



Malton Speaks - Increase The Peace!



Joyce Temple-Smith, MNS' Executive Director with youth from Scarborough and peace poster

'Malton Speaks' was the name given to a community forum held last December at Lincoln Alexander School as a response to the shooting death of Adrain Ducas that took place at the Malton Community Centre during the summer. The forum was organized to bring residents together in a space where each and all can have an opportunity for catharsis or release from the common pain and unease felt by the tragic incident. It also was a chance for the community to speak out their feelings and concerns and offer their voices in finding solutions to issues regarding youth violence and for making Malton a safer place for all. Throughout the evening Victim Services Peel was available to anyone who needed personal or grievance counselling.

Malton Neighbourhood Services, Bramalea Community Health Center, Punjabi Community Health Services, Black Community Action Network, and the Malton Building Community Project were mainly responsible for convening the forum.

In an effort to show solidarity between Scarborough and Malton, a group of Scarborough students presented peace banners, one of which declared a shared goal to, **'Increase the Peace from Scarborough 2 Malton and Beyond.'** MNS' Executive Director, Joyce Temple-Smith, accepted the peace banners on behalf of Malton

youth. As an expression of peace, a Scarborough student performed a spoken word presentation. Participants later broke into smaller focus groups to discuss safety issues and possible solutions to making Malton safer. The data collected is being used in helping to establish an effective community safety strategy for Malton.

Another Scarborough peace banner declared: **'When the power of love overcomes the love of power, the world will know peace.'** With all the show of dissatisfaction and disconnect with the status quo in so many parts of the world, especially among the youth, this message is particularly noteworthy. We hope that the message in 'the power of love and peace' will also impact our local world in Malton and inspire sustainable peace, dialogue and understanding among all stakeholders in the community. Underlining the banner's message and the prevailing global unrest is an urgent call for recognition of the needs and rights of youth of all races and cultures. As future inheritors of the earth, the younger generations are demanding their rightful inclusion in decision making, that they too can look forward to a world with viable life options where they can develop and exercise their full potential. World leaders cannot afford to disregard or minimize the dawning human surge for systemic change taking place or turn a blind eye to it any longer. It is every community's responsibility to get the message and respond accordingly.

MNS MISSION STATEMENT

Malton Neighbourhood Services, recognizes the diversity of its community and is committed to the development, creation and promotion of opportunities for those we serve.

This is accomplished through the sharing of information and resources; formation of partnerships; community planning, support and advocacy; training and education; and community economic development.

The outcome of such activities will be a more caring and healthy community.

MNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair: Wendell Feres
Vice-Chair: Sybil Braganza
Treasurer: Tony Patey
Secretary: Justin Russell
Ex-officio Members: - Rita Bonavota - Eve Adams
Executive Director: Joyce Temple-Smith

Members-at-Large
Maria Bava - Surinder P. Goyal - Jacqueline Tavernier
Jatinder Saggu - Clem Burrows
Margaret Swartz

Special Thanks to Our Funders

Citizenship and Immigration Canada
United Way of Peel Region
Ontario Ministry of Community & Social Services
Health and Welfare Canada
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Ontario Ministry of Citizenship
Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services
The Trillium Foundation
Ministry of Training, Colleges & Universities
Region of Peel
Revenue Canada

FEATURES

2/3/4	OEY/MNS Multicultural N.Services /Community Dateline//Pearls of Wisdom
5/6	Black History Photos, Tribute to Women / International Women Day .
7/8	Black History Event/ Winter Warmth Program / MNS Garage Sale

