

Message from CEP Department Director:

Spring Renewal and Summer Creativity

As we approach the summer all parts of Harbourfront Centre accelerate as we glide into 5th gear! You will all notice the revitalization of the waterfront continues with the new wave deck on Pier 4. It is a wonderful sculptural addition to the water's edge and has enabled Harbourfront Centre to re-envision part of our west side and Ann Tindal park areas. With a view to really opening up the site to the street and water, we have relocated all the International Market tents into a fan shape oriented into the park. The former Toronto Star stage has been moved into the centre of the park thereby allowing for greater interactivity between the performers and public. Perhaps the most exciting change for people who have worked here for several years is the replacement of the ever-problematic lawn areas with enviro-friendly, artificial grass that requires no watering and looks (almost) real. We will all be pleased not to face the bald spots, mud puddles and dust storms in the park this year!



CEP Director Melanie Fernandez with volunteer award recipients Elnora Fleming (left) and Sybil Wilkinson (right) at the Volunteer Recognition Event.

All these improvements lead to a very exciting and busy spring/summer season of events starting with Forest of Reading, and followed by HarbourKIDS:Impact, LuminaTo closing weekend, Francofete and then onto the World Routes summer season. The season consists of some major new events such as the return of the Toronto and Brantford-wide Planet IndigenUs in August, Zaika: A South Asian Food Festival, The Hot Spot, Mexico, and Canadian Voices. Returning will be Canada Day, Beats, Breaks & Culture, Island Soul and Hot & Spicy Food Festival. Also returning is Free Flicks on Wednesday evening with a theme of "Retro Reels" and the Music Garden programme. Of course we cannot forget that school visits is in its busiest period, Camps will be gearing up to start July 2nd, and the galleries will all have new exhibitions opening in June.

Finally, Marine staff have been busy opening the marina for the season and running the new power boating and sailing schools ... and the skating rink has transformed itself back into the pond!

We are looking forward to a very exciting summer so please check the Harbourfront Centre website for full programme details and tell your friends that there is no better place to spend the summer.

Melanie Fernandez
Director, Community & Educational Programmes

☉ Greetings from Genevieve:

Summer is almost here . . . and, with summer, comes the exciting line-up of festivals at Harbourfront Centre. We are pleased to include the finale of LuminaTo (June 12 – 14) among our festivals again this year. Please see page 6 for the stellar line-up of summer events and the many volunteer positions that need to be filled.

Our Volunteer 25th Anniversary Celebration was great fun and we were pleased to honour and present awards to several volunteers for their contributions in 2008. I would like to thank the Volunteer Steering Committee, the Social Activities Sub-Committee and everyone else who helped to make the event a huge success. Special thanks go to Diana Webley for organizing the *fantastic Mingle* and *Electric Slide*, Sandra Whiting for getting us such a fabulous caterer and pan steel band, the Marketing, Literary, School Visits Departments and Bounty for the great prizes and to Dorothy for all her hard work on the event.

Long awaited news from The Volunteer Strategy Committee! The Committee has come up with some exciting changes to our Volunteer Structure in an effort to expand benefits and opportunities to a larger number of volunteers. The following three new levels are being created:

Volunteer Contributors are new volunteers, or those who volunteer for a specific time frame, less than 60 hours per year. They will receive 2 TTC tokens/tickets or a discount parking pass per shift, an invitation to Volunteer meetings and the Volunteer Recognition Event, and the Volunteer E-Newsletter. They are also eligible for a record of hours or reference letter, as well as 5-minute complimentary tickets for specific events.

Volunteer Enthusiasts volunteer throughout the year and contribute over 60 hours per year. In addition to Volunteer Contributor benefits, Volunteer Enthusiasts will also receive a photo ID badge, access to Reciprocal Attractions, year round 5-minute complimentary tickets and the staff discount at Bounty.

Volunteer Leaders are committee members, trainers and/or team leaders who volunteer throughout the year. In addition to the above benefits, Volunteer Leaders will be invited to selected Harbourfront Centre Receptions, receive advance tickets to performances (on rotation) and TTC tokens/tickets when they attend Committee Meetings.

Both Dorothy and I look forward to working with you at the summer season.

