

## Message from Literary Department's Director:

The support of volunteers is essential to our success at Authors at Harbourfront Centre. Over 35 years of programming we've welcomed more than 5,000 authors to our stages. Many of you will have seen the same faces returning: a debut novelist on their first visit; an international publishing star by their next.

It doesn't go unnoticed that many of you have volunteered with the Literary department for so many years. In fact, IFOA has had the support of Harbourfront Centre volunteers for each of the 25 years the Volunteer Programme has been in effect. Volunteers are invaluable to us in everything from the ongoing compilation of our priceless photographic and video archive, to communicating with audience members about upcoming events, to making sure our international authors get a good cup of coffee in the Hospitality Suite. We receive constant thank yous from authors who have enjoyed their time here and feel they were treated as our friends. We simply couldn't do this without you.



*Our Literary Department Staff:  
Front row: Erin Warner, Lindsay Gulin, Elizabeth Sheffield,  
Becky Toyne, Jen Tindall, Christine Saratsiotis,  
Geoffrey Taylor (Director)  
Back row: Hannah Lam, Tim Watermeyer*

Authors at Harbourfront Centre weekly readings continue until mid-June. ALLOUD: a Celebration for Young Readers gets a sunnier time-slot this year, serving up three days of book-themed fun for kids in grades K–8 on May 4, 5 and 6. And on May 13 and 14 the third annual Forest of Reading® Festival of Trees™ will see more than 6,000 young readers swarm the Harbourfront Centre site.



"The pioneering International Festival of Authors, the event that first made it cool to be bookish," was recently named one of the top five cultural destinations in Toronto by the *Globe and Mail*. We're busy planning for our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition in October. There's a lot of work still to do, but we hope you can join us once again for what will be our biggest birthday party yet."

Geoffrey Taylor  
Director  
Authors at Harbourfront Centre

## Greetings from Genevieve:

Spring is finally here! Not only is the weather warming up but things are also warming up in the Volunteer Office as we prepare for the Volunteer Recognition Event in April, and the upcoming ALOUD, Forest of Reading and HarbourKIDS: *Impact!* festivals in May. April is a very special month for many communities and it is also a very special month for volunteers and here's why...

## National Volunteer Week

National Volunteer Week, celebrated every year in April, honours and recognizes Canadians who, in the words of Ruth MacKenzie, president of Volunteer Canada, "... donate their time and energy to better the lives of others."

National Volunteer Week was first proclaimed in 1943 as an initiative to draw the public's attention to the vital contribution of women to the home front. In the late 1960s, the focus was revived and broadened to include all community volunteers. Now, every year more than 80,000 registered charities and 100,000 not-for-profit organizations across Canada take the time to thank and recognize their volunteers.

This year National Volunteer Week will be celebrated from April 19<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>. As Ms. MacKenzie points out, it is especially important to remember the central role of volunteers in our communities during these troubled economic times.

Harbourfront Centre will, for its part, celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its volunteer programme with a special Volunteer Recognition Event on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Come celebrate with us!

Genevieve Peng,  
Volunteer Coordinator



*Scenes from Volunteer Recognition Event 2008 – didn't we have fun?*

## What's been happening at the Volunteer Office:

### Volunteer Steering Committee

The Volunteer Steering Committee met for the first time on February 25<sup>th</sup> to start work on the implementation of the new Volunteer Programme Strategy. As announced in the February E-Newsletter, Roz Sherrard and Mary Accardi were named coordinators of the Social Activities Committee and the Volunteer E-Newsletter Committee, respectively, but they unfortunately had to step down from these positions due to personal commitments. We are happy to announce, however, that Angie Rivers will now coordinate the Social Activities Committee and Bobsie Ebbs will coordinate the Volunteer E-newsletter Committee. Welcome and congratulations to both of them! The Recruitment and Training Committee, under the able leadership of Sybil Wilkinson, has been hard at work formulating the Terms of Reference and laying out the groundwork for their committee. We will have the opportunity to learn more about these committees at the next Volunteer Meeting.

### Guest Speakers at the next Volunteer Meeting (April 18<sup>th</sup>)



Do you enjoy working with kids and helping them express themselves and discover the impact they have on our world and the future? **Margaret Evans**, programmer for HarbourKIDS: *Impact!* will be at the meeting to tell us more about this circus-themed and ecologically-minded programme taking place this Victoria Day weekend.