MNS ONTARIO EARLY YEARS PROGRAMS

MNS/Ontario Early Years Programming Builds on Community Partnerships

Parenting is perhaps the most important and challenging job as it is the foundation upon which one's personality is largely determined and by extension, a society is built. Applying well informed child rearing principles, including surrounding a child with a caring, loving and supportive environment is therefore very important. Indeed, a strong community recognizes the essential role of the family and respects and supports the cultural and individual needs of families. It also offers opportunities for self-development for all its members, including providing for those who may have an impairment or disability. At MNS, we try to do our part in community building by partnering with other service providers to extend or better our services to the community. In support of families with special needs, our Ontario Early Years department along with other OEY centres has partnered with VOICE and Kerry's Place to offer programs for parents who have **children with a hearing impairment** and for families with **children who are autistic**. See below. We have also partnered with the Region of Peel to provide a parenting program for **aboriginal families**. **These programs are offered at our Early Years location at Bramalea Civic Centre, Brampton.**

By Neha Pais, Program/Information Co-ordinator, MNS/OEY

VOICE FOR HEARING IMPAIRED CHILDREN (VOICE) - A PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

A Parent Support Group, part of VOICE Halton/Hamilton/Niagara/Peel *Chapter for families who have children who are deaf and hard of hearing*. This parent support group provides an opportunity for families to meet, share and discuss with other parents their knowledge, resources and the strategies used in addressing the on-going challenges faced by a child with a hearing loss. **The group meets every second Monday of the month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Bramalea Civic Centre location.** The program is offered in other Ontario Early Years Centres In Brampton, Mississauga and Caledon.

KERRY'S AUTISM PLACE

Kerry's Place is working with Erin Oak Kids and Ontario Early Years Centres. An autism consultant with Kerry's Place Autism Services is available once a month at the Bramalea Civic Centre location to share information with parents about autism, answer any questions related to autism and provide information on resources/services which are available within the Peel region.

PEEL ABORIGINAL FAMILY PROGRAM

This is offered through a partnership with the Region of Peel. It is a free program for Aboriginal Families to learn about First Nations, Inuit and Métis culture, values and traditions through stories, songs and arts. Group meetings are held every Thursday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Bramalea Civic Centre location.

For more information on any of the above groups, please call (905) 791 9650.

Update on MNS Multicultural Newcomer Services

(3975 Cottrelle Blvd., Brampton)

Pre-Natal Workshop - Peel Public Health in partnership with MNS' Multicultural Newcomer Services held a prenatal workshop on January 31 at our Cortrelle office. The workshop was presented to LINC students, all of whom reported on how informative it was to be learning about the different stages in pregnancy and the nutritional and other personal needs that should be attended to, in order to promote a safe and healthy delivery. For more information on prenatal care, call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700.

Tax Clinic - MNS Multicultural Newcomer Services is hosting a free income tax clinic for low-income families. The service will be conducted by volunteers from Revenue Canada and held every Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays from 3.00 -6.00 pm. This service is by appointment only and will operate for two months up to April. For an appointment, call Janet at 905-794-7111. Please travel with your T4 forms and all necessary tax related documents and personal identification.

South Asian Senior Women's Group - MNS' Multicultural Newcomer Services now has a South Asian Senior Women's Group. The group meets weekly on Thursdays from 2.30 to 3.30 pm. It is a drop-in group and the meetings comprise singing, discussions, yoga, information presentations, watching movies and many other fun activities. For more information call Saryu at (905) 794-7111.

Crime Prevention Presentations

LINC students at our Malton office attended a 6- week Crime Prevention series of presentations conducted by the Peel Police Academy. It took place once weekly, 9.00 am to 12 noon, from January 18 to February 22, and was attended by 75 students. The students learnt about credit card, internet and other types of fraud, vehicle theft, home invasion among other security issues. The students received certificates at the end of the very informative program.



Mind Teaser

'I have some birds in my farm, said farmer Finkel. They are all ducks but two, all chickens but two, and all geese but two.' How many birds have I got?

