

# MNS NEWS



Winter 2006/2007

Malton  
Neighbourhood  
Services

## MALTON JOB FINDING CENTRE

MNS staff are very excited about our newest project, the Malton Job Finding Centre. This new project is located in the basement level at Westwood Mall. Our staff meet with community members every day in the various projects we offer and through this ongoing contact we have gained valuable insight into some of the most pressing needs in the community. And guess what? The most obvious need is indeed, the most pressing - the community needs decent jobs.

Even long-time residents may have only a fair idea of how to go about finding and keeping a job in Canada. However, for the newcomer, finding and keeping a job can be a daunting prospect. A big reason being that people do not search for jobs the same way everywhere in the world and employment standards may vary. Effective job searching, the Canadian way, entails among other things, an understanding of the various work cultures, employment standards and labour laws. It also includes being informed of social and cultural criteria that impact on employability and job mobility options, which can be quite different from what applies in other countries. That's where MNS's Malton Job Finding Centre comes in.

At the Job Finding centre, our specially-trained staff will guide job seekers through the whole process of how to find and keep a job in Canada. After applicants are professionally assessed, they will learn how to do resume and cover letter writing, effective internet searching, interviewing, networking, and will become aware of workplace expectations and a variety of other valuable career driven skills.

Job seekers in the program will each have access to a computer and internet as well as a resource room equipped with newspapers, fax machines and everything else needed for a thorough and successful job search.

If you know any job seekers, please ask them to give us a call. We will definitely be able to help them. You can call our main office number at 905-677-6270 or contact the Job Finding Centre directly at 905-672-8484.

**Joyce Temple-smith**  
**Executive Director**

### 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

<b>Chair:</b> Rita Bonavota	<b>Members-at-Large</b>
<b>Vice-Chair:</b> Shuchanna Swaby	Helene Burrowes - Lincoln Gillespie
<b>Treasurer:</b> Wendell Feres	Yvonne Laing - John Brennan - Tony Patey
<b>Secretary:</b> Sybil Braganza	Jacqueline Tavernier - Surinder Thethi
<b>Ex-officio Members:</b> Rick Williams - Roy Willis - Lucy Hutchinson	
<b>Executive Director:</b> Joyce Temple-Smith	

### *Special Thanks*

#### **To Our Funders**

Citizenship and Immigration Canada  
United Way of Peel Region  
Department of Canadian Heritage  
Health and Welfare Canada  
Human Resources Development Canada  
Ontario Ministry of Citizenship  
Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services  
Region of Peel  
Revenue Canada

### **FEATURES**

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## A Classy Act - LINC Youth Project

During the summer of 2006, MNS was fortunate to be able to offer a LINC program especially for youth. It was one of only two pilot projects in Peel designed for young people, 16 to 20 years old. It was a huge success. The curriculum was developed to engage and excite young people. There were plenty of field trips to places of special interest to the students. Through their participation in this program, the young people were able to increase their English skills while they enjoyed a fun summer.



In the fall, we continued with the youth-focused LINC class. As part of their learning in this class, the students were introduced to the spirit of giving that is so much a part of Canadian culture. They participated in a fundraising drive for the United Way. With the guidance of their creative teacher, they planned and served a beautifully prepared formal lunch as their fundraiser. For this lesson, the students were responsible for each step involved in organizing a formal lunch. They issued special invitation cards, produced a computer designed menu, shopped for the food and other items, prepared the multiple course meal themselves, and even personally helped in serving the various tasty dishes to the happy diners, who simply sat and ate at their tables and enjoyed the royal treatment. There was also the special touch, 'Thank You' cards given to the guests after the event.

Two representatives of the United Way were among the invited guests at the formal luncheon, and they were very happy to accept the fundraising cheque, which was presented at the event by the students, themselves. The students learned a great deal from this single, but multifaceted exercise. Well done Debra's youth class!



*Joyce Temple-Smith  
Executive Director*

## Malton Caribbean Seniors Group

The Malton Caribbean Seniors Group enjoyed another very interesting and good year. They went on a number of sight seeing trips, including a cruise on Lake Ontario, visits to Centre Island, Muskoka to view the fall colours, Niagara Falls to witness the night lights, and they even tried their luck at Casino Rama a few times. They also organized a bake sale and donated \$100.00 to United Way. The group also participated in 'Operation Christmas Child.' For this project, members collected shoe boxes and filled each one with toys and other presents for children-in-need in developing countries. Through this act of giving, they brought some joy and hope to the young hearts who received the gifts.

Unfortunately, this year also saw the passing of one of the group's original members, Mrs. Merle Slack, who left us last September. Her spirited presence in the group will certainly be missed. The membership comprises mainly of women, however, there are also a few men who participate. There is a call for other men to join. In fact, all seniors are invited to the group, which will continue to meet on Mondays from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Malton Community Centre. For more information, please call Marva or Lynette at 905-677-6270.

