

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar!

↘ August 13

*Needle Exchange
Training*

↘ August 14

AIDS Candlelight Vigil

↘ September 7

Buddy Support Training

↘ September 12

*PHAN Annual General
Meeting*

↘ September 14

Volunteer Orientation

↘ September 22

*AIDS Walk Peel
Brampton City Hall*

↘ September 28

President's Report

In the last issue, I had the daunting task of summarizing changes that have occurred over the past year and a half at the Peel HIV/AIDS Network (PHAN). It was a challenge to look back and try to piece together the events in sequence.

Now I feel that I can focus on the somewhat more pleasant task of looking forward to our Annual General Meeting (AGM), coming up on September 12. We postponed our AGM from June because we felt we needed some breathing space, given the transition occurring at the agency with an Interim Executive Director. As well, we needed to stabilize and get our financial house in order, which I believe we have now done.

The AGM is an important event in our agency. It serves as the touchstone point for us to meet the membership, who gives the Board its direction and mandate. As well, we have an opportunity to meet volunteers, clients and community partners to update them on our progress towards our goals and our mission.

I encourage everyone to

Street. I also strongly encourage readers to buy a membership at PHAN. See your official invitation in this mailing.

As they say, membership does have its privileges. It allows you to vote at the AGM on all motions, including the election of the Board. You also get a charitable tax receipt and regular mailings of this FYI newsletter. You also indicate, by joining as a member, that you support the Mission and goals of the Peel HIV/AIDS Network and join in solidarity with many other people in the community who care about this cause.

In between your vacation plans for this summer, you may want to consider another way to support this cause. Last month, I attended the Annual Meeting of the Canadian AIDS Society (CAS) in Ottawa, along with our Interim E.D. Janet Mellor. We heard, from fellow CAS member agencies, grave concern that there has been little action around doubling the federal funding commitment to the AIDS strategy. We already know that the funding for the Health



The Board President, Tim McGlemon

strengthen the commitment to AIDS not only in the developing world, but also globally, starting with our own country. CAS is asking all member agencies to visit local members of parliament during the summer, to let them know our concerns and demand action. As a Board, we do plan to visit at least one MP in each of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga. You can help to by visiting your own MP, writing a letter and signing a petition. Call the PHAN Office to get more information and find out how to get involved. You can also visit the CAS web site at www.cdn.aids.ca. Thanks

September 28

Speakers' Bureau Training

Details of these events will be coming up soon! We hope to see you there!

I encourage everyone to mark this date, Sept. 12, on your calendar. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. This year we are returning to a lovely location, the Peel County Museum Building in downtown Brampton on Wellington

strategy. We already know that the funding for the Health Canada, AIDS Community Action Program (ACAP) is limited and may threaten local agency programs next year. PHAN could be one of them.

We need to tell the feds that now is the time to

at www.cdn.aids.ca. Thanks again for your support! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

*Tim McClement
Board President*

AIDS affects us all. Together, we make the difference.

**PHAN
FYI**

From the Interim Executive

Well I am finally getting my head above water. I have been very busy during this transitional period helping the bookkeeper and Board of Directors stabilize and get the agency in order, our efforts have been successful to date. I also have been helping to prepare reports and program plans for our funders.

During this time there have been some staffing changes. At the end of May, Marc Finch was hired to cover my position as Health Promotion Coordinator whilst I cover the Executive Director's position. Nessie Rukovo was chosen as the successful candidate for the position of Volunteer Coordinator, and started work in early June. Joyees Chacko remains our IDU Outreach worker. For a six-week period, we are lucky to have the opportunity to house an exchange student from Montreal. Ian Rochon joined us on July 2, and has been working very hard in the Walk Committee Office helping to get a head start on this event.

Here we are with the summer almost over, and there's still a lot of work to be done. We have just finished rushing around for our Gala Dinner, which took place in May of this year, as always; the event raised over \$33,000, which is good news to our clients, as the money collected helps us to improve our services. Again, a tremendous round of thanks and appreciation go to both the volunteers serving on the Dinner Committee, chaired by Kathy Drury and the volunteers who help on the day of the event.

We also took part in the Pride Toronto celebrations. Volunteers and staff marched in the parade and covered the booth. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped us to make this an event to remember. We had lots of fun with water guns, as Z 103.5 threw out T-shirts and condoms to the crowd. We also raised over \$500 at the booth; well done all of you and thanks again!

Serving to raise awareness of our agency and our

upcoming AIDS Walk Peel, which is quickly approaching on September 22, our presence at Pride is very important. Often we meet people downtown who live in Peel and did not realize they could become volunteers, walkers or clients at PHAN, so it is important to be seen there. The Walk Committee members and staff are busy planning for a successful walk again this year. We hope to see you there. Put on those walking shoes and bring the family, friends, partners and pets for fun in the sun.

I hope you are all enjoying a pleasant summer and finding fun ways to stay cool; I am certainly trying to! I look forward to seeing you all at our AGM on September 12, and at our Walk September 22.



Janet Mellor, Interim Executive Director

"It has been a busy time here at PHAN, but we have lots to look forward to!"

Health Promotion Has a Lot to Offer



Marc Finch, Health Promotion Coordinator

Greetings everyone! My name is Marc Finch and I'll be heading the health promotion department until September.

Although my time here is rather short, I'm enjoying every minute working with all of PHAN's staff, volunteers and clients. Right now, there are several projects in health promotion that I am working on. First off, there are buddy support and

speakers bureau trainings happening in September. These are skill-building workshops designed to enhance delivery of services to our clients.

