

MANY THANKS!

Thanks to our Board of Management, Centre staff, Funders, Partners, Volunteers and Community Members for your continued support.

The Ralph Thornton Community Centre is an agency of the [City of Toronto](#), operating under an independent community Board of Management. RTCC appreciates the almost \$800,000 per year in core operating funds, along with major capital project funding, provided by the City of Toronto.

Funders and Partners: City of Toronto, Applegrove Community Complex, CUPE Local 2998, Don Valley Community Legal Services, Eastview Neighbourhood Community Centre, East End Community Health Centre, Human Resources Development Canada, Jimmie Simpson Recreation Centre, Literacy East Toronto, Mustard Seed/Fontbonne Ministries, Nellie's, New Horizons for Seniors, Ralph Thornton Community Organization, Repair Café, Riverside BIA, Riverdale Share, South Riverdale Community Health Centre, South Riverdale Child-Parent Centre, Toronto Foundation for Student Success, Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund, Toronto Neighbourhood Centres, Toronto Public Library Queen/Saulter Branch.



RALPH THORNTON COMMUNITY CENTRE



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Cover photo by Gord Morgan



VISION MISSION VALUES

OUR VISION Working to ensure a more vibrant, diverse, inclusive, liveable, participatory, healthy, and equitable Riverdale.

OUR MISSION The RTCC is a gathering place that welcomes, connects and engages the community in all its diversity.

OUR VALUES

Inclusion and Respect: The RTCC supports and adheres to the City of Toronto Human Rights and Anti-Harassment Policy. We operate in a manner which models ethical, respectful and inclusive service delivery and employment practices, encourages diverse perspectives, and ensures equitable treatment for all. The RTCC promotes social inclusivity in all its activities and programming.

Equity and Social Justice: The RTCC supports, acts and advocates for solution-focused policies and systemic changes that create long term improvement and fairness for all within our community and the larger society.

Collaboration and Partnership: The RTCC works collaboratively and in partnership with individuals, groups and organizations to achieve our mission and vision. We work in ways that engage community members, foster on-going relationships and build the strengths of the whole community.

Capacity Building: The RTCC supports community members, especially the more marginalized, to increase their ability to solve problems, define and achieve their objectives and fully participate in and contribute to community life.

Community Building: The RTCC actively promotes the building of relationships and collective action across and between our diverse communities to strengthen the whole.

RTCC Financial Report

Over the past two years, RTCC has benefitted from the continued, stable funding we receive from the City of Toronto, enabling us to maintain our core operations.

Our revenues from room rentals and from program fees (e.g. After School Program) have dropped dramatically, and RTCC has drawn on its limited reserves to ensure that the building, and its programming, remained as accessible as possible to our community.

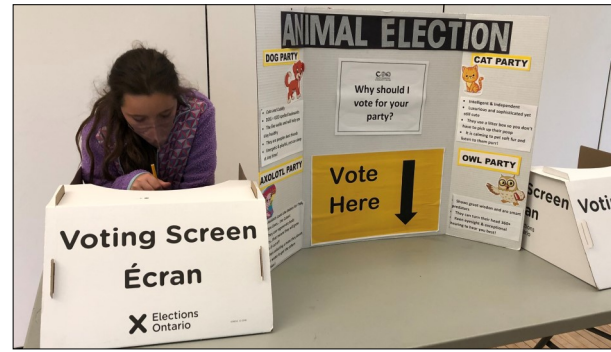
Over the coming few years, a priority will be rebuilding those revenue streams, as well as building our fund-raising capacity, to ensure that RTCC can continue to provide a range of programs and services for our local community.