*by Marva Martin, Caribbean Group Facilitator*

### Welcome & Congratulations...

MNS wishes to welcome new members of staff: Paula Bocaz, Kiran Chhabra, Nickesha Deheney, Sophia Lancaster and Wenbin Peng to the Ontario Early Years Team; Muneera Ali and Niru Palia to the LINC team; Laima Dambrasukas, Panagiota Doukas and Percy Purpura to MNS Job Finding Centre; Guratan Singh Dhaliwal to Settlement Team and Anisha Mulla to Community Services Team.

**Congratulations** and best wishes to Angela Connors on her promotion to Manager of MNS Job Finding Centre and Sarayu Kumar as the Center's Intake Worker. We are confident that they will continue to serve the community well in their new positions.



### Mind Teaser

There was a time when I was 6 times my sister's age. Three years after that time, I was 3 times my sister's age. Five years after that, I was twice my sister's age. My sister is 11 years old now. How old am I?

*Answer on page 4*

# COMMUNITY DATELINE



MNS offers community, settlement and referral services for the whole family. Our services include: -

## **For Newcomers to Canada**

- Assistance with translation and interpretation of documents;
- Help in filling out government documents, including applications for Ontario Health Insurance and for Canadian landed status and citizenship;
- Personal referrals, supportive counseling and information services;
- Job search workshops, career counseling and mentoring, help in preparing resumes, cover letters and for job interviews;
- Free access to the internet and computers to assist in job/ education applications;
- Access to a jobs bulletin board, updated weekly with available positions from a variety of sources, including daily and community newspapers, the internet, personnel agencies, postings from our contacts in other organizations.

## **For Women and Families**

- We provide personal supportive counseling, referral and other services for women and families. If interested, contact Jaskaran or for an appointment after 5 pm, contact Crystal at 905-677-6270.
- In partnership with Interim Place, a women's shelter, we also offer referrals and other personal supportive services including help finding affordable housing options for women and children who have experienced abuse. Call Elizabeth at 905-677-6270.
- All personal information provided and meetings are kept strictly confidential.

See Heal Network [www.healnetwork.org](http://www.healnetwork.org) for more family, woman support programs.

## **For Youth**

- We have a free homework club for students up to Grade 8. We also offer tutoring opportunities for senior students who wish to volunteer or gain community service hours as tutors. This program operates during the regular school terms.
- We offer personal and family supportive services.

## **Free Legal Advice**

Mississauga Community Legal Services, in partnership with Malton Neighbourhood Services, offers free legal advice on issues relating to Ontario Works, Ontario Disability Support Program, subsidized housing and immigration. This service is offered on a drop-in basis on Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at our location on 5340 Morning Star Drive. Clients should bring in all related documents. *Mississauga Community Legal Services can be contacted at 905-896-2050.*

## **Free Dental Clinic**

The Region of Peel /Health Services, in collaboration with MNS, offers a free dental clinic from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm for children on the first and third Wednesday of every month at our location. At the clinic, children are assessed by nurses and referred to dentists as needed. Families are advised about dental care, nutrition and other related matters.

## **MNS - Early Years Programs**

MNS offers free drop-in programs geared to enhancing the development of children of ages from 0 to 6 years. Parents / guardians are an integral part of these programs, as the activities are also geared to strengthening parenting skills. The programs are conducted by qualified and friendly staff. *If interested, you can drop in at our Malton centre, or if you wish further information on programs or locations of our other sites, please call Paula at 905-677-6270.*

## **Free Help in Filing Income Tax Returns for Low Income Applicants**

MNS is offering free help in filing Income Tax Returns for low income individuals, families and seniors. This service will be provided in March and April. Please note that there are eligibility criteria to qualify for the assistance and eligible candidates must make an appointment for the service. Applicants are advised to travel with proper photo identification and all relevant documentation including T-Slips, social insurance number, receipts, and a void cheque for direct deposit, if required. For more information, contact Lynette at 905-677-6270.

# COMMUNITY DATELINE



## **Computer Training Classes**

MNS offers two computer training classes, Level (1) - Office XP Computer Applications and Level (2) - Office XP Applications Specialist. **Level (1) is an introductory 6-week course** which requires no previous computer experience. By the end of the 6-week period, students would be proficient using the computer and the basic operations of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access. **Level (2) is an 8-week class**, which offers more in-depth training in MS Office applications. Students who complete Level (2) would be confident applying advanced word processing skills in more complex operations. The training is conducted in a friendly, interactive, 'hands on' learning environment and the course material is geared to provide students with work related applications. **Enrollment is limited and on a first come, first serve basis.** Certificates are awarded at the conclusion of each level. The instructor has over ten years computer teaching experience, with a Bachelor in Computing, Masters in Education Degrees.

