

BULLETIN

April 1 – 15, 2011

Consumer/Survivor Information Resource Centre of Toronto, 1001 Queen St. West, Toronto
Phone Hours: M – F from 9 – 5 / Drop-in Hours: M – F from 9 – 4
Tel: 416-595-2882 Fax: 416-595-0291 csinfo@camh.net <http://www.csinfo.ca/>

The Heart of Parkdale

On Wednesday March 23rd our community gathered for an information session in response to the recent violent assaults in our community. The meeting took place at the Parkdale Activity Recreation Centre (PARC). The meeting was packed with members; we were joined by supporters and friends from across the city.

The death of George Wass was on all our minds. George was violently assaulted and died from his injuries. George was murdered in our community in a senseless act of violence and our community wanted answers and a chance to show our solidarity.

You could feel the emotion in the room as Pat Capponi opened the meeting by reminding us all that we cannot allow the actions of one person to take away our home, and that Parkdale belongs to us. Pat asked for a moment of silence in memory of George. I never heard a room with so many people be so quiet. Then members of PARC spoke a few words about George. Many of those comments included how George could brighten a day with a simple “Hello”.

On Tuesday April 12 at noon, PARC will host a memorial for George Wass and 5 other members of our community who we have lost over the past few months.

Members of the Toronto Police were on hand to give us as much information as they could. Staff Inspector Peter Lennox, head of 11 Division, assured us that the police “are going to move heaven and earth to solve this case and to make sure it doesn’t happen again”. Many people asked questions and the police did their best to answer them and to make us feel safe. Constable Russ Golding gave us safety tips, recommending that we use a buddy system, stay in well-lit areas, and walk with purpose.

In the end I think we all felt safer knowing that we have a community that has a huge heart - that our hearts may be heavy but we can carry this burden together. We need to thank Victor Willis, Pat Capponi, and Lucy Costa for stepping up and bringing us together when we needed it the most, and we would like to thank the many agencies that came to support us that day. Now more than ever we need to remember that we are all in this together. Let’s make sure that we take care of each other. Our community continues to show that we have the capacity to care about each other. And that the heart of Parkdale is found in the strength of each of us.

Michael Creek
Voices From the Street



C/S Info Centre's Free Tax Clinic

C/S Info Centre runs a Free Tax Clinic. It is only for consumer/survivors of the mental health or addictions system who live in Toronto. If you have a simple return as described below and you have your tax documents, please call us to book your appointment: 416-595-2882.

The guidelines:

- If you are single your income must be under \$25,000.
- If you are a family your income must be under \$30,000 - 35,000.

We can't do your taxes if you have employment expenses, declared bankruptcy during the tax year, have business or rental income and expenses, or were living outside of Canada during the tax year. We can't do your taxes if you are also filing for a deceased person. These guidelines are set by the Canada Revenue Agency.

If you don't have your T slips then please call Canada Revenue at 1-800-959-8281 to have them sent to you. We can't do your taxes without them. Please note that our Clinic operates one day a week (Tuesdays).

Note: To get the third installment of the TTB - Transitional Tax Benefit in June 2011, you have to have your 2010 tax return completed by April 30, 2011.

You can also call the City of Toronto at 2-1-1 to locate a Free Tax Clinic near you.

OHRC Consultation with Racialized People with Disabilities

Ethno-Racial People with Disabilities Coalition of Ontario (ERDCO) and the Ontario Human Rights Commission will hold a consultation with racialized people with disabilities

The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) wants to learn about experiences of discrimination faced by racialized people living with addictions and mental health disabilities. The OHRC is holding this consultation to do research and create a policy that will outline the protections under the Human Rights Code based on mental health and addiction disabilities.

The OHRC and ERDCO are seeking participants for a focus group on Saturday April 2, 2011 from 11:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto to talk about human rights, mental health and discrimination where you work, where you live, and in the services you receive.

Some topics for discussion may include:

- What are examples of discrimination that exist for Ethno-Racial people with mental health disabilities and addictions:
 - When looking for a job or requesting accommodation at work?
 - When accessing adequate, affordable and suitable housing?
- What types of negative attitudes and stereotypes about people with mental health disabilities and addictions lead to unequal treatment when accessing health and social services?
- How does discrimination based on mental health disabilities and addictions intersect with experiences of ableism and racism?

