



Building Profile: Sewells Road

Wigwamen started building 20 Sewells Road in 2004, and by the summer of 2005 the building was occupied. “Wigwamen Waabnong”, as the building is also known, is an affordable and transitional housing project. Half the units are for tenants of Aboriginal descent; the other half are rented to applicants from Toronto’s social housing waiting list. In 2006, “Wigwamen Waabnong” won a “Best Practices in Affordable Housing” award from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The four-storey building contains 92 units that range in size from 30-square-metre bachelor apartments to 130-square-metre, four-bedroom family dwellings. Three of the apartments are wheelchair accessible and each floor has a laundry room.

Fescue grasses and alpine currant bushes line the perimeter of the communal area behind the building and the ground floor units each have back doors opening onto small patios. There are 46 parking spaces: 28 of them underground.

Approximately 200 tenants live at 20 Sewells Road, and almost half of them are children and youth. Of the non-Aboriginal tenants, the population closely reflects that of the Scarborough-Rouge River riding as a whole, with most being first-generation Canadians and over half coming from South-, East-, and South-East Asia.

Sewells tenants’ children (above) love the building’s play structure.



Three days a week, Sewells tenants have access to a computer lab with six terminals. The lab is maintained and managed by Warren Canney, the Housing Counsellor of the Aboriginal Housing Support Centre. The AHSC also has an office in the building. On Thursdays a food bank operates

from the ground floor common room (see article below). On certain Fridays, Council Fire hosts a Healing Circle. In July, Wigwamen hosts a Tenants' BBQ; and in December, a Tenants' Christmas Dinner. ❖



Sewells Road parking and ground-floor patios.



Sewells super, "Auntie Donna", and her super dog, Pebbles.

The Malvern Healthy Community Cupboard: At Home At Sewells



About 4 years ago, Wigwamen offered Sewells Road as a home for the Malvern Healthy Community Cupboard. This food bank was founded by Agincourt Community Services Association to serve households with postal codes beginning with M1B and M1X.

It has been a successful relationship. Not only is 20 Sewells Road in a convenient location in the neighbourhood, but it's also wheelchair accessible. In addition, over a dozen households from the building are clients of the food bank. To become a client, interested area residents are asked to call first to set up an intake appointment. They must provide identification for each member of the household as well as proof of rent, address and income. The number to call is 416-321-6912.

Thanks to a fridge/freezer unit provided by Councillor Raymond Cho's office, perishable items - milk, hot dogs, bread and vegetables - are available in addition to non-perishable goods. The goal is to provide a healthy balance of foods. Currently the food bank hours are from 2:00 to 4:30 on Thursdays. Donations of non-perishable food in sealed packages are gratefully accepted on Thursday mornings.

But the Malvern Healthy Community Cupboard provides more than food. In an innovative arrangement with a local high school, Maplewood, and the School to Work Initiatives program, the food bank offers work-related experiences to students with developmental delays. Students and their supervisors travel to Sewells Road to help sort food and set up the food bank. ❖

Wigwamen Waabnong

"Wigwamen Waabnong" means "houses in the east" and Sewells Road is located at the north-east edge of the GTA, in the Malvern neighbourhood of Scarborough. During rush hours, the Nugget Express bus from Kennedy Station goes to the Neilson Road stop, right near the building. Off-peak, the fastest route is to take the Scarborough Light Rapid Transit train from Kennedy station to Scarborough Centre and catch the Nugget 131 bus to Neilson Road.



The S.P.O.T. - A Youth-Led Space for Arts-Based Programming

It's an exciting time to be a young person in Malvern. A new arts centre is about to open its doors and it's sure to become a hotbed of creative production. The S.P.O.T. will include a recording studio, dance and performance spaces, as well as a ProTech Media Lab for digital arts training. And the entire project will be governed by youth, for youth – just as it was developed and designed.

S.P.O.T. stands for Success, Power, Opportunity, and Teamwork. The aim of the project is to “provide a place for all Malvern youth to feel welcomed and at home”. It is hoped that through high-quality arts programming, area residents between the ages of 14 and 24 who are “marginalized, racialized and criminalized” will have the opportunity to develop employment and leadership skills as well as their own creative voices.

