



**SYBIL GARRICK**

I am quite aware of the population growth that has taken place in Ontario. With this growth there is an added concern about the ever prevalent Racism, Race Relations, Employment Equity and Human Rights issues. Different issues have been addressed on both a regional and national level. It has taken additional time, resources and flexibility from an already busy membership. It is evident that our Chapters' membership has grown along the same lines as the population. We, the members of the Congress, reflect a majority of mature super women who try to address their personal career and community needs at the same time. Although we know we are capable of handling each area we are also aware of our limitations in trying to handle them all.

Collectively we are capable of great deeds, but we need new blood to keep the body going when the old is worn out.

We must initiate a membership drive whereby we can attract young, vibrant, black women whom we can help mould into tomorrows leaders. We must concentrate on proactive strategies for issues which impinge on our lives and our children's future. If need be we must upgrade ourselves so we can serve as great role models for our young new members. Diversity is a definite strength when used to empower our youth. Traditionally women have worked for others, mainly because of the security it affords us. We must however, also look towards non-traditional careers. As we know there are not enough available jobs in the workforce to support the influx of new immigrants. We must bring to the attention of our young black women the benefits of being self employed through entrepreneurial skills, innovations and effective networking. With the vast pool of human resources we have, certainly we can be mentors who can council, direct and support these youth so they

may avoid some of the pitfalls we ourselves have fallen into.

A Congress Scholarship is being conceived by a few members who would like their children or relatives to be considered for financial help to further their education. I am positive that we can find scholarship material if we take a closer look at our membership and within our family. We have leaders among our youth. Often all they need is our helping hands. So let us extend it unreservedly to them.

I extend my thanks to you, for being the dynamic women you have all proven to be. And being who you are, I know that you will not be short sighted when sourcing our younger black women.

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## IN HONOUR OF:

**T**he Congress of Black Women, Vancouver Chapter, paid tribute to **Glenda Simms** on her appointment as President to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. This tribute was held at an elaborate dinner on Saturday March 19, 1990. In attendance was **Ettie Rutherford** our National Vice President. A great evening was had by all.

A dinner was held in honour of Community Development Officer **Ritendra (Riten) Ray**, who celebrated ten years of employment with the Ontario Government. Ritendra was also a member of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship. The event took place on May 23, 1990 in the Columbus Center. In attendance were **Carol Buchanan** of the Mississauga Chapter and **Sheila Mascoll** the President of the North York Chapter.

Celebrated author **Tony Ruprect** was honoured with a reception on July 9, 1990 which was held at the New City Hall. Tony Ruprect is the author of "*Toronto's Many Faces*", a book that identifies the various ethnic groups within Toronto and traces their historical significance. "*Toronto's Many Faces*" is also a great networking resource. We have purchased this fine work, so take a look at it if you get the chance.

## The Congress of Black Women Canada

### Mandate

The Congress of Black Women Canada is a national organization which promotes Human Rights, Employment Equality, and Race Relations as per Black

Women's concerns through education and community involvement. Congress Update is published semi-annually by the regional office. **Donna Guerra**, editor.

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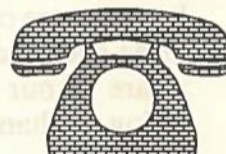
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## PAST EVENTS

**T**he Black Community in New Glasgow Nova Scotia celebrated their 1990 Gala Home Coming Event from August 10th to August 17th, 1990. An invitation was extended to members of the Congress, residents, former residents' and friends (old and new) to help celebrate its first home coming event. It was a week of fun filled events which included open air church services, garden parties, bus trips, a street dance, harbour cruise, historic displays and much, much more. The entire Black Community opened their homes and hearts to make this a memorable celebration.

**Akua Benjamin** co-ordinated a forum on **Reproductive Rights** which was held on Saturday March 10, 1990. Each Chapter was invited to send at least three members in order to give a true regional perspective on the issue. Topics discussed were Effects of the Proposed Abortion Law on the health of women; and the Access to Abortion and The Proposed Abortion Law. Input of the members was critical. We await a follow up on the results of this forum.

## ANNOUNCING UPCOMING EVENTS

**T**he National Executive Council meeting is scheduled to be held in Ontario on the dates September 28th - 30th in Hamilton. Each chapter should send representatives to attend the reception on Saturday evening. We look forward to seeing you all there.



In tribute to **Glenda Simms**, High Tea will be held in Toronto on November 17, 1990. The Hosts' of this affair will be the Ontario Chapters of the Congress of Black Women. Further details of time and place will be communicated to each chapter at a later date.