As well, on August 14, PHAN will be holding an AIDS Candlelight Vigil to remember the lives of all those whom we have lost to HIV/AIDS.

Finally, this fall, we plan to have our information sharing sessions running again.

Everyday new names are being added to the list of people throughout Peel who are interested in joining these sessions. As you can see, there's a lot going on in the health promotion department. If you have any questions about anything, just call me at (905) 896-8700 ext. 27.

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Reaching Out: PHAN's IDU Program



Joyees V. Chacko is our IDU Outreach

It is nice to talk to you all again. I am glad to complete my first year with PHAN as IDU Outreach Worker and would like to thank the Board, staff, volunteers and my valuable clients for the support they have given to me to do my work well.

We are happy to say that our new peer ambassador for the IDU program will be joining from August. She will be working in the Brampton & Caledon areas. In order to best provide client services we will be

having Needle Exchange Training programs for staff and volunteers on August 13, 2002. Our onsite needle exchange program will benefit our clients during our office hours, weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. All administrative volunteers are expected to attend this training.

We will be visiting new outreach areas, and hope this will increase our client support services. Our regular nightclub outreach and breakfast services to clients are continuing well.

Outreach programs to the shelters, drop-ins, parks and coffee shops are running smoothly.

In addition, we are providing support to U of T to get client support for their IDU Needs assessment study in Peel Region.

You are most welcome to call us at 905-896-8700, ext. 25.

Joyees V. Chacko

PHANTastic Volunteering

Hi everyone! My name is Nessie Rukovo, and I'm the new Volunteer Coordinator. I have met or spoken with most of you. I came to Canada in June 2001 from Zimbabwe. Since March 2002, I've been

booth and took shifts running it. One volunteer came from as far as Brampton to help at the booth, showing how committed she is. Volunteers were very vocal as they promoted AIDS Walk Peel.

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

This was a day full of excitement. The board members prepared the BBQ for volunteers, and lots of goodies were served. The homemade salads were

You can contact me with any volunteer related issues and I will do my best to assist you however possible. I am looking forward to working with you

June 2001 from Zimbabwe. Since March 2002, I've been volunteering with PHAN, doing administrative work for the Dinner Committee, until I was hired. I promise to do my best to keep PHAN a great place to volunteer!

Recently, a number of exciting volunteer activities have taken place here at PHAN:

Pride Day

Volunteers set up PHAN's

were very vocal as they promoted AIDS Walk Peel.

The other volunteers and PHAN staff eagerly waited for the march, as it was delayed. All had one aim, to show society that PHAN exists and that, together, we can fight AIDS. It was a hot day, but all had a great time, as we marched past throngs of people. We hope to have even more of you taking part in next year's Pride Day!

goodies were served. The homemade salads were delicious and enjoyed by all. We played games, and some participants won prizes. There were 33 volunteers who took the time to come and enjoy their day. President Tim McClelland gave a speech, thanking all volunteers for the good work they are doing here at PHAN.

Thanks to all volunteers who came, and we hope to have a bigger number next year!

possible. I am looking forward to working with you all!



*Nessie Rukovo,
Volunteer Coordinator*



*Kathy Drury, Chair of the
Gala Dinner Committee*

Gala Dinner a Success

Thank you so much to all the wonderful volunteers that helped make this year's Gala such a success. A great big thank you to the office staff, and the Dinner Committee, who helped us raise in excess

of \$33,000. Without the time that you so generously give, we would not have been able to do this.

Hope to see you all next May. The Dinner Committee has already started working on next

year's Gala, which will be held May 2, 2003.

*Kathy A. Drury
Chair,
Gala Dinner Committee
Hon. Chair,
Board of Directors*

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Calling All Walkers

AIDS Walk Peel 2002 is scheduled for **Sunday, September 22, 2002**. Once again, Brampton has been chosen as the site for the Walk.

Registration will start at 11 am, with the Walk actually starting at 12:30 pm.

This is an urgent plea for YOU to participate in the Walk. Numbers of participants have dwindled in the last few years; last year's Walk drew in less than 100 walkers.

We really need to revitalize this important fundraising event. Past Walks have produced over \$35,000 in fundraising dollars with last

year just barely over \$10,000.

Volunteering is an integral part of PHAN, and we all volunteer in different ways—some on care teams, some as drivers, some as support group facilitators; every contribution is priceless, but PHAN needs ALL of us to help to bring in fundraising dollars.

PLEASE come and support the Walk Committee by raising pledges and walking in the 8th Annual AIDS Walk Peel. For pledge forms or more information, please contact us at (905) 896-8700 ext. 32, or at walk@phan.ca, or find us online at www.phan.ca/walk.htm.

We'd love to hear your comments about our new sletter! Please contact us by phone, at (905) 896-8700 ext.31, or by email, at volunteer@pha

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Volunteer Coordinator

Mark Finch

Health Promotion Coordinator

This issue of the PHAN FYI was prepared by volunteer Upasana



PHAN MAIL

Welcome to PHAN MAIL, an all-new segment that features news about the people behind PHAN: that is, you! This includes birth and marriage notices, or even, special notices about awards those at PHAN have won. Let's share the good news!

If you have any "PHAN MAIL" that you would like to be included in the next issue of the FYI, please contact Nessie at (905) 896-8700 ext. 31, or send an email to volunteer@phan.ca. We'd love to hear from you!