The project coordinator, Femi James, who grew up in the area, explains that the board of directors is a collective of

young leaders (over 51%) and adults with expertise in a variety of fields. Organizations in the neighbourhood that have been working in support of The S.P.O.T. since the beginning include: the Toronto Public Library (Malvern Branch), TAIBU Community Health Centre, HOODLINC, Urbanology, and Malvern Family Resource Centre.

The building itself is an addition to the Malvern Branch of the Toronto Public Library, located at 30 Sewells Road. It will consist of programming rooms, performance spaces, and a new multi-purpose public square that will be called Malvern Commons.

For more information contact the Project Coordinator, Femi, at 416-523-5099 or femi@malvernsport.ca To get involved, contact the Youth Engagement Worker, William, at 647-225-7708 or william@malvernsport.ca ❖

THE MALVERN BRANCH OF THE TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY IS LOCATED RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO 20 SEWELLS ROAD AND OFFERS:

- ◆ comfortable seating for 134 visitors under their vaulted ceiling
- ◆ a Computer Learning Centre, accessible to the visually impaired
- ◆ 37 computers with Internet and Microsoft Office programs
- ◆ materials in Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Tamil & Urdu
- ◆ a Black and Caribbean Heritage collection
- ◆ free museum passes, and Pedometers for loan
- ◆ evening hours: until 8:30 pm every weekday



THE MALVERN COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTRE IS LOCATED RIGHT NEXT DOOR TO 20 SEWELLS ROAD AND OFFERS:



- ◆ free skating on 2 large rinks from Sept. to May
- ◆ a gymnasium that can accommodate 350 people
- ◆ free youth drop-in basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey...
- ◆ low-cost lessons for kids in skating, cricket, karate, badminton...
- ◆ free exercise classes for adults and seniors
- ◆ low-cost yoga and cardio classes for adults
- ◆ evening hours: until 10:00 pm most days



Malvern Family Resource Centre: Neighbours Supporting Neighbours

There's something for everyone at Malvern Family Resource Centre: children, youth, parents, women, men, seniors, and new Canadians. Whether you're looking for employment, housing, child care, parenting support, social service referrals, assistance with your taxes, English classes, or just companionship - MFRC can help.

Two of the ten locations of Malvern Family Resource Centre are just around the corner from 20 Sewells Road. The

Women's Place is a storefront drop-in centre at 31 Tapscott Road. They offer information, informal counselling and referrals, as well as computer and fax services. The Early Years and Family Centre is at 1321 Neilson Road. This location offers Summer Camp for children in grades 1 to 6 for just \$60 per week.

For more information, to register for Summer Camp, or to volunteer, call 416-281-1376 or visit www.mfrc.org

HEY COACH!

◆ The Aboriginal Sport & Wellness Council of Ontario is promoting an Apprentice Coach Program for the 2013 Canada Summer Games that will be held in Sherbrooke, Quebec.

Aboriginal coaches are urged to apply by visiting www.coachesontario.ca, or calling 416-479-0928. The deadline is July 6, 2012.

WHEEL-CHAIR ACCESSIBLE UNITS

◆ Are you 59 years of age or older and of Aboriginal descent? Are you in a wheel chair, but able to live safely on your own? Are you looking for safe and affordable housing in downtown Toronto? Wigwamen may be able to help.

Contact the Property Manager at The Terrace for more information: Lisa Kristensen, 416-925-9165.

Wigwamen offers condolences to Victor Morningstar, on the passing of his father, David Morningstar, who died in April at the age of 76.

DENTAL HYGIENE SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE AT COUNCIL FIRE

A registered Dental Hygienist is now cleaning teeth free of charge at Council Fire on Wednesdays. To find out if you qualify and to make an appointment, call Karolina at **416-360-4350, ext. 234**. You must have a status card or dental insurance.

Residential Schools Settlement Deadline



The deadline for filing Independent Assessment Process (IAP) applications is **September 19th, 2012**. Late applications will not be accepted. If you have applied and have not yet received any information, be sure to follow up by calling **1-866-879-4913** or visiting www.residentialschoolssettlement.ca



Wigwamen Post-Secondary Scholarships

Are you planning to attend a post-secondary institution in September 2012? Are you a Wigwamen tenant? You may qualify to win an award of up to \$2,000.

