

CCVT Events

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



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



CCVT GIVES HOPE AFTER THE HORROR!

The Connection

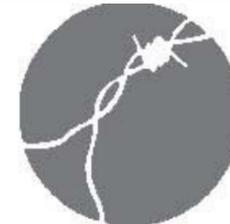
A PUBLICATION BY THE VOLUNTEERS OF
**THE CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
VICTIMS OF TORTURE**
SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

A NEWSLETTER FOR ALL CCVT VOLUNTEERS

July 2013

Volume 4

Issue 7



THE VOLUNTEERS SPOTLIGHT NIGHT EVENT AT CCVT SCARBOROUGH 'A Volunteer's Commitment'

ON WEDNESDAY JULY 31, 2013

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Editors:

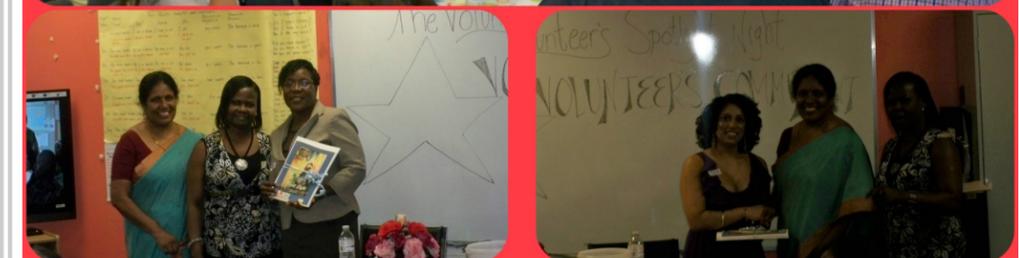
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Editors' Note:

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

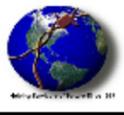


The Volunteers' Spotlight Night was officiated by Joan Walters, Executive Member, Scarborough Association for Volunteer Administration (SAVA); and Tara Hastoo, Coordinator, Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP), Canada Revenue Agency (CRA).

The Volunteers' Spotlight Night Volunteers' Testimonials



Volunteers Are Still Needed for The Summer Quest Day Program



**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






VOLUNTEERS' EVENTS AT CCVT SCARBOROUGH BRANCH

NEW VOLUNTEERS' ORIENTATION SESSION

Where : At CCVT Scarborough Branch

When : Thursday August 15, 2013

Time : 5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m.

The Taste of Lawrence

Outreach Activities - CCVT at The Victoria Park Hub



CCVT is a part of The Hub at 1527 Victoria Park Ave. (Victoria Park/Eglinton Ave. E.).

The Hub owned a Booth at the Taste of Lawrence Annual Festival on July 6, 2013; and had a table with Crafts, Henna, Face painting, and Flyers distribution.

Joining other Agencies at the Hub, CCVT fully participated in this festival as was one of the community engagement and outreach activities during the month of July. Samar Ahmed, Settlement Counselor, represented CCVT at this Festival.

By: Samar Ahmed

SOME OF THE U.N. IMPORTANT DATES IN JULY

World Day for International Justice – July 17

World Day for International Justice, also referred to as Day of International Criminal Justice or International Justice Day is celebrated throughout the world on July 17 as part of an effort to recognize the emerging system of international criminal justice. July 17 was chosen because it is the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute, the treaty that created the International Criminal Court.

Each year, people around the world use this day to host events to promote international criminal justice, especially support for the International Criminal Court. The day has been successful enough to attract international news attention, and for groups to use the day to focus attention on particular issues such as genocide in Darfur, Falun Dafa, and serious crimes of violence against women.

Nelson Mandela International Day – July 18

In November 2009, the UN General Assembly declared 18 July "Nelson Mandela International Day" in recognition of the former South African President's contribution to the culture of peace and freedom.

Every year on 18 July — the day Nelson Mandela was born — the UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to mark Nelson Mandela International Day.

For 67 years Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity — as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.

By: John Wang, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch

The Volunteers' Spotlight Night

CRA Certificates Presentation by Tara Hastoo To The Income Tax Clinic Volunteers



The Volunteers' Spotlight Night *'A Volunteer's Commitment'*

On July 31, 2013, CCVT Scarborough held a "Volunteer Spotlight Night" event where longtime serving volunteers shared their experiences; and new lessons were learnt from the two Guest Speakers.

The event began with introductions by Juliette Ntege, the Volunteer Coordinator; followed by Opening Remarks by Thilaga Jeganathan, the Branch Coordinator.

On behalf of the CCVT Management, Thilaga extended a vote of thanks to all Volunteers for the remarkable role they play and the impact they have on the services of the Centre. She also discussed the CCVT commitment towards the Volunteers and this is by providing Orientation and other training opportunities to help them grow in their skills and abilities. Also by providing adequate work space and environment with a strong communication supply about events and organizational happenings through emails and the CCVT Website.

