

*Somerset West Community
Health Centre*

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

May 2023

FAMILY, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HARM REDUCTION

CHILDREN & YOUTH

We recently received funding through Canada Summer Jobs to help support additional staffing for our 2023 summer Youth Leadership Program.

WE HAVE MOVED! Our After School Program and EarlyON programming that was relocated as a result of the Laroche Park rebuild will be resuming services out of 51 Stonehurst Avenue effective May 1, 2023. The Laroche Park Community Building grand opening, and its renaming to the "Keith Brown Community Building" took place on Saturday, May 13th.

OPENING SUMMER 2022
OUVERTURE L'ÉTÉ 2022



Jp2g Consultants Inc.
ENGINEERS • PLANNERS • PROJECT MANAGERS

LAURIN
General Contractor • Construction Services



EarlyON
Child and Family Centre

LAROCHE PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT
PROJET DE REVITALISATION DU PARC LAROCHE



Ottawa
architecture

COLIZZA BRUNI

Ruhland & Associates Ltd.
and the Government of Ontario, through the Ministry of
Environment and Climate Change

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, VOLUNTEERS & STUDENTS

Registration for the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program has proven to be highly successful for 2023. Despite the CRA strike, we extended our services for a few additional weeks in May. Our dedicated volunteers and staff worked tirelessly to meet the needs of our community and clients. To date, we have received over 347 client registrations and have completed more than 300 return files.



From April 16th-22nd, we celebrated National Volunteer Week 2023; an opportunity to recognize the individual and collective efforts of our volunteers in creating a strong, interconnected, and vibrant community. We expressed our gratitude to our volunteers through a thank-you message on our website, social media, and volunteer newsletter.

Our volunteers also received certificates and souvenirs from Somerset West Community Health Centre. Some programs organized their own volunteer appreciation activities to personally deliver these items to the volunteers.

Photo to left: Celebrating National Volunteer Week and our incredible volunteers.

Photo below: Rochester Heights Community House grand opening on May 3, 2023.

ROCHESTER HEIGHTS COMMUNITY HOUSE

The Grand opening of our new Community House space took place on Wednesday, May 3rd from 1:00 to 3:00 pm.

This month we visited 486 households to inform residents of our services, promote community events and programs, and recognize clients with specific needs. We have identified ten residents with high needs and challenges who we will continue to support until they are connected to permanent services.



In collaboration with volunteers and the John Howard Society our workers continue to implement a weekly breakfast program at the Rooming House at 506 Bronson Avenue.

YET KEEN SENIORS DAY CENTRE

Yet Keen seniors organized a volunteer appreciation event to thank its program volunteers, and highlight their contributions. Over 60 seniors gathered to acknowledge each peer volunteer and share their gratitude for their support.

Yet Keen has received funding through the Canada Summer Jobs program to create one 9-week student placement position. The youth will support seniors to use technology by providing computer/cellphone coaching sessions and assist Yet Keen in revamping its blog for more effective information circulation.



Photo above: Yet Keen volunteer appreciation event.

HARM REDUCTION

As the weather gets nicer, our outreach teams and mobile greeters have been on their toes responding to various community needs. This month we launched our Urban Hope partnership with Centretown Community Health Centre, to offer a weekly clinic for clients with a substance use disorder who are unhoused or precariously housed. Our Homeless Crisis Outreach team is working closely with this clinic to connect clients in need of their services.

Harm Reduction is pleased to welcome Esther Kayode, Nurse Practitioner to our team, who will be providing Primary Health care services to our Harm Reduction clients.

The NESI team have launched several new initiatives, including a weekly sex workers' drop-in on Wednesdays that is increasing in attendance week-over-week, and community cleanups.



In April we celebrated a sad anniversary, the tragic passing of Carl Reinboth, who was a pillar in the harm reduction community and at our Centre. We gathered at his tree in Dundonald Park to honour his memory.

ACB/HIV PREVENTION STRATEGY

As we prepare for summer activities, we held our annual Blakgurl Photo Prom as a leadup to the Blkgurl Block Party held in August. In its 3rd year, the event has gained a lot of momentum with other community partnerships.



Photo right: Carl's tree in Dundonald Park.

OTTAWA BLACK MENTAL HEALTH COALITION (OBMHC)

Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition members had several key meetings surrounding the strategic development of the organization and emerging opportunities. Recognizing the challenges around capacity being faced by all in the sector, a working group brainstorming session was initiated with a goal of re-configuring the working groups to align with current activities and obligations. The Executive Board Recruitment Committee met to finalize its recruitment strategy, posting and process. The Board is looking to fill 3 positions in June 2023. The Board also welcomed Somerset West Community Health Centre Executive Director, Suzanne Obiorah to the monthly meeting, to discuss the development of an MOU.

Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition representatives attended the strategic planning session of the Ottawa Guiding Council as part of its work on a 24/7 mental health crisis response.

PRIMARY HEALTHCARE

ONLINE APPOINTMENT BOOKING PILOT

May 1st marked the end of the online appointment booking pilot project and one time funding offered by the Alliance in partnership with Ontario Health. Through this pilot, the primary health care team was able to offer registered clients access to online appointment booking, automated appointment reminders, secure messaging, and the ability to fill out forms electronically in advance of appointments. As the 15-month pilot ends, the team has seen the value in continuing to offer these features as another way for clients to interact with the health care team while also creating efficiencies. As a result, long-term funding was secured to continue the use of these products.