Watch for the application in your mailbox and be sure to submit it by July 6th.

In this photo, last year's winners are being presented their awards by Bill at the Wigwamen Tenants' Picnic.



For information about the following Wigwamen tenant programs and contests, call Head Office or e-mail Karen: kwatts@wigwamen.com

- ◆ Gift Baskets for New Mothers
- ◆ Kids' Book-of-the-Month
- ◆ Back-to-School Packs
- ◆ Wigwamen Post-Secondary Scholarships
- ◆ Monthly Zero-Balance Raffle




Camile, Sewells tenant and 165th winner of the Zero-Balance Raffle.



Karen Watts, Wigwamen's new Special Initiatives Officer at her desk in Peterborough.

WIGWAMEN MAINTENANCE

- ◆ If you have a maintenance issue, please contact your building management. If you don't have a building manager on site, please call Head Office – 416-481-4451.
- ◆ In event of an after-hours maintenance emergency – a flood, power-outage, or heating failure – call 416-481-4451 and Wigwamen's Emergency Service will send help.

 **WIGWAMEN** provides safe and affordable housing to thousands of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal families, singles and seniors throughout Ontario.

TO APPLY FOR WIGWAMEN HOUSING

Families & individuals of Aboriginal descent should fill out Wigwamen applications that are available: 

In person: at Head Office, at Wigwamen Terrace (14 Spadina), or 20 Sewells Road;
By mail: call 416-481-4451 to request; or
Online: at www.wigwamen.com

You must submit proof of proof of legal status in Canada and a copy of either your Status Card or an Affidavit of Aboriginal Descent for Housing Purposes with your application. Affidavits can be obtained from Aboriginal Legal Services.

Non-Aboriginal Families & Individuals should fill out a Toronto Social Housing Connections application that is available:



In person: at Housing Connections, 176 Elm St., near Dundas & University;
By mail: call 416-981-6111 to request; or
Online: at www.housingconnections.ca

You must submit proof of proof of legal status in Canada and your income with your application.

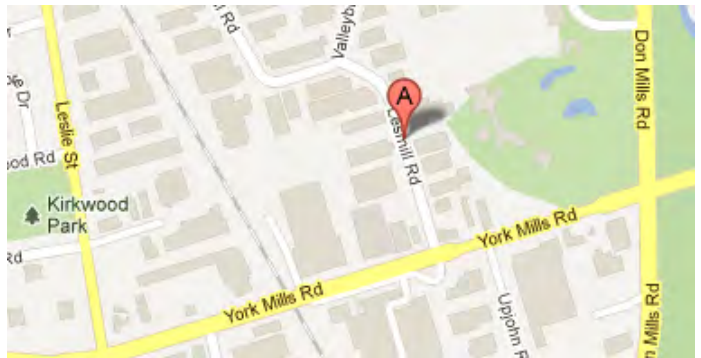
WIGWAMEN HOUSING

- ◆ **The Terrace (104 units for Aboriginal seniors)**
14 Spadina Road, Toronto, ON, M5R 3M4
- ◆ **20 Sewells Road (92 units for Aboriginal & non-Aboriginal individuals & families)** Toronto, ON, M1B 3G5
- ◆ **228 Galloway Road (60 units for individuals & families)** Scarborough, ON, M1E 5G6
- ◆ **Scattered Housing (for Aboriginal families)**
230 homes located throughout the GTA



Wigwamen Head Office

23 Lesmill Road, Suite 106
Toronto, Ontario, M3B 3P6
Tel: 416-481-4551
Fax: 416-481-5002
E-mail: info@wigwamen.com



23 Lesmill Road is located north of York Mills Road, between Leslie Street and Don Mills Road.

To get to Wigwamen's Head Office by TTC:

From York Mills Station take the 122 bus, which stops directly in front of the building; or any 95 bus, which all stop at Upjohn, just 200 metres south of Head Office. Alternately, from Pape Station, take the 25 Bus, get off at York Mills and transfer to a westbound bus, or walk west for about 5 minutes.

MEEGWETCH

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