(Answer on page 4)

COMMUNITY DATELINE



MNS offers supportive services for the whole family, including a host of settlement programs and services that promote newcomers' integration and orientation to Canadian society and support their employment options and market access capabilities. Our services include English Language training and information/ referrals. We offer:

- Free full and part-time English language training for newcomers, which includes doing English training on the computer. Students learn about Canadian laws, customs and other settlement issues, and go on occasional trips of cultural interest;
- For newcomers, job search workshops, career counseling, help with resumes, cover letters, job interviews and market access support. We also provide to all clients, free access to internet and computers to expedite job and career searches;
- Translation/interpretation services, citizenship preparation classes, help in filling out government and other official documents;
- Personal supportive counseling, referrals and information services;
- Early years drop-in programs for children up to 6 years old, accompanied by their parents/guardians;
- Settlement support services at schools in Malton for newcomer students and families.

Our staff speak Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, Gujarati, Tamil, Spanish, Italian and at the schools, Marathi, Telgu, Bengali, Arabic, Oriya, Malayalam. For more information, call 906-677-6270 or visit our website: www.mnsinfo.org.

★ Note that we maintain strict rules of privacy and confidentiality in all our services.

Mothers and Children

We offer advocacy, supportive counseling, referral services for women in need. **Call Jaskaran, or after 5.00 pm, Paula at 905-677-6270.** We also offer women support services through our partnership with Interim Place, including help for women and children experiencing domestic abuse. **Contact Elizabeth at 905-676-0923 / Ext. 4003.**

For Youth, we offer:

- Personal supportive counseling and other support services for youth and families
- A free homework club, twice weekly for students up to Grade 8. High school students gain their community service hours by volunteering as tutors.
- After-school drop-in groups for girls and boys of ages 10-14, 15-19 years old.

For more information, contact our youth worker, Ryan at 905-677-6270.

Seniors Drop-in Group

We have a drop-in group comprising Caribbean and other seniors, which meets Mondays, from 1.30 to 3.30 pm. Members engage in fun activities, light exercising, go on trips, participate in information sessions, workshops on health, community related and other issues of interest. *If interested, contact Lynette or Debbie at 905-677-6270.*

South Asian Seniors Ladies Drop-in Group

Participants crochet, share recipes, socialize and have fun together. They meet on Wednesdays from 4.30 to 6.30 p.m. *If interested, contact Bhupinder at 905-677-6270. (We also have a S. A. Seniors Women's Group at our Brampton site. See page 2).*

Spanish Ladies Group

The Spanish Ladies Group meets on the last Thursday of each month from 4.00 to 5.00 p.m. *For further information, contact Miriam at 905-677-6270.*

COMMUNITY DATELINE



Computer Training Classes

We offer computer training classes on Saturdays, Level 1, an introductory class, which requires no prior computer skills and a Level 2, which builds on level 1 and offers more advanced training. Both classes offer training in MS Windows and Office Suite applications, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access. Certificates are awarded on successful completion of each course. The Introductory class goes for six weeks, 4 hours weekly, from 10.00 to 2.00 pm. and Level 2, two hours weekly, from 3.00 to 5.00 pm and goes for 8 weeks. Classes are held at our computer training centre in Westwood Shopping Mall. Registration fee for level 1 is only \$130, or \$117 for MNS members and seniors. The fee for Level 2 is \$100 with 10% discounts for MNS members and seniors. **Payment by cash only.** Interested? **Contact Soma or Anisha at 905-677-6270.**

Job Search Workshops and Market Access Support

We offer job search workshops and other personal support to advance newcomers' career and employment goals and objectives. This service is open to landed immigrants, permanent residents, live-in caregivers and convention refugees. Staff work with clients in producing thorough career assessments and help in doing professional resumes, cover letters and effective job interviews and employment searches. Clients also learn about work cultures, employment, labor market trends, workers' rights, employment standards and how to access the 'hidden' market for job leads. Free access to computers, internet, job boards. Photocopying, faxing available. Light refreshments served at workshop. Bus tickets given to eligible clients. This program is available in Malton as well as in our Brampton location at 3975 Cottrelle Blvd, just north of Highway 50.

Clients may have options for career mentoring and to post their resumes on an Ontario wide employer accessible database. If interested, call Soma or Anisha at 905-677-6270 or for Brampton, call Sarayu or Janet at 905-794-7111.

