

*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 Saulters 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.ralphthornton.org).