The election for the Ontario Representative is coming up soon. It will be held on Saturday April 27, 1991.

**KAY LIVINGSTON AWARDS LUNCHEON** will be held on September 30, 1990.

Something special we should all look forward to is the **Tenth Biennial Conference**. It will be held over the three day Victoria Day weekend. This special event will be held between May 17 to 20, 1991 in Calgary.

**Mirvish Production** presents the play **Sarafina**, at the **Royal Alexandra Theatre**. It is a most insightful play about defiant black South African (Soweto) children and their fight against the tyranny of apartheid. **Donna Guerra**, Co-ordinator of workshops for the Congress of Black Women, strongly recommends the viewing of this play.

## NEW ORGANIZATION

**Black Coalition for Aids Prevention (Black CAP)** is a new organization that works actively on the issues of Aids Prevention and support systems within the Black Community.



Black Cap plans to spread their message through community forums, workshops, posters, brochures, health articles and videos.

To date Black Cap's membership includes groups such as Harambee Centers Canada, Black Perspectives, Immigrant Women's Center, Congress of Black Women and Black Gay and Lesbian Aids Discussion Groups.

The program co-ordinator of Black Cap is **Doug Stewart**. He is very willing to share Aids Prevention information on an individual basis or in an informal group setting. Further information on Black Cap can be accessed through Doug Stewart at **971-7588**.

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES REPORT

Our Ontario Representative, Sybil Garrick, has been quite busy covering a lot of ground this past year. She has successfully negotiated for funding through the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and has also managed to secure a grant in the amount of

\$26,000.00 for the Congress' Leadership workshops. She has responded to Inland Revenue in regards to the Co-ordinator's position. A Co-ordinator was hired to put together the leadership workshop. **Alethia Lewis**, Leadership Co-ordinator, served a term of one and a half years, but left for a full-time position at **Interval House**. Alethia was replaced by **Donna Guerra**, "good luck ladies". Sybil also dealt with auditors in order to account for funding received by the Federal Government.

Despite her busy schedule she still managed to speak at events held in Kingston and Thornhill during Black History month. Her support was lent to the youth group TAAC as well as our chapters and other organizations.

Until recently Sybil had two Alternative Representatives, **Rose Douglas** and **Fay Campbell**. The first relinquished her position because she relocated to the United States of America and the second relinquished her post because of illness. At present we have two volunteer Alternative Representatives,

**Carol Buchanon** (Mississauga chapter) and **Betty Anne Creg** (Durham chapter) until the end of the term.

A special thanks is extended from Sybil to those chapters who honoured **Glenda Simms** on her appointment as President to the Advisory Committee on the Status of Women.

## WELCOME OUR NEW CHAPTER

We are adding one new Chapter to our growing family. A warm welcome is extended to our new sisters in **Ottawa**. Now that you have joined our family we need to determine what your needs are in your region. Among us we have a plethora of human resources to assist you. Please feel free to use our resources.

## CHAPTER REPORTS

### DURHAM

The Durham Chapter of the Congress of Black Women began as a support group which gathered for

social evenings, then on-hearing about the Toronto Chapter of the Congress, the group invited **Ms. Jean Augustine** to Durham. The gracious hospitality of **Mrs. Fay Campbell** and the expertise of **Ms. Augustine** the Durham Chapter began from its infancy. Another great mentor for the Durham Chapter is **Mr. Surinder Singh Gill**, his assistance through his role at the Ministry of Citizenship as afforded him the opportunity and expertise to guide the Durham Chapter to their focus in a Multicultural Community.

The President of the Durham Chapter for the first two years was **Mrs. Fay Campbell**, under her guidance the chapter grew and was an effective community organization; then under the presidency of **Mrs. Bev McFarlane** the organization continued to be an effective influence in Durham. Currently the position of president is filled by **Betty Ann Craig** who is supported by a hard working executive comprised of **Norma Chapman-Holder**, **Donna Puckerin** and **Gwen Green**.

The Durham Chapter is prepared in the 90's to be a

proactive leader in the community encouraging not only its members but the community at large to make Durham Region a safe, nurturing and responsive environment for all, especially for our youth.

### HAMILTON

The Congress of Black Women of Canada, Hamilton Chapter, presented a series of workshops on **Leadership and Organizational Development**. These workshops were designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skill necessary to restructure the Congress so it better reflects concerns of Black Women and their families in Hamilton.

