

Message from the Director of Sponsorship:

THANK YOU! These are two words, Harbourfront Centre's Sponsorship & Fundraising department never tires of saying... to sponsors, donors, patrons and especially to you, our dedicated team of volunteers. You help us bring Harbourfront Centre experiences to life for the 3 million visitors to our site each year.

Our department appreciates the countless hours you collectively contribute to: enable "acts of sweetness" over this past summer working with our youngest visitors to create musical crafts; hand out the newest and in-demand sponsor samples and products; transform a red carpet experience at our fundraising gala to a "walk the plank" soiree at Wonderball; keep people warm and cozy during DJ Skate Nights at the Natrel Rink; make our guests feel welcome and help them make the most of their Harbourfront Centre experience; help lighten our administrative load in the office on those busy peak periods when an extra pair of hands are always appreciated!

We hope you will once again join us next year as 2010 promises to be another exciting adventure. Wonderball 2010 is set to blast off with its galactic theme on March 28 (bring your space suits!), HarbourKIDS returns in May, World Routes takes over the waterfront in June and so much more.

On behalf of my team, please accept our appreciation for your generous gift of time, energy and passion for Harbourfront Centre. Happy holidays to you and yours. See you in 2010!

Shauna Seabrook
Director
Development, Sponsorship and Fundraising



*Our Sponsorship and Fundraising Team:
From L to R: Heather Kelly, Wendy Vosberg, Sara Downing, Angela Shackel, Lindsay Tipping, Shauna Seabrook, (Director) Michelle Chui, Cristina Prinzo, Gloria Lee, Lena Phillips, E.J. Alon. (Missing from photo Marthe Robertson and Michael Smith).*

Genevieve's Update

It is hard to believe how fast the year has gone by and that the festive season is just around the corner!

The year-end meeting on November 14th ended on a high note with the *Sweet and Spicy* party attended by over 80 volunteers. As you will see on the next page of this newsletter, volunteers really let down their hair as they *salsa'ed, merengue'ed and cumbia'ed* the night away and sampled the most delicious array of sweet and spicy delicacies prepared by our very own talented volunteers! The party gave the volunteers an opportunity to socialize and get to know one another, and to just have a good time! What better way to end a year of hard work and incredible contributions!

The Volunteer Office will now be able to catch up on compiling volunteer statistics, as many of you would like to know the number of hours that you have contributed this year. We will also be busy updating volunteer data on the online system, reviewing the Volunteer Orientation Manual and working on procedures to help make your volunteer experience at Harbourfront Centre a more positive one.

The schedule for the 2010 Volunteer Meetings is on Page 6. Please mark the dates in your daily planner. The Social Activities Sub-committee is already bubbling with enthusiasm for activities for next year. If you notice that we are starting the first Volunteer Meeting on January 30th at 1:00 pm, you are absolutely right. The meeting will run for about one hour and a half and will be followed by a Skating Party! Make sure you do not miss this fun event!

As we approach the festive holidays, Dorothy and I are looking forward to a little bit of quiet time to enjoy catching up with family and friends. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a safe and festive holiday season!

Happy holidays!

Genevieve Peng

Volunteer Coordinator



Sweet and Spicy Festive Party in Pictures!



(Left) Master of Ceremonies Barb McLeod presents Genevieve and Dorothy with gifts on behalf of volunteers. (Centre) Harbourfront Centre volunteers can definitely dance! (Right) The *Three Graces*: Terry Himal, Elnora Fleming and Angie Rivers.



(Left) Social Activities Committee Coordinator Angie hands out one of many door prizes. (Centre) A sample of spicy dishes contributed by volunteers. (Right) Dance instructor Luis explains his three rules: "Who cares?" "Whatever!" and "Whee!"



(Left) The crowd-pleasing *Harbourfront Centre Supremes*. (Centre) Clemencia and Rodrigo from the Colombian dance group *Aguafría* delighted us with an impromptu performance. (Right) A display of volunteer T-shirts throughout the years.



(Left and Centre) Pam Dias-Martyn and Sean McCluskey strike distinctive poses during the volunteer T-shirt fashion show. (Right) The sweet ending to the evening.

IFOA Keeps Them Coming In Its Thirtieth Year

This year marked the thirtieth anniversary of the International Festival of Authors (IFOA). Over the ten day festival, from October 21 – 31, 422 volunteers contributed 2,088 hours to make this Harbourfront Centre mainstay a huge success! Prior to the start of the festival, IFOA veterans, **Bobsie Ebbs**, **Tom Bilenkey**, **Lise Buisson**, **Pam Dias-Martyn**, **Sean McCluskey**, **Pauline Morris**, **Carol Kehm** and **Barb McLeod** trained their new fellow volunteers for positions such as **Hospitality Suite Assistant**, **Membership Assistant**, **Front of House Assistant**, **Book Sales Assistant** and **Video Camera Operator**. Several volunteers, experienced and new, shared with us what attracted them to the festival in the first place and what keeps them coming back year after year.



The Hospitality Team in Action (left to right): Nida Haroon, Pamela Neblett, Kelly Gorman and Jennifer Howlett.