Free Legal Advice - Drop-in service

Mississauga Community Legal Services, in partnership with Malton Neighbourhood Services, offers free legal advice on Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, subsidized housing, rentals, immigration. Offered as a drop-in service on Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Clients should bring applicable documents. **MCLS: 905-896-2050.**

Free Dental Clinic - By appointment only

The Region of Peel/Health Services, in collaboration with MNS, offers free dental screening for children on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday every month, 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at our location. Children are examined by nurses and referred to dentists as needed. Advice on dental care, nutrition given. **For appointment, call 905-799-7700.**

MNS - Early Years Programs

MNS operates free drop-in programs for children, 0 to 6 years old. Parents/guardians must accompany the children. The programs are facilitated by qualified staff. **If interested, you can visit our Malton centre, or for further information on programs or regarding our other Early Years centres, call 905-677-6270.**

MNS Multicultural Newcomer Services

We also offer Job Search Workshops /market access support, as well as English Language training (LINC) and settlement services at our Brampton office at 3975 Cottrelle Blvd, just north of Highway 50. **For more information, call 905-794-7111.**

Commissioner for Taking Affidavits

MNS has a commissioner for taking affidavits. In this service, the commissioner acts as a formal witness and attests or gives legal seal to letters and documents regarding such things as landing papers, passports, marriage certificates, old age security. Anyone seeking this service should travel with proper identification and any other supporting documents. For more information or if interested in this service, please contact Raneer at 905-677-6270 / ext 2239.

Answer to Mind Teaser on page (2)

Three, one duck, one chicken and one goose

Pearls of Wisdom

I try to give to the poor people for love what the rich could get for money. No, I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds; yet I willingly cure him for the love of God. (Mother Theresa)

MNS BLACK HISTORY EVENT PERFORMERS



A TRIBUTE TO WOMEN



You have tampered with women, you have struck a rock.
(South African women's protest slogan, 1957)

I call up my names: Woman who has been born in the arms of a woman and welcomed home. I shout truth teller, silence breaker, life embracer, death no longer fearing, woman reunited with her child self. I sing woman who is daughter, sister, lover and mother to herself. I hum woman planter, gatherer, healer. I drum woman warrior, siren, woman who stands firmly on her feet, woman who reaches inward to her center and outward to stars. I am woman who is a child no longer, woman who is making herself sane, whole. (Andrea R. Canaan)

MNS Celebrates International Women's Day



(LINC students and others enjoying the IWD's event)

MNS partnered with the Malton Library and Malton Community Centre in organizing a multifaceted day-long event celebrating International Women's Day. Staff wore white in support of the White Ribbon Campaign which advocates an end to violence against women. At MNS, there were presentations by poets and authors, a family lawyer, a movie, cultural dances and displays of artwork depicting women, which were the creations of women in our Moms and Tots group. On a LINC classroom wall for all to see, was a time line chart illustrating the history and development of the women movement and achievements of women internationally. The Malton library highlighted books and other displays showing the contributions of women as authors, directors and in other leadership capacities. The community centre had shown ongoing slide shows of women in different cultures around the world. Later in the evening, there was a free Ai Chi session at the Westwood Pool for women. This aquatic exercise helps to tone and strengthen the body while promoting relaxation and a healthy mind-body connection. What a refreshing way to say 'thanks' to all women by offering this as an option to end the day proceedings!

Some Projections on International Women's Day - A New Hope Arising

Every year, MNS celebrates International Women's Day, creating our own small ripple among the waves of celebrations of women that take place around the world. Every ripple is a movement forward. We celebrate not only those women who make popular contributions but all women, the mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, daughters. We recognize the unsung contributions of all women because often and traditionally, their value has been discounted. History has been largely interpreted and compiled by men, so precious little has been recorded on the achievements of women and their contributions to society and community building. However, it could be that there are real changes in the horizon. We are seeing mass movements of youth and other disenfranchised people demonstrating globally for their legitimate rights and freedoms. Women are at the forefront of many of the demonstrations of unrest. Our hope is that when the upheavals settle, the emerging societies recognize the revolutionary contributions of women and their rights and freedoms. We hope also that the world at large takes a long look at these unprecedented social upheavals taking place internationally and accept that the traditional, patriarchal systems of power and governance are no longer tenable. Times are changing.