* Administration Funding: This is the funding RTCC receives from the City of Toronto to keep the building open and accessible to the community – it covers basic salary and benefits for the core staff as well as hard costs such as utilities and maintenance costs

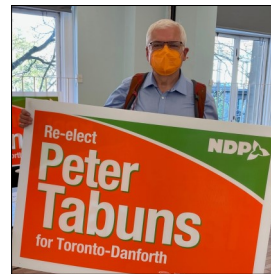
	2021	2020
Administration Revenue *		
City of Toronto	826,641	741,557
Toronto Public Library	39,364	39,364
Total Administration Revenue	<u>866,005</u>	<u>780,921</u>
Program Revenue		
Grants		
City of Toronto	83,873	76,452
Government of Canada	63,660	29,843
Foundations	15,771	13,557
Other	14,670	9,597
Donations	38,849	8,470
Fundraising	1,280	2,215
Rental Income	4,766	5,548
User Fees	49,374	39,711
Other Revenue	14,004	13,206
Total Program Revenue	<u>286,247</u>	<u>198,599</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>1,152,252</u>	<u>979,520</u>
Administration Expenses *		
Salaries and Benefits	714,259	660,893
Materials and Supplies	79,084	61,246
Purchase of Services	72,662	58,782
Total Administration Expenses	<u>866,005</u>	<u>780,921</u>
Program Expenses		
Salaries and Benefits	212,178	167,372
Materials and Supplies	3,365	13,759
Purchase of Services	56,840	39,002
Amortization of Capital Assets	1,234	1,189
Total Program Expenses	<u>273,617</u>	<u>221,322</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>1,139,622</u>	<u>1,002,243</u>
TOTAL SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	<u>12,630</u>	<u>(22,723)</u>

Civic Engagement at the Ralph Thornton Community Centre: Election 2022

Continuing our long history as a hub of civic engagement, RTCC served as a polling station in the recent Provincial election. The staff and children in the After School Program conducted their own "Animal Election" - choosing animal parties, developing party platforms, creating campaign signs, and taking their campaigns 'on the road' to conduct Advance Polls at Morse St. and Dundas Public Schools, as well as hosting polling stations in Bruce Mackey Park and at the RTCC All-Candidates event. The Dog Party emerged victorious, but this was one election where everyone was a winner!



RTCC collaborated with our partners at Applegrove, Eastview, and other community organizations to host two Provincial election events—one online All-Candidates meeting, and an in-person "Meet and Greet" at RTCC. We appreciated the candidates making time in their schedules for these community events, and their good nature in being slightly 'upstaged' by the Animal Election polling station at RTCC!



Ralph Thornton Community Centre Board of Management

Abraham Plunkett-Latimer, Ejay Tupe, Caleb Edwards (*Treasurer*), John Bradford, Heather Simpson Glenn Gustafson (*RTCC Business Manager**), Ryan Acayan (*Vice President*), Maggi Redmonds, Colleen Gray (*RTCC Manager: Strategic Initiatives**), Diane "D" Surman, Lisa Pottie (*President*), James Topham, Amy Grenon, Councillor Paula Fletcher, Sree Nallamothu, John Campey (*Executive Director**) *Staff member



RTCC Staff

Alicia Butler (Children's Program Support), John Campey (Executive Director), Stephen Devine (Reception), Drew Dopwell (Maintenance Relief), Conley Downey (Maintenance), Teri Freeman (Children's Program Support), Susy Glass (Volunteer Coordinator/Community Animator) Colleen Gray (Manager: Strategic Initiatives), Glenn Gustafson (Business Manager), Wenlin Huang (Reception), Nicoletta Ioannidis (Reception), Mark Johnson (Maintenance Coordinator), Iris Langlois-Smith (Children's Program Support) Lainey Little (Children's Programs Coordinator), Anusree Mohan (Reception) Ming Redmonds (Reception), Maia Richards (Children's Program Support), Rose Scher (Administrative Coordinator), Ian Sieunarine (Maintenance), Mariah Wheeler (Children's Program Support), Janice Zhang (Settlement Programs Coordinator)



A Year in the life of the **Ralph Thornton Community Centre**



Chinese Senior's Recipe Calendar

RTCC's Chinese Senior's group collected seasonal recipes and produced a bilingual calendar of them.



The Queen-Saulter Library:

We all missed the Queen/Saulter branch of Toronto Public Library, and were very excited to welcome the Library staff back in September.