COME AND RELAX ... Hospitality student **Nida Haroon** oversaw the volunteers in the Hospitality Suite, a place for authors to relax, socialize, and snack, located in the beautiful Westin Hotel North Tower penthouse. Nida worked up with the Literary staff members to create visually appealing food stations. She praised the diligent work of the Hospitality Suite team. One veteran volunteer in particular, **Jennifer Howlett**, was at the Westin every day of the festival for the first shift. Nida said, "With a background in catering, Jennifer was such a great help. She knew how to make everything look great. She took a lot of initiative and never needed to be told anything. She just did whatever needed to be done."



Membership Assistants Lise Buisson (left) and Venera Fazio greet the public.

While she normally volunteers as a Video Camera Operator, **Anne Chisholm** tried her hand at working in the Hospitality Suite this year, where she enjoyed "hearing the lovely Scottish accents." Explaining that "I have to be doing something, I like keeping busy," Anne was sold on this position and will definitely return next year!



Enoch Wong awaits audience members as Front of House Assistant.

WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER? Membership and Information Assistants staffed tables where patrons purchased memberships to the Authors at Harbourfront Centre series, as well as commemorative posters and bags for IFOA. **Lise Buisson** and **Catherine Ukas** are both book lovers and long-time IFOA volunteers who worked the Membership table for the first time this year. Lise started her life at IFOA as a book seller seven years ago and she plainly states what brings her back to the festival time after time: "I love books.... I love to spend a day in a bookstore and find new writers." Lise's passion is echoed by Catherine, as she explains why she decided to get involved with IFOA : "I like books! I am a book person and I like books more than people!"



Nicholas Smith prepares the camera for a reading.



A patron buying a book from Book Sellers Ethel Sacks and Mary Accardi.



Membership Assistants Nada Farhat (left) and Melissa Andrews.



Margaret Atwood at a book signing.

Shannon and **Trevor Terry** have been working as Membership Assistants together for the last four years. Trevor is a teacher and Shannon is a librarian, so they both love books. Their favourite part of IFOA is discovering new authors by attending the readings and being involved in the festival. One of Shannon's most memorable moments was the year Margaret Atwood bought books from her.

WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR JOINING US ... Front of House Assistants welcome guests to readings, take their tickets, and help them to their seats. New volunteer **Enoch Wong**, a recent graduate of teacher's college at OISE, liked meeting patrons as a Front of House Assistant and listening to the readings so much that he is sure he will be volunteering at IFOA again next year.

BEHIND THE LENS ... Volunteers record readings for archival purposes and also take still photographs of events, volunteers and authors. Most people have seen **Tom Bilenkey** going from venue to venue with camera in hand. This year he was joined by a new volunteer photographer, **Bruce Gosbee**. Bruce's wife, Anne Gallagher, is a Harbourfront Centre volunteer, so he decided to become one too. He was very happy to be able to attend readings as he took pictures and was delighted to learn a lot about photography while he was at it.

Several first time IFOA volunteers joined the ranks of our Video Camera operators. **Nicholas Smith**, who also worked as a Front of House Assistant, was pleased to be able to watch readings as he filmed them. A strong believer in the importance of arts in the community, he would like to get further involved in the preparation and planning of IFOA in the future.

Jimmy Hwang is always looking to keep busy and is happy to take on any job Harbourfront throws his way, so he signed up for eight shifts as a Video Camera Operator! He was particularly impressed by a reading about the lives of soldiers during World War II that evoked the brutality of war. Jimmy is eager to repeat this great experience at next year's IFOA!

Photographs courtesy of IFOA Volunteer Photographers Tom Bilenkey and Bruce Gosbee

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.
-Sir Winston Churchill

Volunteer Donors:

Two of our volunteers and Royal Bank of Canada employees, **Anne Osbaldeston** and **Lise Buisson**, applied for RBC grants, valued at \$500, to be donated to Harbourfront Centre. The purpose of the RBC grants is to support charitable and not for profit organizations. We thank Anne and Lise for their generous efforts and thoughtful contributions!

Mark Your Calendars

Volunteer meetings in 2010

January 30	1:00 pm -2:30 pm	Lakeside Terrace	followed by a Skating Party (2:30 pm -5:30 pm) Instructors will be available for new skaters. More information coming soon!
April 10	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Miss Lou's Room	
June 12	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Miss Lou's Room	
September 11	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Miss Lou's Room	
November 27	5:00 pm -10:00 pm	Lakeside Terrace	Year-End Meeting and Festive Party!

Calling All Contributors!

- Do you like to have your finger on the pulse of all things Harbourfront Centre?
- Are you a secret (or not so secret!) writer?
- Are you a true shutterbug?
- Do you have any ideas for features for future newsletters?

The Volunteer E-Newsletter would love to host guest contributors! Email your idea or contribution to: volunteers@harbourfrontcentre.com Please note that we may not be able to include all submissions, but keep an eye on upcoming issues and you may find your contribution!

Volunteer E-Newsletter Sub-Committee:

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

Thanks to Barb McLeod for the quote at the top of this page.