A new day is dawning. Hopefully, as we look forward, we will see the making of a new world order where women and other disenfranchised communities can share a rightful place at the centre of all human endeavors. In this rising new light, perhaps we would also experience a new perception in how we see history unfold and how we interpret our evolving human story. Instead of the prevailing patriarchal concept of society and history, maybe we will be applying a more inclusive lens which validates all members of society and through which we will speak about and applaud her story as well.

A woman is the full circle.

MNS / Black History Event



Panelists, from left:-Claudette Johnson, Joel Powell, Suzanne Nurse, Daniel Constantine, Jabari Lindsay, Peta Gaye-Nash

MNS held its Black History Month event on February 24 at Lincoln Alexander Secondary School. About 200 people were in attendance. This year's concert was different. Instead of a concert format, our main presentation was a panel of successful Black professionals who spoke about their successes and challenges and what it took to be successful. A common element in their reflections was the support they received particularly from their mothers. All the panelists had someone to thank who had given them, when needed, the extra push or support to dig deeper in themselves and to reach out for their higher aspirations and career goals.

One panelist, Joel Powell, spoke about a teacher at a community college who made him do three additional tests in order for him to pass the year. These tests were offered as an option because he had missed the passing grade in one subject by four marks. He applied himself diligently to the challenge and passed all three, one with a mark of over 90 %, and successfully graduated. Meeting that challenge was a lesson in character building and a learning in life ways that he achieved. His teacher was there to celebrate his graduation with him. Joel works as a DJ, rapper and had published his own book, *Black Empowerment and Minority Issues*, (obtainable through Amazon.com), which offers motivational tips and valuable everyday information and advice. Another panelist, Peta Gaye Nash, referred to an encounter she had with a successful novelist in Jamaica as her moment of inspiration. Before meeting him, she was burdened with self doubts about if she could become a successful writer. The turning point for her was when he advised her to refine her choice of reading and offered an armful of new reading material. That was the moment of transformation that set her forward to realizing her ambition to write. Peta Gaye is the proud author of a book of short West Indian stories. She also works as a LINC Instructor with us.

Among the panelists, we also had an experienced teacher, Claudette Johnson, who by-passed senior postings with the Peel District School Board to dedicate her career to teaching, which has spanned over thirty years. She spoke about how uplifting it feels to see past students working as professionals in all walks of life. She has had many chance encounters with them in their various professional capacities. They would always greet her graciously wherever they see her. She also spoke fondly of her experience teaching the children of students whom she had previously taught. Panelist Suzanne Nurse is a Peel District School Board Trustee and has the distinction of being the first Black woman to hold the position in her riding. Last October, she was re-elected to serve another four-year term. She credited her mother as the major influence in her life.

Jabari Lindsay and Daniel Constantine rounded out the panel. Jabari is a Youth and Community Worker with the City of Toronto with many years of experience working as a youth leader and in community building projects. He is currently involved working in a 5 million dollar community project in Toronto. Daniel is a successful business consultant and works as a Financial Planner and Division Director with Investors Group Toronto Central. He manages over 200 client accounts. He was awarded a university athletic scholarship and majored in Business Administration, Finance, with a minor in Psychology. In his presentation, he noted how his competitiveness that made him a successful athlete has also been a strength which has helped him achieve success in his profession.

The night included information booths and entertainment as well, with great performances by students of Sir Lincoln Alexander School. There were two singers, one singing O' Canada and the other, the Black National Anthem as well as a number of colourful, artistic, folk and mod dances and a short rap session by panelist, Joel. The audience was also teased by a sampling of West Indian humour from the MC, Jay Martin, who is a noted standup comedian. He too spoke about his success story. The booths present were: Fudge Foundation (which raises funds for sickle cell research), Black Community Action Network, (which provides advocacy, leadership, resources in support of Black communities in Peel), Brampton Community Health Centre, NR Entertainment, (Joel's entertainment promotions company).