Save Jimmie Simpson Campaign

RTCC has worked closely with the Save Jimmie Simpson Campaign to advocate for community concerns in the face of an unresponsive Metrolinx bureaucracy. Over the winter, RTCC participated in the "Memorial for the Trees" procession and reception to mourn the loss of the tree cover in the rail corridor.



The Ralph Thornton Tax Filer Clinic

This year's tax filer clinic set new records. Volunteers coordinated by RTCC prepared 138 tax returns for individuals aged 18 to 91. Over \$415,000 in benefits were claimed, and \$51,078 returned to low income individuals in our community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

COVID-19 continued to make life difficult for the Centre and Board, with ongoing closures and precautions required. It has certainly made my first year as President (and second on the Board) a learning experience. Some longstanding Board members, including Alan Lennon, left the Board, but we have been fortunate to retain the counsel and participation of Maggi Redmonds, Caleb Edmonds, Ryan Acayan, Ejay Tube, John Bradford, Councillor Paula Fletcher, as well as Abe Plunkett-Latimer and Amy Grenon (who are sadly leaving us). We welcomed new members Sree Nallamothu, Heather Simpson, D Surman, and James Topham, all of whom dove right in.

I am so impressed by the seriousness and dedication of this Board; you all very obviously care for RTCC and want to do whatever you can to help in the governance. And someday I will actually meet you all in person!

This past year COVID put a hold on our Strategic Planning; we realized the community consultations and

meetings needed to be in person, and have decided to delay the planning to 2023. However, progress has been made in other areas of governance, such as clarifying committee roles, identifying new processes and policies, reviewing and updating existing policies, and creating criteria for board speakers. I know, thrilling stuff! But essential to the work of governance.

Leslieville and Riverside are communities dealing with new development (much like all of Toronto) particularly along Queen, but is on the cusp of even more challenging times. We've participated in the community consultations around the Ontario Line, development next door to the Centre, and the Broadview and Lakeshore major infrastructure projects. We've been part of advocacy efforts and supported other groups trying to ensure that the liveability and character of our community is preserved in the face of these changes.

I want to commend all the staff and

in particular the Management team of John Campey, Glenn Gustafson, and Colleen Gray for their admirable work holding down the fort. They are patient, professional, and rolled with the COVID punches. My thanks to all the volunteers, staff and supporters of the Ralph Thornton Centre--and here's to when we can actually meet face to face to celebrate your hard work!

Lisa Pottie

President, RTCC Board of Management



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The past year has challenged all of us in different ways. That is true of both the institution that is the Ralph Thornton Community Centre, and the individuals who comprise the RTCC community. COVID19, and its variants, have continued to test the stamina, flexibility, and grace of all of us – requiring us to pause when we want to move forward, change when we want to stay the course, and, perhaps most importantly, continue to depend on those around us when we just can't do it alone.

RTCC has continued to benefit from a range of supportive relationships that have enabled the Centre to endure, to make progress in some surprising areas, and to prepare for better days ahead. The Board of Management of RTCC – despite not having met in person for over two years – continues to provide

strong, hard-working leadership and support for the Centre's work. Our staff team, particularly my management colleagues Colleen Gray and Glenn Gustafson, have worked together to keep the Centre safe, healthy, and stable, at a time when COVID has made that extremely difficult.

The City of Toronto – in particular our Councillor, Paula Fletcher – has continued to be steadfast in its support for RTCC, witnessed by not only the continuation of the financial support they provide, but in the renovations planned for the second half of this year – a million dollars being invested in making RTCC a much more accessible and welcoming space for individuals facing a range of disabilities.

Our building partners – the Queen/Saulter Library, the South Riverdale Child-Parent Centre, and now Don Valley Community Legal Services, have faced their own challenges – closures, re-opening with a constantly changing array of restrictions, dates, and expectations – but have worked with us to ensure that the community served by RTCC receives the best service possible.