If you are interested in taking part in this event, please call Melissa Simas at 416-657-2211 or email coordinator@erdco.ca. We will accept RSVP's to participate until March 25, 2011. Attendant care, TTC travel expenses and light refreshments will be provided. Other accommodations may be provided upon request with reasonable notice. You will be notified by March 30, 2011 if you are one of the randomly selected people to participate.

Hunger Inquiry Report Available

On November 23, 2010 the Recession Relief Coalition convened a Hunger Inquiry at the Church of the Holy Trinity in Toronto. More than 30 expert witnesses — front line workers, social service agency staff, academics, community leaders, and people directly affected by hunger — provided testimony to the Hunger Inquiry's expert panel attesting to Toronto's worsening hunger problem. Panelists released a set of recommendations based on the evidence presented. A report of the proceedings is now available and is being widely distributed so that organizations will be able to use it as a resource to support their food security & anti-poverty advocacy work: *Hunger Crisis: Report of the Hunger Inquiry* (2011). This report contains shocking testimony about hunger in Ontario as well as recommendations to help resolve this preventable crisis. <http://www.povnet.org/node/4199> <http://recessionreliefcoalition.yolasite.com/hunger-inquiry.php>

Public Safety Alert: Man Wanted in 5 Separate Assault Investigations in 11 Division

The Toronto Police have issued a Public Safety Alert because an assailant has assaulted people with mental health issues in the Queen Street West and Jameson Avenue area in five separate incidents between January 11 and March 18.

The suspect, described as 5'8" to 6' tall with a stocky build, was wearing dark clothes with a black balaclava when he approached victims, assaulted them, and then fled the scene. One of the men who were assaulted has died. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 416-808-1100 or Crime Stoppers at 4 1 6 2 2 2 TIPS. www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/toronto/parkdale-residents-fear-another-attack-after-mans-death/article1954159/ www.insidetoronto.com/news/local/article/970545--community-rallies-to-reclaim-their-home

Bringing in Women's Voices

Many Ontario women are living on incomes below the poverty line. Are you one of these women? Their income does not provide them with enough to pay the rent and feed their family. It's particularly tough for women raising children on their own.

Whether you are on welfare, disability, or working for low wages, women need affordable child care, affordable housing, and training and education to get better jobs.

The Ontario government has developed a strategy to reduce poverty and will be holding consultations in 2011 on what changes to make to welfare and disability programs. Full day kindergarten is being phased in and the government has announced a long-term affordable housing strategy.

These changes could have a profound effect on women's lives across the province so it's important that women share their experiences and ideas with the government and other organizations.

We would like to find out what are the best ways to involve women across the province in these discussions. We want to have your voice heard.

Over the longer term we are exploring the idea of building a provincial network connecting low and modest income women to express their views and provide input on programs for women's economic security.

By the way, there are a few options for women to fill out the paper survey, if they don't have access to the internet, such as by contacting Jacquie Maund, Project Lead at Campaign 2000 and do it over the phone or drop by one of our project partner's sites and do it locally. Here's the project web page where all the partners are listed: <http://www.campaign2000.ca/bringinginwomensvoices/index.html>

Jacquie Maund, project lead at Campaign 2000: 416-595-9230, x241



The Mental Health & Addictions Supportive Housing Network and the Supportive Housing for People with Problematic Substance Use Health Service Providers working group is pleased to announce that **referrals for supportive housing units for people with problematic substance use are now being accepted.**

Background

In 2008, 1,000 units of supportive housing for people with problematic substance use in Ontario were announced in the Provincial Budget. This program focuses on people with complex substance use challenges who may have a concurrent disorder. 272 of these units were designated for the Toronto Central LHIN. 200 of these units have been funded and are moving towards a phased implementation in 2011.

The goal of this initiative is to increase the health and social outcomes of people with problematic substance use who are frequent users of the addiction treatment system and emergency services by providing stable housing and appropriate support services. The program is based on the Housing First model, which provides supportive housing to people without requirements for engagement in addiction treatment or abstinence.