Genevieve Peng,
Volunteer Coordinator

○ Past Events: 25th Anniversary Volunteer Recognition Party



Genevieve and Dorothy with Barb McLeod, Pam Dias-Martyn, and Terry Himal

Optimism Reigns at Harbourfront Centre! Our 25th Anniversary Celebrations/Volunteer Recognition party was attended by over one hundred volunteers and staff. It began with a rousing speech by William Boyle, CEO of Harbourfront Centre. He enthused about the upcoming programs, including LuminaTo, which will extend all the way to the Music Garden with performers from Cirque de Soleil and Tastes of Toronto food kiosks. He was also enthusiastic about the new stage arising from the revamped Ann Tindal Lawn and the other revitalization efforts improving the Harbourfront Centre. Everyone enjoyed an amazing array of Caribbean food, followed by the Recognition Awards and entertainment orchestrated by CEP staff.

We played a version of Mingle, with the winning group going home with neat prizes of specially designed water bottles and umbrellas. This was followed by The Electric Slide dance, with winners John Gammon and Yafa Nassar, Barb McLeod and Daniel Garcia-Herrerros, Kelly Gorman and Angie Rivers receiving really cool prizes. There were also incredible lucky draw prizes including a Mariposa cruise (Gita Ballai), a Mizzen Restaurant gift certificate (Jennifer Howlett) and a Harbourfront Centre Workshop (Kelly Gorman).



The pictures above show volunteers and staff having fun at the 25th Anniversary Celebrations / Volunteer Recognition party.

Here is a list of all the volunteers recognized during this memorable evening:

Community & Educational Programmes

Department:

Database Team: Pamela Neblett, Bobsie Ebbs

Volunteer Training Team: Kelly Gorman, Angie Rivers, Francoise Bellec

Photographer: Tom Bilenkey

Volunteer Registration: Joyce Brennan, Margaret Allan, Irene Westgate

Summer Students: Cindy Jang, Betty Da

25 Years: Elnora Fleming, Sybil Wilkinson

Most Hours: Carissa Chiu, Emily Wu

School Visits: Tom Bilenkey, Joy Blythe

Literary Department: Emily Wu, Kelly Gorman, John Gammon, Carol Kehm, Tom Bilenkey

Marketing Department: Carissa Chiu

Info Host: Anne Osbaldeston

Power Plant: Elnora Fleming, Terry Himal, Pam Dias-Martyn, Helen Crispin, Andrea Mateka

Visual Arts: Tom Bilenkey, Terry Himal, Anna Lashley

Guest Speakers at the next Volunteer Meeting (June 6th): A Message from Janis Monture, Guest Artistic Director of Planet IndigenUs 2009

I am happy to introduce you to a very exciting festival. Planet IndigenUs is an international, multi-disciplinary contemporary Indigenous arts festival taking place August 14-23, 2009 at Harbourfront Centre in Toronto and at Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford. This festival will introduce people to the innovation and evolution of Indigenous people and their culture from Canada and including countries such as: Australia, Brazil, China, Columbia, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Taiwan and the United States. This year's festival themes are centred on identity, beyond contact and continuity, and programming is designed to encourage visitors to learn more about the arts and heritage of indigenous people, as well as to shatter stereotypical beliefs. Planet IndigenUs will highlight Canadian Indigenous artists such as composer and conductor, John Kim Bell; country music singer, Crystal Shawanda; and Inuit throat singer, Tanya Tagaq. The first festival weekend is themed "Inspired by the World" while the second festival weekend is themed "Giving to the World". I hope everyone comes out to celebrate the Indigenous cultures from around the world.

Other guest speakers will include Cristina Prinzo from the Sponsorship Department and Kelly Gorman.

The Melting Pot: A Cooking Demo Assistant's Perspective on Canadian Society



Four years ago, **Emily Wu**, found herself looking for ways to contribute to her adopted country after moving to Toronto from Ancaster, where she spent her first years in Canada after leaving Taiwan. Within a year, she was volunteering at Harbourfront Centre. She shared with the Volunteer E-Newsletter why one of her favourite volunteer positions is **Cooking Demo Assistant**. She feels this is an excellent representation of the best of Canadian culture. Cooking demos, where audience members enjoy samples of delicious gourmet dishes prepared by guest chefs, are a highlight of many of the festivals hosted by Harbourfront Centre. Our volunteers assist the chefs by gathering ingredients, boiling water and locating additional cooking utensils; they welcome the public by handing out recipes, assist with setting up the sample table and selling and taking tickets. Emily feels that cooking demos are, first and foremost, a forum to showcase and bring together different cultures. While, as a native of Taiwan, she is a big seafood fan, she also has been delighted to discover Italian pasta dishes, Ukrainian bread and jambalaya, among other dishes. She also feels very privileged to have a hand in introducing audience members to different culinary traditions. She further explains that cooking demos take on an additional dimension of community development for volunteers: any leftover samples are taken up to

the volunteer office, where volunteers on their breaks sit together as a family, and taste and share their impressions. As Emily points out, this mirrors greater trends in Canadian society: "Canada is all about sharing and being exposed to people from different countries and their cultures." We hope you will all have the chance to experience this for yourselves during the upcoming summer festivals!

