



Ralph Thornton Community Centre 2008 - 09 Annual Report

2008-2009 Board of Management

James An	Chris Bedwell	Mo Chak	Edward Chin	Councillor Paula Fletcher
Peter Duckworth-Pilkington	Tracy Horvath	Trish Hunt	Maggie Panter	
Merrilees Willemse	Paul Young			

Staff of 2008-2009

Executive Director Shawn Conway	Program Director Winnie Lee	Finance Director Jenny Lowell
Receptionist Sandra Partridge	Building Maintenance Dave Huntley & Jeff Lewis	

Evening & Weekend Reception & Security

Christopher Blake	Peter Dyett	Ted Ellis	Foong Yoong Fatt	Mark Johnson
Jason Oulds	Troy Thompson			

Computer Resource Centre Co-ordinators: Bob Fry & Weihong Wu

Mentor Program Co-ordinators: Elsa Chan, Eliza Sum, Anna To

Riverdale Community Development Institute Co-ordinator: Joanne Fisher
Team: Susy Glass, Jin Tan Liu, Lori Smith, Daniel Rojas-Orrega, Bernadette Wycks

Mural Project/ Community Strokes For Change Co-ordinator: Suritah Wignall

Volunteer Development/Community Animation Co-ordinator: Paulette Caine, Susy Glass

Children & Youth Services: Co-ordinator: Ann-Marie Evans

Funders and Donors

Canadian Tire Real Estate Ltd.
City of Toronto – Association of Community Centres
City of Toronto - Community Service Partnerships Program
City of Toronto - Drug Prevention Community Investment Program
City of Toronto - Graffiti Transformation Investment Program
City of Toronto - Banner and Mural Grant Program
City of Toronto - Children’s Services – Summer Day Programs
City of Toronto - Minor Recreation Investment Program
Community businesses
George Cedric Metcalf Charitable Foundation
Individual donors
Ministry of Training, Colleges & University– Summer Job Services

Ministry of Training, Colleges & University
Ontario Arts Council
RBC Foundation
Riverdale Share Community Association
Ryerson University
Service Canada - Canada Summer Jobs
TD Bank Financial Group
Toronto Arts Council
Toronto Foundation for Student Success
Toronto Star Fresh Air Fund
Toshiba Business Solutions



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Website: <http://www.ralphthornton.org>

President’s Report

As we move into the next term, starting at this Annual General Meeting, I am reminded of all the changes and events that have taken place at the Centre over the past 4 years during which I have been President of the Board of Directors. My first year, I worked closely with Terry Lee, our former Executive Director as he was getting ready to take his retirement. That led us into a hiring search where we found our current ED, Shawn Conway.

Our long term vision of building a new kitchen was finally realized, thanks to some generous donations from the community and local business, and lots of hard work from Councillor Paula Fletcher, RTCC staff and volunteers. The kitchen is dedicated to Betsy Swift, a former board member who had the dream of providing South Riverdale with a community kitchen.

In the neighbourhood, we saw the formation of the Portlands Action Committee dedicated to overseeing the development of our lakefront region, the building of the Portland Energy Centre (with much opposition from the community) and the defeat of the SmartCentres proposal to install a Wal-Mart locally (thanks to the opposition of the community!).



Poverty & Pollution Town Hall

Over the years, we have also seen many board members come and go: Susan Martin, Gerald Whyte, Sister Gwen Smith from Mustard Seed, Cindy Cowan, Jenny Lowell, Connie Harrison, Marguerite Campbell. . . just to name a few! This year, we

saw the retirement of two long term board members, Mo Chak and Chris Bedwell. Maggie Panter, our advocate for affordable housing, has also finished her term this year.

Returning to the board we have: Trish Hunt, Paul Young, Peter Duckworth-Pilkington, Ed Chin, James An, Merrilees Willemse, our city councillor, Paula Fletcher, and myself. The AGM is your opportunity to meet our new nominees for the board.

As it is my turn to step down as the President of the board, I welcome new leadership and a new strength, and I will look forward to the changes and improvements in the neighbourhood. RTCC will continue to grow and flourish, providing needed services to the youth, connections to the community, and taking strong stances in protecting and preserving the health of our people and land. I wish to thank all the staff and volunteers I have worked with over the past 4 years for their insight, passion, and commitment to bringing some positive energy into our world.

With thanks, and see you soon!

Tracy Horvath



Bike safety training for after-school program participants



Earth Day Parade to South Riverdale Community Health Centre



2008 Bike Camp



The Rivertowne Mural unveiling ceremony

Executive Director's Report

2008 – 09 has been a year of strengthening what we do well and expanding into new areas. In a recent planning process, the RTCC Board of Directors affirmed the Centre's overall emphasis on connecting and bringing people together to learn, to celebrate and to create change. Apart from being a meeting place and support service we continue to embrace new residents in the neighbourhood while supporting and advocating for those who may be left behind as the South Riverdale landscape changes.

In the past year we continued to provide community space for many groups and for activities as diverse as restorative justice training, children's art classes, support for people with addictions, and dance classes. Our Lewis Pearsall Computer Resource Centre (CPC) also provided support for those un- or under-employed. Open six days a week, the CPC is the destination for many residents who are looking for work or looking for a welcoming space in which to gain access to computer services.