Currently, nine organizations form the Supportive Housing for People with Problematic Substance Use Health Service Providers partnership:

- Breakaway Addiction Services
- Fife House
- Fred Victor Centre
- Good Shepherd Non-Profit Homes
- Jean Tweed Centre
- LOFT Community Services
- Mainstay Housing
- Regeneration Community Services
- St. Stephen's Community House

Application Process:

Consumers can go to any of the nine partner agencies to fill in the screener and application form and be reviewed for eligibility without being turned away. Individuals may also apply online at the Toronto Mental Health Housing and Support Network website: <http://www.tosupportivehousing.ca/>

Print it out, fill it in and fax it to: 416-916-1689 or mail it to the Network office at: 205 Richmond St. West, Suite 301, Toronto, ON M5V 1V3

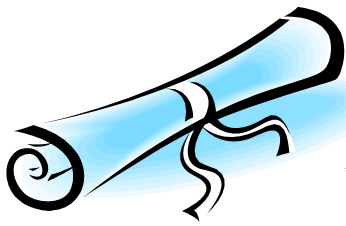
You will be contacted within five business days of receiving the application to confirm its arrival. The Network Office will determine your eligibility for this program and if you are eligible, your form will be forwarded to the appropriate housing provider for review and completion of the full housing application when a unit is available.

In order to qualify an individual must meet all of the following 4 criteria: have a severe and active substance use challenge (nicotine dependence, gambling and other forms of addiction aren't included); must be homeless or marginally housed; must qualify for a housing subsidy under criteria set by the Ministry of Health; must be a high intensity service user (i.e., a specified number of ER visits, admissions to WMS, hospitalizations, justice system contact).

Two-Year Post Doctoral Fellowship offered Ryerson University School of Disability Studies

The School of Disability Studies at Toronto's Ryerson University is pleased to announce a two-year post doctoral fellowship to support the scholarly contributions of a disabled woman. The fellowship seeks to bring to Ryerson's School of Disability Studies a disabled woman who has graduated in the past five (5) years from any discipline that will advance the interdisciplinary scholarship related to Disability Studies.

For more information contact: Melanie Panitch, DSW, Director, School of Disability Studies at 416-979-5000 x 6128 Fax: 416-979-5209 <http://www.ryerson.ca/ds>



Newcomer Speakers Bureau Graduation Ceremony

The Mennonite New Life Centre and Voices from the Street cordially invite you to come and meet our speakers and hear their stories. MC: Pat Capponi

Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 6 pm.
Council Chamber Toronto City Hall
100 Queen Street West

RSVP by April 20 at 416-699-4527 x 229 or asalazar@mnlct.org

Mad Pride Toronto 2011 Community Organizing

Do you want to learn more about Mad Pride and get involved in organizing Mad Pride festivities this year? Here's your chance! The first meeting happened on February 22nd. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 12th from 2:00-4:00 pm at Parkdale Community Legal Services (PCLS), 1266 Queen St West, Toronto.

PREFER Annual Summit

The PREFER project is having its first annual summit on Saturday April 9th at the Toronto Central YMCA (20 Grosvenor St. near Yonge/College). The Summit is a learning and networking opportunity made possible by funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for the Participants who have been receiving education and training in Peer Support and the wider community of People in Recovery, Consumer/Survivors, and Recovery Supporting agencies and partners to network, share skills, knowledge and discuss opportunities for building a systemic culture that supports Recovery and embraces Peer Support.

A keynote address by Stephen Pocklington of **Well Beyond Recovery** will be followed by a variety of networking and learning opportunities as people from across the province gather to talk about recovery, recovery education, and peer support and employment in the mental health system for people with lived experience. The summit promises to be a gathering of leaders in the Peer Support movement across the province that will move us closer to building a culture that is grounded in Respect, Recovery, and Resilience.

We hope you attend! It's an excellent opportunity for PREFER participants, community members, C/S/X groups, mental health program administrators, social service students, mental health community associations, mental health, addictions, and related service agencies and foundations to learn from each other, deepen our knowledge of recovery, and gain a greater understanding of peer support and how to implement and support peer recovery education.

Space for resource and information tables is still available! So, if your self-help group, mutual support group, drop-in centre, peer program, or community health centre would like to have a presence or even a stack of program brochures on a table, please contact us today!

For information about the PREFER project, or how to get involved, visit: www.cultureofrecovery.org

FREE Registration is available online at: <http://prefersummit.eventbrite.com/>

We hope to see you at the Summit!