**Betty Ann Craig**, from our Durham Chapter, acted in the capacity of volunteer representative at the **Meet The Challenge Workshop** held on **July 7, 1990**. **Florette Osborne** set a positive tone for the day, **Bernice Blackman** was the key note speaker and **Ettie Rutherford** ended

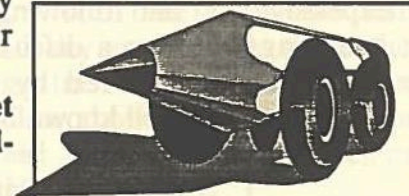
the morning address. **Betty Ann Craig** reported that the day was a great success and it served the participants well in terms of information and the shared challenge to do and be more.

### KITCHENER

In February the members of the Kitchener/Waterloo Chapter celebrated Black History month by viewing the film **Black Mother - Black Daughter** which was based on contributions of female Nova Scotian settlers. It also dealt with present day women and their efforts to make a difference through community work.

Their Chapter has applied for and expects to receive a grant from the Government to promote workshops on

Women's Issues and strategies to organize themselves so they are better able to make contributions to self, family and community. Expected start date is late April.



"Hard at WORK"

GEMART



The long awaited **Glenda Simms** has graced this chapter with both her presence and her insightful and eloquent speeches. Her speeches included challenges for chapter development and strategies to maintain their position. Glenda spoke about her new position as **President to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women**. She also spoke about her responsibilities in her new found role.

#### LONDON

The women in the London Chapter of the Congress of Black Women started meeting on September 1989. Their meetings have taken hold. Initial meetings were held in a library conference room but have since moved to a Police Station which has proven to be inexpensive. Attendance at meetings ranged from six to sixteen women.

The first few meetings dealt with identifying purpose and objectives of the group and the formation of an executive. They have set goals to raise funds for the purpose of granting two scholarships to young Black

students for post secondary education. The **Scholarship Fund** for local Black youths has gained an encouraging beginning and they are well on the way to achieving their goals.

This membership has successfully completed their first fundraising event which was held in the Kiwanis Center on **June 3, 1990**. Michigan author, **Dr. Brenda Flanagan**, read from her novel in progress, which is based in the West Indies. **Gary McAuley** and his brothers, children of one of the members, provided several vocal numbers.

One successful activity was the showing of two films, **Black Mother, Black Daughter, and Older, Stronger, Wiser**. Twenty people attended, and following the film a discussion was led by two well known black women in the city, **Veronica Dryden** and **Dr. Alfreda Kartha**. The discussion was lively, and apart from donations, many new members resulted.

The main fundraising activity of the year was a

**Spring Luncheon** to be held on **June 3, 1990**. Entertainment was held after the luncheon.

Members of the Congress have hosted talks dealing with **Nutrition and Health issues**.

Trips were planned for this summer to **Chatham, Dresden and North Buxton**. So far it has been an encouraging beginning. Many thanks to **Sybil Garrick**, Regional Representative, for her support and encouragement.

#### MISSISSAUGA

This past year has been full of many changes for the Mississauga Chapter. With the implementation of a new execu-



tive, the 90's has proven to be the beginning of a decade full of change and improvements.

Special thanks goes out to the Past President and the executive members without whom the chapters accomplishments would not have been possible. They will be soaring to new heights and hope that by ac-

tively recruiting new members they will attain their new goals.

In the Month of February the Mississauga Chapter held a series of four educational sessions to promote **Black History Month**. Topics covered were **Black male/female relationships; Forum on Youth; and viewing films: Black Mother - Black Daughter and Older, Stronger Wiser**. It was well received and is now scheduled to be an annual celebration.

In **June 1989** the Mississauga Chapter offered three scholarship awards to young black women in the Mississauga Peel area. The scholarship is open to both males and females graduating from a secondary school and have gained admission to a post secondary institution. **Four Scholarship Awards, valued at \$500.00** will be awarded at the **Annual Brunch on June 17th, 1990**. Two of the awards are focused on financial needs while the other two are focused on academic excellence.

The Mississauga Chapter in conjunction with the **Peel Board of Education and Heritage Language Division**, have developed a

**Black History Program** for children ages 4 - 16. This program helps build self esteem, self confidence and fosters historical pride through arts, story telling, dramatic productions and teachings of historical importance of Africans and their contributions to the world.

