check out the Town Square in Shops at Don Mills for live entertainment by Aion Clarke – he will be performing covers of some of the biggest names in music.

July 17 – August 5, 2013 – SCOTIABANK CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL

Celebrate the 44th annual Caribbean Carnival featuring events that celebrate the music, cuisine, and arts of the Caribbean region. The King and Queen Competition Show takes place on August 1 and the Grand Parade will be on August 3 – make sure you arrive early to get the best views of all the colourful floats and costumes.

July 19 – 28, 2013 – BEACHES INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL

Visit the Queen Street East (Beaches) area and enjoy the sounds of jazz, blues, big band, reggae, rhythm and blues music at various venues (Woodbine Park, Kew Gardens, and the Beaches Boardwalk). Bands play from approximately 7 – 11pm nightly. Festival admission is free!

July 20 – 21, 2013 – BIG ON BLOOR

Head to Bloor Street between Dufferin and Lansdowne and enjoy a market with over 200 arts and crafts vendors, music, performance, dance, and check out some of the in-store events and promotions at some of the participating restaurants and patios along the way! The event runs from 1 – 9pm (Saturday) and 12 – 6pm (Sunday). Festival admission is free!

July 25, 2013 – SUMMERTIME BBQ

The Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival will be hosting a summertime bbq for FREE at the Eglinton Square Shopping Centre. Make sure you go hungry!

Compiled by: Maxine Bond, Volunteer at CCVT Scarborough Branch

Volunteers' Activities

The U.N. OBSERVED DATES IN JUNE

International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression – June 4

"On this solemn occasion, we need to recall the sacred duty, enshrined in the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child, to ensure that all children, without any exception whatsoever, enjoy special protection."

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, in his message for the 1983 observance

On 19 August 1982, at its emergency special session on the question of Palestine, the General Assembly, "appalled at the great number of innocent Palestinian and Lebanese children victims of Israel's acts of aggression", decided to commemorate 4 June of each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression.

The purpose of the day is to acknowledge the pain suffered by children throughout the world who are the victims of physical, mental and emotional abuse. This day affirms the UN's commitment to protect the rights of children.

World Day Against Child Labour – June 12

The International Labour Organization (ILO) launched the World Day Against Child Labour in 2002 to focus attention on the global extent of child labour and the action and efforts needed to eliminate it. Each year on 12 June, the World Day brings together governments, employers and workers organizations, civil society, as well as millions of people from around the world to highlight the plight of child labourers and what can be done to help them.

Around the world, large numbers of children are engaged in paid or unpaid domestic work in the home of a third party or employer. These children can be particularly vulnerable to exploitation. Their work is often hidden from the public eye, they may be isolated, and they may be working far away from their family home. Stories of the abuse of children in domestic work are all too common. On the 2013 World Day Against Child Labour the ILO calls for:

Legislative and policy reforms to ensure the elimination of child labour in domestic work and the provision of decent work conditions and appropriate protection to young workers in domestic work who have reached the legal working age.

Ratify ILO Convention No. 189 concerning decent work for domestic workers and its implementation along with the ILO's child labour Convention.

Action to build the Worldwide movement against child labour and to build the capacity of domestic workers' organizations to address child labour.

International Day in Support of Victims of Torture – June 26

"I urge all Member States to accede to and fully implement the Convention against Torture and support the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. Let us work together to end torture throughout the world and ensure that countries provide reparation for victims."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Torture seeks to annihilate the victim's personality and denies the inherent dignity of the human being. The United Nations has condemned torture from the outset as one of the vilest acts perpetrated by human beings on their fellow human beings.

Torture is a crime under international law. According to all relevant instruments, it is absolutely prohibited and cannot be justified under any circumstances. This prohibition forms part of customary international law, which means that it is binding on every member of the international community, regardless of whether a State has ratified international treaties in which torture is expressly prohibited. The systematic or widespread practice of torture constitutes a crime against humanity.

Compiled by: Zheng Wang, Volunteer at CCVT Scarborough Branch

CCVT GIVES HOPE AFTER THE HORROR!

CLIENTS' ACTIVITIES

THE ESL CLASS ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM FIELD TRIP *A Volunteer's Report*



On Wednesday June 5, 2013 over 18 students of CCVT's ESL class attended an exciting tour to The Royal Ontario Museum. For many of the student's this was their first time heading into the core of downtown Toronto and The Royal Ontario Museum as well! The one and a half hour tour consisted of guiding the class through the ancient civilizations of Egypt, learning about Greek history and its influence on North America and the dinosaur exhibition where students were allowed to touch and feel what a dinosaur scaled skin would feel like. The exhibition on Canada was exciting as many students learned the rich

culture and history of Canada's aboriginal peoples. After 2 hours of an exciting and informative tour of the museum a smaller group of students decided to stay for another 2 hours of exploration of the rest of the museum. This included exploring the wildlife exhibition and some were brave enough to enter the pitch black bat cave! The trip allowed the students to dive into the rich history of the world and learn more about the different ancient civilizations and reflect on their own historical backgrounds and the similarities and differences of cultures throughout the world.

By: Hiwot Adane, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

CLIENTS' ACTIVITIES

The Homework Club June 2013 Activities!



I would like to thank all volunteers who have assisted the children and youth with their homework, school assignments at CCVT and outside CCVT through one to one tutoring. Also, thank you to volunteers who conducted games, arts and craft activities. The afterschool program would have not been successful without your ongoing feedback and your commitment is greatly appreciated. In the summer months we plan on having fun recreational, youth mentorship and educational fieldtrips for the children and youth program. We hope that you can join us!

By: Mbalu Wembo, Child/Youth Trauma Settlement Counselor, CCVT Scarborough Branch