Our Mentor program for Chinese newcomer children in grades one to six expanded this year to include children in grades seven and eight. In our effort to embed community development in all our activities we began to put more emphasis on supporting parents of the children as they struggled with settlement, employment and language issues. In the fall of 2008 we also began a new after school program for children and youth up to age 18, five days a week that included homework help, healthy snacks, martial arts, arts and music, and sports. About 70 children and youth participated in the program. Our successful summer RAC camp and our bike camps continued in partnership with WoodGreen Community Services and the Jimmie Simpson Recreation Centre.

2008 – 09 has also been a year of great accomplishments by youth who participated in various art projects. The "This is Not History 101" project led to a lasting and beautiful testimony to many of the personal stories of community residents. Now adorning the walls of RTCC's three-story stairwell is a collection of residents' stories, memories and reflections and accompanying images and art-work inspired by the residents' words and given life by the 18 youth artists. Starting in the summer of 2008, groups of youth artists also created several inspiring murals in honour of the sixtieth anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights.



People Mural located at Logan and Queen St. E.



Human Rights mural on the Youth Shack at Leslie Grove Park

RTCC was privileged to participate again in Canada Day celebrations at Riverdale Park and the Riverdale Art Walk. We held our own Chinese New Year celebration and very successful Black History Month celebrations.

RTCC partnered again with the South Riverdale Community Health Centre for our fall and spring community sweeps. (We would be delighted if someone could give us a new name for these events when we walk around the neighbourhood and ask people at their doors about needs and concerns.) In previous sweeps we heard that many people were concerned about community safety. So this year we made community safety the theme of our spring sweep and of the Ryerson community development course. Both were held for the fourth year here at RTCC. Despite areas of concern and some instances of crime and threats to personal safety, most residents feel South Riverdale is a relatively safe place to live and that people are friendly, supportive and look out for each other.



A Volunteer reading to Mentor Program kids



Volunteers receiving 2009 55 Division Scholarship Awards

Please see our website for more details about how residents feel about community safety.

At a broader organizational level, we made some improvements to the RTCC building including installing a new kitchen for the basement recreation room, and making the second floor storage room (opposite the kitchen) useable for meetings and other purposes. Our newly formed marketing and fundraising group has also started work on a great new website and an organizational database.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the staff, volunteers, funders and supporters of RTCC for making so much happen here and in the community. You really are the foundation of all the good work and many accomplishments of the past year. Let's carry on learning, celebrating and changing our small corner of the world.

Shawn Conway



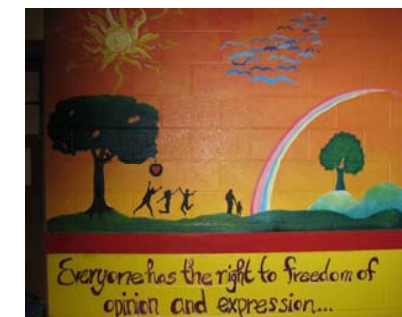
Earth Day Parade to the South Riverdale Community Health Centre



Black History Month dance performer

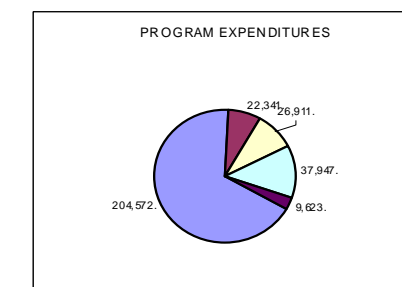
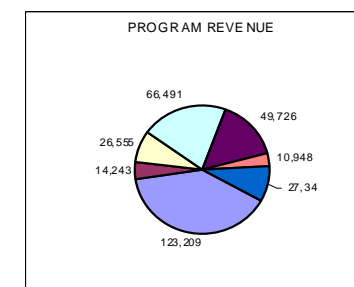


Mentor Program children performing in a puppet show



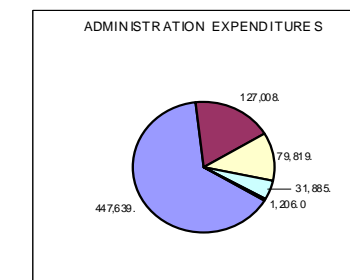
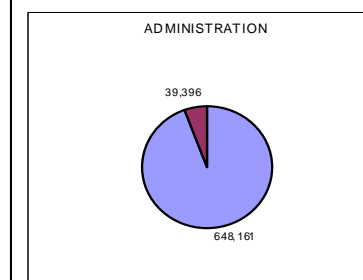
Mural at the WoodGreen Red Door Family Shelter

2008 Financial Statements



Province of Ontario	123,209	Salaries and wages	204,572
Government of Canada	14,243	Employee benefits	22,341
Foundations	26,555	Purchase of services	26,911
City of Toronto	66,491	Materials and supplies	37,947
Donations & Fundraising	49,726	Depreciation	9,623
Rentals	10,948		
Other / User Fees	27,349		
	<u>\$ 318,521</u>		

Programs include Computer Resource Centre, Community Strokes for Change, Summer Day Camp, Mentor Programs, Riverdale Community Development Institute, Children and Youth Programs, Volunteer Development and Community Animation.



City of Toronto	648,161	Salaries and wages	447,639
Rental Income - Toronto Public Library	39,396	Employee benefits	127,008
	<u>687,557</u>	Purchase of services	79,819
		Materials and supplies	31,885
		Depreciation	1,206
			<u>687,557</u>

Administration includes administrative salaries and costs associated with the operation of the building, including heating and maintenance.