Tel: 905-780-0491 x125 Fax: 905-780-1960 Toll-Free: 1-888-780-0724 e.carvalho@krasmancentre.com



Metro Voice Mail Project

Persons without telephones receive a voice mail number to retrieve messages from any touch-tone phone
* \$10 for 3 months

Central Neighbourhood House. 349 Ontario St. Toronto East (Parliament St. and Gerrard St. E) 416-925-4363 Megan Lindsey, 416-925-4363 ext 103 central@cnh.on.ca-- Monday, Wednesday 12:30-3:30

Agincourt Community Services Association. 416-321-6912 info@agincourtcommunityservices.com 4155 Sheppard Ave E, Ste 100 Scarborough North (Midland Ave and Sheppard Ave E)

Albion Neighbourhood Services. 416-741-1553 ans@albionservices.ca Albion Centre, 1530 Albion Rd, Ste 205, Etobicoke North (Kipling Ave and Albion Rd)

Central Toronto Community Health Centres. 168 Bathurst St. Toronto West (Bathurst St and Queen St W) 416-703-8480 info@ctchc.com

Community Action Resource Centre. 1652 Keele St. 416-652-2273 info@communityarc.ca City of York (Keele St and Rogers Rd.)

Peoples' Blueprint Conference Breaking Out: Real Voices, Real Change

The Peoples' Blueprint Conference will bring together Peoples' Blueprint panel members and others with lived experience of the social assistance system, government policy makers, thought leaders and community agencies in a respectful dialogue, discussion, and exchange of ideas. Together, we worked with 18 people receiving social assistance, equipping them with the tools they needed to be community researchers. The researchers went back to their communities, conducting over 100 video recorded interviews that demonstrate the hopes, challenges, and abilities of people "on the system" in an intensely personal way.

Working with people who are experiencing the social assistance system, giving them ownership over the research and the questions asked, and using their skills and contacts to reach people in the community has allowed us unfettered access to new voices. Not only are we improving the research base for more effective policy making, but improving the skills of the participants through the process.

Conference delegates will get the first opportunity to view nine short videos that are the result of the Peoples' Blueprint research. The videos are divided into the following themes: Hopes, Stigma, Employment, Education and Training, Food and Health, Social Participation, Housing, Caseworkers, Changes, What Works

The Peoples' Blueprint is a joint project between Voices From the Street and Daily Bread Food Bank.

Chestnut Conference Centre, 89 Chestnut Street, Toronto

April 4, 2011 from 8:30 am. - 5 pm

Free

Register at

http://peoplesblueprintconference.eventbrite.com/?ref=enivte&invite=ODAzODY3L01hcnJvbmVNQGxhby5vbi5jYS8w%0A&utm_source=eb_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=invitenew&utm_term=readmore.

NEWSBYTES

Trans fats and depression. A study of 12,000 Spanish university graduates found that trans fats increased the risk of being diagnosed with depression while olive oil decreased the risk. Canadians consume much more trans fats than the people in the study and from highly-processed “junk” foods rather than “natural” foods like cheese and milk. The study shows an association rather than a causal relationship but one of the study’s authors says that it shows the trans fats come first, then the depression. http://www.kidsmentalhealth.ca/news_and_events/view_html_article_clinical.php?id=1508

Some Canadian doctors prescribe opioids at much higher rate. A study published in the *Canadian Family Physician* reports that some family doctors write prescriptions for opioid painkillers like oxycodone, morphine and fentanyl, at a 55 times higher rate than other doctors. Those who wrote the most opioid prescriptions had the highest number of patient deaths linked to opioids. <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/life/health/opioid-prescribing-practices-put-patients-at-risk-study-finds/article1941886/>

“Illness beliefs” effect recovery from psychosis. New research shows that the way a person perceives their experiences in early psychosis has a large effect on both their quality of life and outcome. Researchers say these results raise the possibility of targeting illness beliefs (“a collection of beliefs relating to how individuals make sense of, and understand, their health status.”) as a method of treatment. Published in the journal *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*. <http://www.inpsychiatry.com/news/article.aspx?id=91460>

Bipolar disorder associated with seasonal affective disorder. Researchers have found that people with bipolar disorder are almost 4 times more likely than others to have winter seasonal affective. They conclude that a seasonal pattern of mood fluctuation is common in bipolar disorder. Published in the *Journal of Affective Disorders*. <http://www.inpsychiatry.com/news/article.aspx?id=91425>

Geopolitical differences in rates of bipolar disorder. A World Health Organization survey of North and South America, Europe, and Asia, has found that India has the lowest, and the US the highest, rates of bipolar spectrum disorder. Published in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*. <http://www.inpsychiatry.com/news/article.aspx?id=91394>