**Level (1) is held on Mondays and Wednesdays. It costs only \$160 or \$144 for MNS members and seniors. Level (1) is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Cost is \$180.00 or \$162.00 for MNS members and seniors. All classes are from 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. on their respective days, noted above and held at our computer training centre in Westwood mall.**

Classes are held at our computer training centre in Westwood mall. For more information or to register, call Mark at 905-677-6270. Cash only is accepted for payment.

## **Job Finding Centre** (Funded by Employment Canada/ [www.ontario.ca/employmentontario](http://www.ontario.ca/employmentontario))

The newest project of Malton Neighbourhood Services, The Malton Job Finding Centre is up and running and ready to help the unemployed and underemployed **Lift their EmployAbility Potential.** Over a 3-week period, participants gain the skills and awareness they need to achieve self sufficiency on their job search and develop professional job search techniques. Through individual coaching and interactive workshops, participants are able to put their future into focus. The Malton Job Finding Centre is conveniently located in the lower level of the Westwood Mall, with enthusiastic staff ready to help clients **LEAP** their barriers to employment. Contact Mississauga Community Connections for a referral at 905-678-8515. For program information call 905-672-8484 or email [findjobs@mnsinfo.org](mailto:findjobs@mnsinfo.org) or drop by the mall for a visit.

## **MNS Black History Month Concert**

**The community is invited to attend a free Black History Month concert organized by MNS to take place on Wednesday February 28, 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. at the Malton Community Centre, Hall 'A'.** The concert is featuring a 45-minute on-stage drama performance 'A Tribute to Our Freedom Fighters,' produced and directed by award winner Shadrock Porter. There will be other performances including dance groups and motivational speakers in what is expected to be a very entertaining, informative and fun event for the whole family.

## MNS - United Way Fund Raiser Bazaar

Malton Neighbourhood Services raised a whopping \$600.00 on its two-day United Way fundraising bazaar held last November 23 and 24. The bazaar offered a wide selection of products from all over the world including household items, clothing, shoes, jewellery, toys and books. Wow! Bargains Galore! The prices were terrific. Where could you get a brand new dress shirt for \$3.00, new toys for \$2.00, brand new babies' apparel for 50 cents? There were also baked goods, music cds and movie videos available. It was a fantastic bargaining opportunity and a great shopping and fun experience. Maybe we would do it again next year. Look out for details in our flyers.

To our staff, LINC students and other valued members of the community, we appreciate all the help provided in making the event another one of MNS's successful drives in fundraising for the United Way. Our heartfelt thanks for the items donated. We are also grateful to all the shoppers who participated in this worthy cause.

*By Anita Shiwnath/JSW Facilitator*

### **Answer to Mind Teaser on page 2**

**21 years: When she was 2, I was 12 years. When she was 5, I was 15. When she was 10, I was 20. Now that she is 11, I am 21 years.**

## **THROUGH THE EYES OF A FIRST TIME MOM**

When Bethany found out she was pregnant, both joy and unbelievable fear were bubbling within her. Being a first time parent is a milestone in people's lives that can bring about many life altering changes, some you can plan or over plan for, and some with which you need help to navigate. This is Bethany's journey.

Bethany did what most people do nowadays when there is a need for information on something, she searched the internet for information about being pregnant and to learn what is happening with the growth and development of her unborn, yet growing child. In her search, she found out about 'Mother Risk, Telehealth Canada,' and later obtained a copy of 'What to Expect When Expecting,' the book of choice for many baby showers. She also searched for a local community agency for support, and found Malton Neighbourhood Services.

Bethany did not know what to expect. She had heard about Malton Neighbourhood Services but was not sure what we did or even if we were able to help in her quest for more information about being a first time mom. She visited our office and was told about the Ontario Early Years program and given a calendar of all the different parenting and children's programs that she and her child could attend. She was also informed by the Early Years staff that there were also prenatal classes she could also attend at Malton Neighbourhood Services. These classes are conducted by the Region of Peel Health Department. In addition, she found out from MNS's settlement and community services staff about new government regulations regarding health cards, birth certificates, employment insurance options and application procedures.

She is now close to full term and well prepared for the birth of her first child. She has met some new people in her community from her participation in the prenatal class. Although she has lived in Malton all her life, she never visited our agency before. Now she is very comfortable coming into MNS for information and support whenever she needs it.

Malton Neighbourhood Services provides free supportive services to just about anyone in the community who might need help to navigate through a life change. Bethany was grateful for the support she received from us at a very crucial time in her life.

*By Froschlee Mejia, Early Years Manager*

### **Christmas Season Donations**

On behalf of all the recipients, MNS wishes to thank the following for their donations and for their contributions in thought and effort that made the gifts possible. Through your acts of kindness and giving, others in need were made happy over the Christmas season.