Where the Buzz Is: Spotlight on Volunteer Venue Coordinators

You may have often heard the initials “VVC” whenever big festivals are coming up at Harbourfront Centre and struggled to remember that they stand for **Volunteer Venue Coordinator**. This month, we spoke to three veteran VVCs - **Michele Blackwood, Kelly Gorman and Sean McCluskey** - to find out exactly what this position involves.

Most volunteers have had extensive contact with VVCs, since they are the people who greet us at the beginning of our shifts, sign us in and check us out, give us our TTC tokens or parking vouchers and find replacements for us during our breaks. Most importantly, they make sure we understand what is expected of us, and that we have the best possible experience doing a job that we enjoy. Given the scope of this position, VVCs are seasoned Harbourfront volunteers who have had direct experience with most of the positions they are overseeing. This global perspective is precisely what attracts some volunteers to the position: they enjoy being able to jump from venue to venue and to interface with volunteers in a variety of roles. As Kelly puts it, “It’s stimulating and fast-paced. There’s never a dull moment as a VVC.” Michelle adds that this is true of Harbourfront Centre in general: “I like to walk around before and after my shift to see where the hot spots are, what is the big draw and where the buzz is.” There is more to being a VVC than constant activity, however. Sean notes the satisfaction of meeting dedicated, eager new volunteers and “encouraging them to become regular Harbourfront Centre contributors.” Indeed, another of the many hats that VVCs wear is acting as a mentor to new volunteers, guiding them through the duties of their position.

Did you know...

... **Michele**’s favourite festival at Harbourfront Centre has been LuminaTo? A volunteer at numerous other cultural festivals around the city, she was impressed to see how this multi-layered event, which took up the whole site, came together. “It was wonderful to see something of that scope here!”



...**Kelly** became a volunteer at Harbourfront Centre five years ago after attending the International Festival of Authors? She appreciates how well Harbourfront Centre treats its volunteers.

...**Sean** has been a volunteer at Harbourfront Centre for twenty years? He seeks out opportunities to complement his professional life by volunteering at a wide range of venues, including the patients’ library at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and serving as a member of the Alumni Board of the Michener Institute.



Mark Your Calendars

Plan Your Summer at Harbourfront Centre!

June 12-14	LuminaTo (Toronto festival of Arts and Creativity)
June 19-21	Franco-Fête (highlights French-speaking communities)
June 25-29	Toronto Downtown Jazz (in partnership with TD International Jazz Festival)
July 1	Canada Day (celebrate our national culture and pride)
July 3-5	The Hot Spot (explore new creative endeavours in worlds of fashion, film, music, dance, science, literature, food)
July 10-12	Beats, Breaks & Culture (celebrates live electronic music)
July 17-19	MEXICO: Beyond Your Expectations (Mexican culture)
July 24-26	Canadian Voices (local Canadian musical talent)
July 31-Aug 2	Island Soul (Caribbean culture)
Aug 7-9	Zaika: South Asian Food Festival (celebrating Caribbean arts and music culture)
Aug 14-23	Planet IndigenUS (explores contemporary indigenous cultures across the globe)
Aug 28-30	Taiwanfest (a celebration of the culture of Taiwan)
Sept 4-7	Hot & Spicy Food Festival (diverse <i>hot</i> food and flavours from around the globe)

Volunteer Shifts for Upcoming Festivals

Some of the Volunteer Positions that may be available during this summer's festivals:

*Activity Assistant	Décor Strike	Hospitality	Usher
Artist Backstage	Food Demo -	Info Host	V V C
Liaison	Ticket Seller	Membership	Wandering Host
Bookseller	Front of House	Registration	
Camera Operator	Gallery Attendant	Runner	
Décor Install	Greeter	Ticket Taker	

***Activity Assistant:** could apply to many activities including:

Artist Hospitality	Contests	Face Painting
Balloon Making	Costumes	Juggling
Canoeing	Crafts	Green Room
Chef	Décor	Lego
Coat Check	Food Demo	Workshops

All volunteer positions for the LuminaTo Festival (June 12 – 14) will be online for sign-up as of May 27.

Volunteer E-Newsletter Sub-Committee

Bobsie Ebbs, Coordinator; Lidia Jarmasz, Writer and Editor; Mary Accardi, Writer; Tom Bilenkey, Photographer; Genevieve Peng, Advisor; Dorothy Szczurek, Layout.