ADHD and creativity. A study published in the *Journal of Personality and Individual Differences* reports that adults with ADHD have more creative achievement than other people. In the study of 60 college students measuring creativity across 10 different areas, the ADHD students scored higher in every category. This study followed up a 2006 study showing that people with an ADHD diagnosis did better on creative divergent thinking tests than others. <http://psychcentral.com/news/2011/03/14/a-creative-upside-to-adhd/24374.html>

Campaign for reduced transit fee. An article by Helen Henderson in the Toronto Star (March 18, 2011) reports a campaign by Community Living Toronto for people living on ODSP to pay a reduced transit fee. Community Living Toronto is an organization that advocates for people with intellectual disabilities. Seniors and students currently pay a reduced transit fee and many provinces have reduced fare rates for people receiving government assistance. <http://www.thestar.com/living/disabilities/article/955124--direct-access-extend-reduced-ttc-fares-to-people-with-disabilities-group-urges>

Places to go... People to see...

Free and Low-Cost Events for **April 1 – April 15, 2011**

For TTC information call 416-393-4636 (INFO) or visit the TTC website.

CELEBRATION

Mon 4 – Fri 8 all day. **Refugee Rights Day 2011.** Official Opening and Proclamation from 4 – 6 pm. Refugee Art Show and Community Fair. Rotunda, [Toronto City Hall](http://www.toronto.ca/cityhall), 100 Queen Street West
http://www.cleonet.ca/instance_news.php?instance_id=2112 FREE

Sat 9 from 1 – 4:30 pm. **3rd Annual Four Sacred Colours Social.** Presented by the Sakhitcheway Aboriginal Student Association of George Brown College. Events include a feast of Aboriginal cuisine, vendors, elders, dancers, drummers. All are welcome. The Student Lounge, George Brown College, 200 King St. East FREE

EXHIBITS

To Thurs 10. **Handy: An Exhibition of Functional Craft.** View a juried selection of hand-crafted furniture, ceramic dinnerware, glass vessels, jewellery and wearable textiles. Ontario Crafts Council Gallery, 990 Queen Street West. 416-925-4222 www.craft.on.ca FREE

Sat 9 - Sun 17 from noon – 10:45 pm. Opening Reception: Sat 9 at 7 pm. **Lines of Resistance - Prison Art from the Middle East:** An Exhibition of Paintings and Mixed Media Art. A mixed media work produced by former political prisoners from the Middle East, notably Iran, as well as artists standing in solidarity with them. Project run by Professor Shahrzad Mojab at OISE. 612 Markham St. (Bathurst Subway) 647-726-9500 info@beitzatoun.org FREE

FILM

Access 2 Entertainment. This program provides a support person who accompanies a person with a disability to a movie for a maximum of \$3. The person with the disability pays full price. You need to apply and there may be a 6 week wait to be approved for the program. You pay a \$20 fee for 5 years and you don't need to reapply each year. Also you get 2 free movie passes along with your card when it arrives. Good for Cineplex, amtheatres and rainbowcinemas. <http://www.special-need-child-canada.com/free-movie-admission.html>

All films from 7 – 9 pm. Women's Healthy Environments Network presents **Wannabe Toxic Free Film Series.** Directors and/or Producers attend each film. Centre for Social Innovation 215 Spadina Ave., 4th Floor 416-928-0880 www.womenshealthyenvironments.ca PWYC

- Tues 5. **Toxic Trespass:** an award winning film on children's health and the environment (53 min)
- Tues 12. **Exposure: Environmental Links to Breast Cancer,** an award winning documentary on the primary prevention of breast cancer (53 min)
- Tues 26. **My Toxic Baby: What's in the products your baby is exposed to?** (46 min)
- Fri 29. **Living Downstream:** a film based on the life and work of renowned biologist and writer, Sandra Steingraber (53 min)

FUN

Sat 2 at 8pm. **Pillow Fight Toronto 2011.** Pillows at this giant urban pillow fight! Bring a soft, feather-free pillow. Yonge-Dundas Square, 10 Dundas Street East. 516-312-0693 www.newmindspace.com/pillow-fight-to-2011 FREE

Friendship Link. A congenial group of women of varying ages and from varying walks of life. Any outing that's inexpensive (or free) and easily reached by public transit may become a Friendship Link activity. We go to plays, movies, lectures, festivals, galleries, lunches, and music and dance performances together – or simply meet for coffee and conversation. Friendship Link is co-sponsored by the OWN Housing Co-op and the Older Women's Network, and events are open to members of either and their guests. Watch this space for future events. If you want to have input in selecting events, please attend the planning meetings mentioned above. For further information regarding Friendship Link, please call Susan Mansfield-Jones at 416-242-6446 or email smansfield.jones@rogers.com.