**Students of Lincoln Alexander Second School**, who donated about 134 food baskets plus purchase vouchers for use at Food Basics grocery.

**The Bargain Shop at 1551 Caterpillar Road, Suite 202, Mississauga**, who sponsored six families, fulfilling a wish list of gifts for them, including clothes, winter jackets, household items, personal accessories, toys and many other needed things.

**Dunrankin School**, who donated hats, scarves, mittens and gloves.

**The Church of God of Prophecy, Malton**, who donated food supplies. Two church members also volunteered their time in distributing the food baskets to clients.

### **A New Year Wish, Each Moment Anew**

The new year begins with aspirations and dreams,  
A magic bubble that glistens and gleams.  
There's excitement in the air ...  
Enthusiasm in our prayer,  
A buoyancy in our steps,  
And hope in our breast.  
The world is our canvass ...  
Full of colours and magic.  
Explore - question - seek - receive ...  
Whatever your mind conceives.  
The key of the universe is in your hand  
Unlock the secrets of wonderland.  
Use your thoughts wisely as they are things ...  
Whatever you think - is what they bring.  
But why wait for the new year to make wishes true,  
Create your own magic each moment anew.

*By Yasmeen Sadiq / LINC Instructor*

# 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)

◇ Adults \$10.00

◇ Seniors \$ 5.00

◇ Youth to 19 \$ 5.00

◇ Donation

Total: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## CIRCLE OF THANKS

MNS offers supportive programs catering to people from birth to retirement ages and we try always to adapt our services to meet any emerging needs in the community. We are grateful to be in a position where we can continue to provide these needed services. Our clients usually thank us for the help we provide when they receive the service, however, some also take the additional step to write and thank us for the help. Below, we feature a sample of the many 'thank you' letters that we have received. They are from clients across our many programs, including our job search workshops, our youth, early years, woman support and other family help programs. At this time, we also wish to thank our clients for supporting our services. We encourage all to keep believing in themselves, keep pursuing their dreams and aspirations and working on self-development. We wish all, the very best for the new year!

### And from our clients:-

"Your workshop helped me a lot in getting my current job which is in my field...It also helped in building my self-confidence and understanding of what employers want from prospective applicants. / Rao

I got a new job in Bantrel. It is a full time position. They offered me a great package... I'm very grateful... / Nitin.

The workshop was really helpful for me... It helped me to know about the Canadian culture, people, society, and how to prepare for my job search ... I couldn't have been this successful in getting this job as a Respite Worker without your help ... / Dinto.

I want to let you know that I am working in my related field ...When I posted my resume on job web sites, I was getting 5-6 interview calls (average) per week, but before, I was not getting interview calls... The quality of the work shop is EXCELLENT... / Shubhra.

I would like to thank you for all your help... I am thanking you for your cooperation and the patience you showed to me because I was so worried that I would not get a job because of my age. I learnt so many things ... / Bala

I really enjoy coming to camp caboose and I am glad I met you. /Britanny, an eight year old.

Thank you for helping to make my volunteer experience such and enjoyable and worthwhile learning experience. / student.

Thank you so very much for having me and showing me a great amount of support...I will always be thankful. / Nisa, student from Lincoln Alexander school who did her community services hours with us.

My daughter and myself would like to thank you very much for your help and support this holiday season. We both appreciate your help a whole lot ... Thank you from the bottom of my heart. / A family support client.

Since I went back to work when my son was only six months old, he, along with his grandmother have gone to the Ontario Early Years (centre) ... (It) provides so many developmental opportunities for my son and an important social network for my mother-in-law. Our teacher... is an amazing teacher... Her talent to educate and stimulate learning is obvious. Her love of children is obvious... / Cynthia, a mother.

I know our daughters would not be doing as well as they are doing in school if it had not been for the exposure of the Early Years Centre. / Corina, a mother.

Because of the introduction to the French Language Program offered at the Early Years centre, I have chosen to enroll my son into a French emersion program and he is doing well. / Debbie, a mother.

Because of the exposure of the Early Years Centre, our daughter has advanced from junior kindergarten very early in the year."/ Yanet & Larry, parents.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

*The road of life is strewn with the bodies of promising people. People who show promise, yet lack the confidence to act. People who make promises they are unable to keep. People who promise to do tomorrow what they could do today. Promise without a goal and a plan is like a barren cow. Turn you promise into a plan ... And if someone calls you promising, know that you are not doing enough today.*  
**By Ivanla Vanzant**

*Where you will sit when you are old shows where you stood in youth.*  
**A Yoruba proverb**

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Comments, articles & suggestions should be directed to: **Ricardo Gascon, Editor**  
3540 Morning Star Drive., Mississauga,  
ON., L4T 1Y2  
Tel: (905) 677-6270 Fax: (905) 677-6281  
Web page:- www.mnsinfo.org  
Layout & Design by Lynette Cupidore