Thilaga informed Volunteers that CCVT strives to recognize the goodwill and generous offering of time and energy that the volunteers give in various ways and one of them is by hosting Social gatherings like the Spotlight Night. Finally, Thilaga discussed the importance of attending Social events as is part of a Volunteer's Commitment, which offers Volunteers a chance to air out their concerns; share their experiences and interact with other volunteers.

The question: "**What does A Volunteers' Spotlight Night mean?**" in many ways defined the Theme of the event. Each of the Volunteer Guest Speakers underscored this point by sharing their own personal experiences volunteering with the CCVT. Each experience provided unique and ultimately affirming experience of not only the various roles each Volunteer has played within the organization but also the impact each Volunteer has had on the clients, the Centre, and the Community at large.

Jose James

Jose talked about his experiences coming to Canada as a Skilled Social Worker, and how volunteering started out as a way to gain professional qualifications to work as a Social Worker in Canada.

He described how volunteering changed his perspective as he began learning more about the culture and communities in Canada. He encouraged volunteers to keep their motivation for the rest of their lives – "volunteers can change society"

Gowrie Vasavithasan

Gowrie is a retired Chemist, who started looking for volunteer opportunities to give back to the Community and help newcomers by sharing her first hand experience as a newcomer, relating to problems and issues other newcomers face. She also discussed the impact a volunteer working in the hospital had on her by offering her a drink of juice without her asking. This was the time her husband was involved in a car accident and she was so confused and lonely after waiting for long hours to see a doctor. Gowrie also discussed challenges of volunteering such as adjusting from working for a pay in the private sector. The reason Gowrie chose to volunteer with CCVT was because of the Centre's great reputation.

Rosemary Namuyomba

Rosemary started volunteering at the CCVT a year ago. She described how volunteering changed everything for her and improved a lot on her patience. She talked about her experience working with the clients learning how to be patient with them, the challenges of the language barrier and her experience making a difference with the youth she worked with. She realized that helping one person at a time makes many people helped by the end; and she ended with the quote: "*If you want to go fast go alone, but if you want to go further, go with others.*"

Gajen Sivakumar

Gajen started volunteering at the CCVT 3 years ago. He came with a mindset to help out and described how volunteering at the CCVT did a lot for him. He shared his experiences volunteering as a Computer Assistant; a Teaching Assistant in the ESL Classes and ESL One-on-One tutor. As a recent university graduate, Gajen talked about how other University students don't always have the time or the energy to commit. He encouraged other volunteers to take the time to volunteer.

.....Continues to Page 5

THE CCVT PICNIC

JULY 7, 2013 AT THE HIGH PARK

It was a hot day, and one threatened by rain, but that didn't deter CCVT's Annual Picnic at High Park from happening on Sunday July 7th. Family, friends, staff and volunteers from all the 3 CCVT offices came together to enjoy each other's company, and share in some delicious food (especially those samosas and the Spring rolls...yum!). Children played, adults socialized; rain or sun the CCVT community always shines.

Many of us travelled to the picnic event together, meeting at the subway at 9:30 a.m., eager for a day of fun, food and good company. Our group travelled by subway starting from Kennedy station, bringing with us sports gear, craft supplies and snacks in tow. After about an hour of travel along the Bloor/Danforth subway line we were greeted in the High Park picnic area with smiles and a tasty BBQ upon arrival.

As a brand new volunteer at CCVT it was a great inaugural event to attend. Not only did I have the pleasure to meet the many people connected to CCVT, but also to do so in a relaxed space with nothing but leisure to achieve. For this reason I was able to start volunteering at the Scarborough location with much ease, as I was made familiar with many people working at this location and was able to get a feel for what CCVT is all about and the atmosphere that it brings, nothing but community engagement, building and integration. In this setting under the shelter of a large oak tree, I interacted with staff, volunteers, clients and family members from all three CCVT locations all the while chewing down on a tasty burger cooked up by Samar Ahmed, who selflessly worked at the grill for the entirety of picnic along with Abdul Abubaker from the Main office.

Aside from socializing, and getting to know the CCVT community I spent much of my day at the craft table. At this activity

table set up for the children to express their artistic creativity, I assisted the many children in attendance with their arts in between chatting it up with their parents. From that special vantage point I was able to witness the establishment of new friendships which were developing amongst the young people. Aside from the good company, I also enjoyed taking in the natural beauty of High Park, observing the park's natural critters through the eyes of a child; and marveled at the patience the young crafters exhibited as they meticulously decorated their wooden masks – butterflies, flowers and elephants among them. The craft table was not the only activity this day had for young ones, to my left at the craft table many children engaged in a volleyball match, toss the ball back and forth from one end of the net to the other in hopes of gaining a point from the opposing side; while to my right expert bubble blowers filled the sky with their floating bubbles of joy.