Welcome, Goodbye and Congratulations !!

MNS would like to welcome back Froschlee Mejia, OEY Manager, and Paula Bocaz, SWIS Manager from maternity leave! and welcome Ryan Gurchran as our new Youth and Communications Coordinator. We also say goodbye and best wishes to Shakil Amwar, who acted as SWIS Manager and Chris Banton, Youth, Worker, both of whom have gone on to pursue other professional options.

Winter Warmth Support Program

Membership

Form

**Support MNS,
A Charitable Organization**

BE A MEMBER

I would like to join Malton Neighbourhood Services

Please renew my membership.

Names: _____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Please do not send me any material (newsletter, flyers)

Association/Organization \$25.00

Adults \$10.00

Seniors \$ 5.00

Youth to 19 \$ 5.00

Donation



Total: _____

Anyone who has experienced even a short shut down in their heating during the winter knows how traumatic that can be. Imagine having to endure an extended power cut and what that would be like? Since the winter of 2003/ 2004, Malton Neighbourhood Services, Dixie Bloor Neighbourhood Centre, Brampton Neighbourhood resource Centre and Caledon Community Services have collaborated in administering the Winter Warmth Program on behalf of Ensure and Enbridge utilities. This program has helped customers of these utilities who received notice of disconnection or have been cut off from delivery of service due to their arrears in bill payments. Those who had qualified received a grant of up to \$500 per family household and had their services reconnected. The program operated during the winter months and each successful applicant had to meet designated income based criteria for approval. Applicants also had to commit to a payment plan on their outstanding utility debt. For this winter, MNS served over 30 applicants from various cultural backgrounds and most were in their 20s and 30s.

The winter warmth program had offered some temporary relief. However, as helpful as it was for successful applicants, it offered only limited support. The summer will soon be here and with it, the air conditioners and fans will add to the other utility usage such as light fixtures, washing machines and stoves. We urge all clients to exercise restraint in their spending habits and power saving efficiencies as a means of budget management and reducing utility expenses. Note that it can be very difficult on a family, if for any reason, there is an unexpected loss or reduction in household income which could impact on meeting bill payments. At MNS, we are always happy to assist whenever we can and our participation in the winter warmth program had given us another avenue to offer our support. *We wish all a safe and happy summer!*

MNS Community Garage Sale is Coming Again !

MNS will be holding its annual community garage sale at the end of May or early June, weather permitting, at Lincoln Alexander Secondary School, Malton from 9.00 a.m. to 3.00 pm. The costs per table space will be \$20.00 for MNS members or \$25.00 for non members. For seniors, the costs will be \$20. The event offers a great opportunity to make some money off those things that you are not using and perhaps cluttering your home. It is often said that if you have not used an item for over a year, chances are you do not need it and would not be using it. So dig into your home closets and extract the clothes maybe you did not even remember you had, or the kitchen shelves and other storage places for the piles of dishes, pots and other utensils, accessories that seem to get always in the way when you are reaching for the few that you normally use. Collect the used cds, dvds, electronics, tools, books, shoes, belts, necklaces and other stuff which take valuable living space away from you and become repositories for dust.

Indeed, our community garage sale presents a wonderful opportunity to re-assess the things you have at home which you do not need and can be passed on to others. Beyond the money to be made, our garage sale always seems to be a great meeting space for the community. Throughout the day, people come and go, chat with other residents and make new friends. Our staff will be there as well to ensure that the event goes well and of course, to also share in the fun, excitement and chatting that go along with the bargaining and sales taking place. *For more information and purchase of table spaces, contact Lynette at 905-677-6270.*

The Spring 2011 Edition of this newsletter is published by Malton Neighbourhood Services



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