Some of the things that we had hoped to accomplish over the past year – our strategic planning exercise first among them – have not been able to move forward, given the challenges of not being able to meet in person. Other things that had not been anticipated, such as the establishment of the Seniors Wellness Line, and the continued success of the online Mentor Program, have been pleasant surprises that have lifted our spirits in this challenging time.

Over the coming year, I hope we will be able to renew not only our building, but also our sense of direction. I trust that the simple accomplishment of keeping things together over the past two years will provide us with a foundation on which we can build a bright future for RTCC and the community it serves.

John Campey
Executive Director



Chinese Senior's Plant Giveaway

RTCC's Chinese senior's group grew over ten varieties of seedlings at home, and then held a give-away in May at RTCC.



Our Online Gala Fundraiser: "Treasures of Thornton"

RTCC's "Cornerstone" gala was postponed for two years due to Covid-19, but is returning as a virtual event in 2022. Our silent Auction raises needed funds to support children's programs.

The Ralph Thornton Community Organization

As RTCC begins to reopen, we were excited to host a Board meeting for the Ralph Thornton Community Organization, the charitable organization that supports RTCC. And what would a meeting at RTCC be without cake from "Daniel et Daniel" and someone calling in to the meeting on Zoom?



Community Clean-up Day

RTCC and the Riverside BIA Co-hosted the return of our local community clean-up day—thanks to our building partners for joining our 'cleaners!'



A Year in the Life of the **Ralph Thornton Community Centre**



RTCC After School Program

The dedicated after-school program staff at RTCC maintained our programming—if the schools were open, the RTCC After School Program was open. Enrolment has returned to full capacity, and we already have a waiting list for September 2022. We continue to offer a rich range of programming, incorporating arts, civic engagement, outside play, cooking—and great snacks!



We engaged our neighbours at Thyme Studio and Queen Garden Centre to incorporate our community into programming.

For Mother's Day, we pressed flowers into bookmarks graciously donated by Thyme Studio. The Queen Garden Centre set up a roaring fire which was the perfect scene for caroling with the children. Both activities were well received by the parents and children and we hope to make them annual events!



One of the most beloved community events at RTCC has been our annual "Howl-o-ween" party. This year, we were able to host children and families to come by RTCC for a treat bag and to pose in our scary photo booth.

RTCC Mentor Program

The Mentor program continues to be offered online—with enthusiastic reviews from mentors, parents, and the children in the program. We look forward to this year's Summer Mentor Program—integrated more completely into RTCC's RAC Camp programming than in previous years.

"I had the fantastic opportunity to watch my mentor student grow each week. The first week I met my mentor-student, I saw her nervousness to read. As we went on, she gained confidence and strength in her reading skills each week. Watching her develop this newfound confidence made me feel so grateful to have been chosen to work with RTCC.

This experience has enhanced my desire to educate and made me learn crucial skills. I had a wonderful time working at the Ralph Thornton Centre, and I cannot wait to use the skills I gained in my future classroom. I am so thankful for the Centre and everything it taught me!"

RTCC Seniors Wellness Line

One of the positive initiatives responding to the pandemic was the "Seniors Wellness Line" - making sure that isolated and vulnerable seniors receive a call every few days to check in on them and make sure they are doing ok, and that they are connected with any needed services. With funding from "Riverdale Share" we have been able to continue to offer this service into 2022.

Volunteers at RTCC

The volunteer team at RTCC has continued to flourish virtually. In 2021 we had 118 volunteers. The majority of these volunteers assisted with the Mentor Program although a few were supporting our Seniors Wellness line, communications projects and the RAC camp.

Almost 4000 volunteer hours were donated to the Ralph Thornton Centre by our generous community members.

RTCC—"Santa's Helper!"

The Star Santa Claus Fund needed an extra place for their annual gift distribution, and RTCC was very happy to help out. Santa's "elves" dropped off hundreds of gift boxes for distribution to our local community.



The Antler Breakfast—online

The 11th Annual Antler Breakfast, a tribute to deceased founder Chef Scott Savoie, took place online for the second year. The event raised almost \$10,000 to support the Rivertowne Breakfast program