Many of you have stopped to chat with **Jo Ann Roberts**, a staff member at the Info Desk. It is always a pleasure to be met with a smiling, friendly staff member who is a treasure trove of knowledge about Harbourfront Centre and its programming. In the summer, Genevieve often reminds volunteer Info Hosts to consult with Jo Ann if they are asked questions that they are not able to answer. At the next volunteer meeting, Jo Ann will give us tips on ***How to be the Harbourfront Centre Info Host with the Most!***

You may have seen **Tom Bilenkey** lugging his camera and sometimes his tripod taking photos of the artists, volunteers and patrons at most of the festivals. Most of the photos on the volunteer website and on the volunteer newsletters were taken by Tom. Who, then, is the best person to give tips on how to capture volunteers and patrons in action on camera? Tom, of course! We hope to expand our pool of event photographers, so if you are inspired by Tom's presentation, please sign up for a training session after the talk.

## Spotlight on Behind the Scenes Volunteers:

*“We’re here for Harbourfront Centre, not for ourselves!”*

Unbeknownst to many of us, several volunteers are hard at work at Harbourfront Centre during the week! They participate in a variety of behind the scenes activities, including preparing materials that will be transformed into works of art by children during school visits. We asked some of these volunteers, **Tom Bilenkey**, **Carissa Chiu**, **Anna Lashley**, **Maria Wu**, **Patricia Wynter** and **Margaret Allen**, to share how being a prepping volunteer has shaped their experience at Harbourfront Centre. Although they all love the variety of programming offered by the festivals, they sought out the opportunity to gain a more in-depth knowledge of the inner workings of Harbourfront Centre and to build stronger relationships with their fellow volunteers. They also like making a tangible contribution through their prep work. In particular, because they have a strong interest in the arts, they get much satisfaction out of nurturing children’s creativity and contributing to their future. They are thrilled to see the end product created out of the materials they prepared and to witness how they have brightened a child’s day.



*Our “prepping volunteers” - Margaret Allen, Carissa Chiu, Tom Bilenkey and Anna Lashley*

### Did you know that ...

**Tom**, our resident photographer, as well as “prepping volunteer” has made the prep work more efficient by designing several cutting aids, including a cutting rack, cutting guides and a cutting board, himself?

**Carissa** who also volunteers in the marketing department during the week, likes to get the inside scoop on upcoming programming by preparing mailings for the marketing department and media clippings for the media relations department?

**Anna** has a background in arts and crafts, including media craft, painting, drawing and screen printing?

**Maria**, an award-winning volunteer with several arts organizations and festivals, is a very adventurous traveller who likes to immerse herself completely in the local culture?

**Patricia**, an engaged community leader, most appreciates the holistic aspect of working with art materials and points to the connection of touch and smell with memory and experience?

**Margaret**, is a very proud grandmother of musically talented grandchildren who play trombone, guitar, sing and act in their Lindsay school programmes?

## Going Places: Spotlight on March Break Volunteers!

We had the chance to speak with three high school students who spent their March Break volunteering at the day camps at Harbourfront Centre. **Michelle Perez, Kathy Sihavong** and **Thuvaragan “Big T” Subramaniepillai** helped very young campers (aged 4 to 6) express themselves through arts, crafts and role-playing at the *Camp by the Water*.

We were able to observe first-hand the excellent rapport each of these volunteers had developed with the campers after just one day! All three were drawn to Harbourfront Centre because of their interest in visual arts and performance, and because they enjoy working with children. Kathy who also worked at the Chess Challenge Camp for children aged 8 to 12, described some of the crafts

the children worked on: these included paintings of places they would like to visit, based on Dr. Seuss’s *Oh, The Places You’ll Go*, and trees made of clay and branches, inspired by Shel Silverstein’s *The Giving Tree*.

Our three young volunteers are very well-rounded individuals with big plans for the future. Kathy (Grade 10) is thinking of becoming a doctor. Michelle (grade 11), who has already volunteered with a range of organizations, including her church and World Wildlife Fund Canada, would like to be an immigration or family lawyer. Thuvaragan (grade 11) is a trained camp counsellor who likes to draw portraits and is planning to take flight as a pilot or flight attendant! We are sure they will go very far and hope they will be back.



Thuvaragan Subramaniepillai



Michelle Perez



Kathy Sihavong

### Mark Your Calendars

- April 18: Volunteer Meeting
- April 24: Volunteer Recognition Event
- May 4-6: ALOUD
- May 13-14: Forest of Reading/Festival of Trees
- May 16-18: HarbourKIDS: *Impact!*
- June 6: Volunteer Meeting

### Volunteer Shifts for Upcoming Festivals

Dorothy, together with Bobsie and Pamela, our database volunteers, have been busy posting the volunteer positions for ALOUD (May 4-6) and HarbourKIDS: *Impact!* (May 16-18). Be ready to sign up online for volunteer shifts **as of April 18<sup>th</sup>**.

### 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