Wed 13 from 4 – 8 pm. CECC's **2nd Annual PSYCHIC FAIR.** You knew it was coming... Palms read, tarot cards, fortunes told – all for fun, of course! Enjoy tea and snacks at the Clairvoyant Café. Door prizes! Central Eglinton Community Centre, 160 Eglinton Avenue East 416-392-0511 x225 FREE admission

LEARNING

Sat 2 from 10 am – 4 pm. **Tools for Change Activist Training Series.** Media strategy 101. This workshop will provide participants with the skills to develop a media strategy, write compelling press releases, give great interviews and develop frames and messages. This series is collaboratively organized by the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (www.opirgtoronto.org) and Earthroots (www.earthroots.org). To register: tools.change@gmail.com. Transportation

subsidies are available. All venues are wheelchair accessible. Upcoming topics include: Media Strategy 101, Poster and Leaflet Design 101, Self-Defense: Politics and Practice, Grassroots Financial Management 101, and Direct Action Gets the Goods. FREE and everyone is welcome

Thurs 14 from 6 – 9 pm. **Presentation and storytelling: Nature, culture and resilient communities.** A three hour event with Mark Morey and the Ontario Art of Mentoring Team, providing inspired examples of nature connection, and stories of cultural tools and skill sets used to connect people with nature. Mark is a leader in a groundbreaking movement that connects people, culture, community and nature; called the Art of Mentoring. Mark is inspired by the hero's journey model and the oral history of his ancestors and native people around the world. Mark's passion for environmental healing and consciousness has gained him wide recognition as a leader in earth centered learning. University of Toronto, OISE, Peace Lounge, 7th Floor. To book space visit www.pineproject.org or call 647-991-7463 PWYC

PEER SUPPORT

Mondays from 4:30pm - 6pm. **Resist, Reclaim, Reframe: United Against Violence**, is a weekly open peer support group that meets to provide support and a safe space to discuss various forms of violence faced by women and trans people (i.e. Systemic, physical, emotional, relationship, domestic, sexual, internal). This ongoing and open group is available to regular attendees as well as to those who wish to drop in. The group is open to all women and trans people who may wish to attend. 563 Spadina Ave., Room 100 (just North of College on the east side of Spadina). Wheelchair accessible through Bancroft Ave. <http://womenscentre.sa.utoronto.ca/>

4th Wednesday of every month from 7 – 9 pm. Next group will be held on Wed 27. **Youth and Young Adults Peer Support Group**, is a new group offered at the Mood Disorders Association of Ontario. 36 Eglinton Ave East, Suite 602. Press the buzzer at the front door. The group is offered to individuals between 16 and 30 who are seeking support for depression, anxiety or bi-polar. Mood Disorders Association of Ontario, 36 Eglinton Avenue West, Suite 602 416-486-8046 x 223 for more information. www.mooddorders.ca

WORD UP!

The entire month of April. Various dates, times and locations. **Keep Toronto Reading Month.** The Toronto Public Library hosts a variety of events around the city, including those inspired by the year's One Book Toronto selection. Book discussions, author talks from every genre, storytelling tours, exhibits, and spoken word/poetry performances. Also check out the Library's Keep Toronto Reading Events - The One Book Community Read: A single book is selected with the aim to turn all of Toronto into a giant book club. The 2011 One Book is *Midnight at the Dragon Café* by Judy Fong Bates. Various Library locations and times. Answerline: 416-393-7131 Most of the events are FREE and no registration required.

