

Brief Info on RTCC

This is a very brief introduction to RTCC's organization and work.

It is not comprehensive.

Please feel free to ask questions at the interview.

- The Ralph Thornton Community Centre (RTCC) is a volunteer board-run multi-purpose neighbourhood centre that provides a range of community, recreation and social service programs to residents of our catchment area (Don Valley to Coxwell Ave.; Lake Ontario to Danforth Ave.)
- RTCC supports community building by facilitating community linkages and fostering community inclusion. Our programming supports recreation, social engagement, social justice, arts & culture, environmentalism and food security. We use community development and capacity building approaches.
- RTCC provides 3 types of programs & services to serve our community:
 1. Programs provided by RTCC, especially for children, newcomers, low-income people. Examples include the Children's Mentor Program and RAC Camp, and the Exchange Loft.
 2. Programs offered by others using RTCC space. Examples include South Riverdale Child-Parent Centre, Queen Saulter Library; Literacy for East Toronto, children's Tae Kwon Do and after-school, English country dancing, and Tea Club for Seniors.
 3. Space for community meetings and other events.
- RTCC is one of 10 “AOCC” (Association of Community Centres) Centres. The AOCC model is a hybrid between a City agency and an independent, not-for-profit, community-based organization. The core administration activities are funded by the City and treated like a City agency. The programme component is funded primarily through fees, donations, and grants and managed like the activities of an independent not-for-profit community-based organization.
- RTCC's budget is approximately \$900,000 per year.
 - Of that amount, approximately 65% is provided by the City of Toronto to cover the costs of running the building, including maintenance staff, managers and a .5 volunteer co-ordinator
 - The remainder (money to staff & run programmes) must be funded through grants and donations that RTCC Board & staff must apply for or otherwise solicit.
- RTCC is governed by a 13 member Board of Management, 12 of whom are elected by the membership then nominated for appointment by the City of Toronto. The 13th position is held by the Ward 30 City Councillor.
- RTCC is named after the late Ralph Thornton, a local taxi driver and community activist who helped improve conditions for residents in South Riverdale. Ralph died in 1974, but his legacy of giving local residents a voice continues.
- The creation of RTCC is one result of that voice. Our building was formerly a post office that closed in 1975. As a result of a community campaign, the Ralph Thornton Community Centre opened in 1981.
- For photos and information on events, visit the Ralph Thornton Community Centre's Facebook page or our website at www.ralphthornton.org.