Thankfully for the volleyball competitors, bubble blowers and craft makers, the weather was on our side this joy filled day, with only a short interruption from the rain. Although the forecast called for a day of rain showers, once again CCVT brought nothing but shine, and all the activities went well into the afternoon. Groups of picnickers could be seen coming and going all day as attention turned from badminton, to skipping and of course the filling and throwing of water balloons. For me, the picnic was a blast and I can guarantee you that you'll be seeing me at CCVT's next picnic – that is for sure. I felt lucky to be transported to the park for a day, to spend time with wonderful people in this wonderful way.

*By: Kimberly Lansdowne, Volunteer,
CCVT Scarborough Branch*

CCVT GIVES HOPE AFTER THE HORROR!

THE CCVT PICNIC

JULY 7, 2013 AT THE HIGH PARK



CCVT GIVES HOPE AFTER THE HORROR!

The Volunteers' Spotlight Night 'A Volunteers' Commitment'

.....Continuation from Page 4

Sumita Kesh

Sumita shared her experience about coming to Canada and how accepting someone's help helped her to move forward. She made the commitment to give back after learning from those who helped her when she was a newcomer. Finding out about the mandate of CCVT inspired her to volunteer. She described how welcoming the staff was. She also described how she was amazed by the determination of the clients in her many interactions with them as English Conversation facilitator; as a Receptionist at the Front Desk; as a Computer Tutor, etc. Sumita talked about determination and conviction of the clients. She learnt not to take things for granted. Talked about how important it is to appreciate the background and experience of the clients including their resilience.

Joan Walters—The Keynote Speaker

CCVT's Volunteer Spotlight Night Event had the honour of welcoming the Keynote Speaker, and Executive Member of the Scarborough Association for Volunteer Administration (SAVA), Joan Walters. She encouraged Volunteers to stick to their commitments once they have made them. She referred to Sumita's story as very encouraging; when Sumita was helped by a stranger during her time of need as a newcomer, and said that, the clients are counting on volunteers to achieve their future goals.

With an experience of coordinating volunteers for 15 years, Joan discussed the benefits of being a Committed Volunteer, such as how it reflects on Volunteers and the impact of a Volunteer's role on the clients who are dependent on Volunteers. She also mentioned that when a committed volunteer asks for a reference letter, the Coordinator doesn't need to think twice to write that letter as the volunteer's commitment explains all the qualities.

Nestor Silveira

Nestor, who has been a volunteer with CCVT Scarborough Income Tax Clinic for 3 consecutive years was one of the Volunteer Guest Speakers. He discussed how volunteering has been a part of his life since he was a student in University. Finding the opportunity to volunteer with CCVT doing Income Tax, he gained more than what he gave in return. Nestor noted that what matters is one's attitude

towards volunteer work. Helping others is more important than being successful.

Nestor described volunteering as fun not work. He concluded by saying no matter how big or small the contribution is, it makes a difference in the lives of those in need.

Tara Hastoo—Guest Speaker

Tara Hastoo, CVITP Coordinator with the CRA, thanked CCVT for the invitation. She mentioned that the Commissioner of CRA thanked CCVT for providing a space for Income Tax services for low income filers. In her introduction, Tara mentioned that about 6000 volunteers assisted last season in the Income Tax returns preparations and 12 of them were CCVT Volunteers. She also announced that Newcomers to Canada will be able to E-file their returns.

In addition, 2 Computers will be provided to CCVT for the Income Tax Refund preparations. Tara graciously presented CRA Tax Certificates to CCVT Income Tax Volunteers. A certificate for CCVT was presented to Thilaga Jeganathan, the Branch Coordinator; and one to the Volunteer Coordinator, Juliette Ntege.

Both Guest Speakers Joan Walters and Tara Hastoo were presented with CCVT Newsletters and the Annual Report 2012.

Attendees of the event participated in a ticket raffle to win prizes and 2 of them won. The event concluded with some closing remarks in celebration of all the volunteers whose contributions play a vital role in the CCVT.

What does A Volunteers' Spotlight Night mean? Community, commitment, coming together to share experiences, face difficulties and figure out solutions. Honouring begins with acknowledgement and recognition. Congratulations to all the volunteers who shared their stories for your time and commitment and most of all, for your willingness to help others.

Thank you ALL you for your contributions that made the Volunteers' Spotlight Night Event such a SUCCESS!

By: Jason Lawrence, Volunteer, CCVT Scarborough Branch



Clients' Events and Activities

The Summer Quest Day Program Activities in July 2013 at Winston Churchill Collegiate



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