Every second Wednesday from 2 to 4 pm. **In My Own Voice** writers' group meets at the Older Women's Network office. The Older Women's Network is a non-profit, non-governmental, voluntary organization. The purpose of the group is to explore creative writing in an atmosphere of encouragement. Write on the monthly topic a topic of your own choice, or bring in a piece you are working on. 115 The Esplanade 416-368-8302 416-214-1518 shawnemacd@rogers.com <http://olderwomensnetwork.org/> FREE

33rd Annual Toronto Storytelling Festival continues! 10 days of stories. This year's theme is The Seventh Generation: Past, Present, Future – the First Nations' philosophy that encourages us to consider the impact of our actions upon the seventh generation into the future. 416-656-2445 <http://www.torontofestivalofstorytelling.ca/questions.festival@gmail.com> Many events are FREE.

Friday April 1

- 1:30 – 2:30 pm. **Maureen Belanger, Métis Storyteller and Comedian.** Annette Street Public Library, 145 Annette Street FREE
- 7: 30 – 9:30 pm. **1001 Friday Nights of Storytelling at the Festival.** Toronto's long-running adult storytelling series hosts an evening at the Festival. North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St. 416-395-5535 PWYC

Saturday, April 2

- **Saturday Stories at The Walmer Centre.** All of the following events are located at the Walmer Centre (Walmer Road Baptist Church), 188 Lowther Avenue. \$6 adult/ \$5 discount/\$3 child/\$16 family/A Saturday Pass is available.
- 1 – 2 pm. **Women of the Klondike.** Join the adventures of the first women of the Klondike, including Kate Cormack, native wife of George, who was the first to discover gold at Bonanza Creek. Adult.
- 1 – 2 pm. **Wisdom of the Ancients.** Maureen Belanger and Garry Sault.
- 2 – 3 pm. **If I Told You Once.** Warmth and humour with tales both traditional and true to leave you smiling.
- 3 – 4 pm. **French-Canadian Stories** (bilingual storytelling). Family
- 3 – 4 pm. **A Feast of Tales for Kids.** Featuring Peter Chand and Clare Muireann Murphy. 7-12 years of age.
- 4 – 5 pm. **Psyche's quest for Cupid** is a compelling metaphor about our current condition and hints at what we need to complete ourselves as human beings. Sandra Carpenter-Davis. Adult audience.

Sunday, April 3

Presented in partnership with Harbourfront Centre. All of the following events are located at Harbourfront Centre, York Quay Centre, 235 Queen's Quay West 416-973-4000 info@harbourfrontcentre.com

- Noon – 1:30 pm. **Story Jam Stage.** A celebration of Toronto's finest young storytellers featuring students from schools in the Toronto District School Board. Lakeside Terrace. Family. FREE
- 1 – 2 pm. **Garry Sault & Friends.** Miss Lou's Room. General. FREE
- 1 – 2 pm. **Canada: Seven Generations in Song.** Passing on the oral tradition in English and French, the Backseat Balladeers will sing Canadian ballads and folksongs. Audience participation encouraged! Brigantine Room. General. FREE
- 1 – 2:30 pm. **Mahadevi Akka.** Storytelling, poetry, gesture and live music tell the story of a woman who defied society to become a mystic and teacher in 12th century India. Lakeside Terrace. 12 + audience FREE
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm. **Mouth Open, Story Jump Out.** Stories in honour of Miss Lou and Caribbean culture. Miss Lou's Room FREE
- 2:30 – 3:30 pm. **Generations of Stories on Wings and Waves.** Two tellers from very different walks of life will touch your heart with insightful stories from their traditions and travels. Brigantine Room FREE
- 4 – 5 pm. **Journey to the "Land of the Trees"**, the Scots Gaelic nickname for Canada, in this set of stories of Gaelic immigration to this land. Miss Lou's Room Adult. FREE
- 4 – 5 pm. **The Queers are in Your Ears** once again, bringing tales of guilty pleasures and sensual desires. Featuring: Jeffrey Canton, Clare Nobbs, Rico Rodriguez. Brigantine Room Adult. FREE
- 4 – 5 pm. **Tall Tales and True: Women of Courage.** Sluefoot Sue, Marguerite de Robervale, Oona McCool and Anna Jameison leave a legacy of brave deeds for the future. Lakeside Terrace FREE

Fri 8, 15 & 29 at 7 pm. **Friday Nights with Diaspora Dialogues.** Readings of stories, excerpts from novels, plays and spoken word by an eclectic group of local writers and performers. Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street 416-393-7100 www.diasporadialogues.com FREE

To subscribe call the Consumer/Survivor Information Resource Centre of Toronto at 416-595-2882 or email us at csinfo@camh.net.

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