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Scarborough Village: Building a Neighbourhood, Strengthening Community

"Troubled Area Finally Gets Help" was the title of a recent profile of ANC's Toronto initiative in the Toronto Star.

A more positive description of the neighbourhood in the title would better represent the approach adopted by ANC in Scarborough Village. It's one that focuses on building a better neighbourhood by strengthening communities and relationships between communities.

With more than half of the neighbourhood's 17,000 residents estimated to be immigrants, many of whom are non-English speakers, ANC project staff have the long and arduous task of winning the trust and understanding of each of the area's ethnic communities before they can entertain a community wide planning process.

The keys to success in Scarborough Village is to be accessible to community members, meet on a one-one basis and in small groups and to demonstrate that ANC can help.

These efforts are beginning to show signs of promise. Robin Williams, a resident and manager of the Salvation Army breakfast club was quoted in the Toronto Star as one resident who has been won over by this approach and now believes ANC can make a difference, saying, "They seem to have a very genuine interest in what's going on in this community."

 [Scarborough Village: Fact Sheet](#)

Related Links

- [Toronto in ANC](#)
- [Building Strong Neighbourhoods: United Way of Greater Toronto](#)

By: David Pell

Resources

The Ripple Effect - This study explores the economic impact of a unique policy to direct public and non profit investments to specific communities with the aim of attracting and sustaining additional private capital. Access the study [here!](#)

Dynamics of Neighbourhood Sustainability - This book considers the key role that neighbourhood assets play in neighbourhood sustainability and charts the influence of social, human, environmental and fixed assets on the well-being of residents of eight communities in England. Download the book [here!](#)

ANC Updates – What’s New

Community Involvement in Policymaking

The ANC Policy Dialogue’s seventh monthly meeting focused on community involvement in policy development. Local sites described their approaches to exploring policy issues with neighbourhood residents and building links with policymakers. In addition, the Caledon Institute introduced an initial set of [resource materials](#) to support communities in developing strategies for addressing policy issues. Additional resources will be added as the initiative evolves.

Three key themes were discussed: ways to strengthen community voice, ways to enhance government responsiveness and ways to bridge to between government and communities to improve collaboration on policy issues on an ongoing basis.

ANC Policy Forum Update

The ANC Policy Forum on Neighbourhood Revitalization on October 25-26, 2005 aims to strengthen government support for comprehensive, collaborative approaches to neighbourhood and community development. Federal, provincial and municipal government representatives, as well as community representatives from ANC and the Vibrant Communities initiative, have been invited to participate.

Confirmed guest speakers include:

- Duncan Maclennan, leading international researcher on housing and urban issues;
- Alan Riddell, Deputy Prime Minister’s Office, UK;
- Anne Kubisch, Co-Director of the Roundtable on Community Change, Aspen Institute;
- Hugo Priemus, Dean of the Faculty of Technology, Policy and Management at Delft University of Technology in Holland;
- Wendy Sarkissian, planner specializing in community participation and social planning, Australia;
- George Galster, Professor of Urban Affairs, Wayne State University; and,
- John Mayne, independent advisor of public sector performance and formerly with the Office of the Auditor General.

Stay tuned for more updates! Learn more about the ANC Policy Dialogue [here](#).

ANC Thunder Bay: Simpson-Ogden News

ANC Thunder Bay released the premiere issue of Simpson-Ogden newsletter in August. Learn more about Thunder Bay's work and read the newsletter [here!](#)

ANC welcomes Paula Speevak Sladowski

Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) and United Way Canada – Centraide Canada welcome Paula Speevak Sladowski to the ANC team. Currently Managing Director of the Centre for Voluntary Sector Research and Development, Paula will be assuming responsibility for the research function in ANC's national project office.

A practitioner in the voluntary sector for 24 years, in both community-based and institutional settings, she has worked as a group facilitator, program director, and, more recently, as Executive Director of Volunteer Ottawa/Bénévoles Ottawa. While with Volunteer Ottawa, Paula worked with Volunteer Canada to develop a Volunteer Centre Development Team; as chair of the Coalition of Ontario Voluntary Organizations, is helping to develop voice and capacity in the broader voluntary sector. Paula has been working at CVSRD since 2002, which also serves as the secretariat for the Canadian Federation of Voluntary Sector Networks.

She is a graduate of the prestigious Masters of Management in National Voluntary Sector Leadership program, co-sponsored by McGill university and the McConnell Foundation.

Aspiring young filmmakers get their shot!

The National Film Board of Canada is a key partner in ANC. They provide video cameras and training for youth in all five pilot neighbourhoods, helping to establish communications linkages and capture important lessons learned in a personal, creative and meaningful way.

In Toronto, 15 youth are currently participating in a five-week video training program. Lead by the NFB, these young aspiring filmmakers are working on public service announcements on issues affecting their communities.

The NFB has also completed their first short film in Thunder Bay. In the seven-minute film, citizens and volunteers share their thoughts and hopes on the Simpson/Ogden Neighbourhood.

Your Newsletter, Your News!

Have news to share? Opinions or comments on the newsletter? Send your thoughts, story ideas, news items, or letters to the editor to Louise Kearney at louise@tamarackcommunity.ca. We welcome your input!