A group of youth, ages 11 - 25, who get together to discuss social issues, have given themselves the name "**Congress of Black Youths**". This exemplary group of youths bring to light how important it is for our young people to come together. To date they have covered topics on **Black History, Goal Setting, Racism, Interracial Relationships and Parent/Child Adult/Child Relationships**. The Congress of Black Youths are actively working on newsletters that would be distributed within their community. They are also putting together a **fund raising fashion show and summer picnic**. On **June 3, 1990** **Sgt. Hillary Ottley, Race Relations Officer** addressed issues on the recent shooting of black youths. Keep up the good work, keep united and keep strong **Congress of Black Youth**. Our Mississauga members have been one of the in-

strumental chapters in providing refreshments to new citizens at the **Citizenship Court** ceremonies held twice yearly.

Everyone is invited to the **Annual Dance** held on **November 17, 1990** at **Meadowvale Community Centre**. For further information contact **H. Whitaker** at 824-1441. Also in **December 1990**, a **Family/Seniors luncheon** will be held, details to follow. A special **CONGRATULATIONS** is extended to **Claudette Johnson** on her new position as **Equal Opportunity Assistant for the Peel Board of Education**.

#### NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO

The Chapter was formed on **February 22, 1988** with eight people, since then their membership has increased to 26 and at least one person joins up at each meeting.

This Chapter covers a wide geographical area from **Parry Sound** in the south to **Timmins** in the north, **Sault Ste. Marie** in the west to **North Bay** in the East. One meeting was held in Tim-



mins and another in Sault Ste. Marie. The rest of the meetings were held in North Bay and Sudbury.

Sundridge, Elliot Lake and Espanola are other sites which are being considered for possible meeting sites. Meetings were held in the homes of our members and Pot Luck dinners were served with each member contributing \$2.00 in addition to the meal.

Funds were raised from dances, bake sales and sweatshirts. Two major projects for this year were donating books to the Jamaican Relief Fund and hosting workshops on **Family Violence, Self Esteem and Educational Perspective of the Black Woman**. Workshops were made possible through funding from the Secretary of State of Canada.

Requests have been made for future workshops on: **Physical and Mental Health of Black Women, Estate Planner, Money Management and Starting a Small Business**.

Future plans include increasing membership, raising funds and workshops that meets the needs of our Black Women.

**Congratulations** for the energy and enthusiasm exerted in spreading the Congress in the North.

#### NORTH YORK

North York Chapter of the Congress of Black Women became involved with the City of North York Winter Carnival 1990. They assisted the Carnival by organizing and monitoring free coat checking booths on three consecutive days. Services rendered were greatly appreciated by the North York Mayor and the City Council. The North York Chapter is looking forward to being an active part of the 1991 North York Winter Carnival.

Six young ladies from the **Girl Guide Pathfinders Group** were taken under the wings of the North York Chapter. They attended the **Black History Month** meeting and assisted in the **Mother's Day Banquet**. The Chapter assisted these girls with a donation towards their weekend Camp. In coming years these young women may be leaders in the Congress of Black Women.

**Black History Month** was the focus of their February 1990 meeting. To start a short **Black History Match Game Quiz** was presented followed by the viewing of **Black Mothers - Black Daughters**. Members and guests had a lively discussion then socialized while viewing posters and books on display by the **Educational Committee**.

The annual **Mother's Day Banquet** was held on May 12, 1990 at Weston, Ontario. **Akua Benjamin** and **Veronica Sullivan** were honoured and presented with the **Trilogy Award** designed by the young artist **Donna Lee Bolden**. The impressive silver pendant depicts three Black Women through youth, middle age and old age, connected by the bond of racial decent. **Mrs. Eureka Bynoe**, guest speaker, stressed the importance of "Women in Leadership Roles". A great evening was had by all.

#### SCARBOROUGH

Scarborough chapter continues its drive to link members and friends in the community through activities and organized events such as workshops which included **Problems of**

**Black Children in the Public School System and their Solutions, Human Rights, Health and Housing**. Also a presentation on "Aids" was delivered by **Ms. Simone Hammond**. Other community events included a T-shirt sale which was well received by members.

A few members attended the **Scarborough Board of Education 1989 conference on Race Relations and Ethnocultural Equity**. Discussions were had and there was a consensus to keep abreast of developments in that area.

Last summer 1989 a helping hand was extended to two West Indian boys who were sent to a Camp for the Arts. The Scarborough chapter was also very active in hosting celebrations at the Citizenship court for the proud new citizens.

#### *A Commitment to Excellence:*

A monetary contribution was made on behalf of the Scarborough members to the **Trinidad Emergency Fund**. Donations were forwarded to those in need.

#### TORONTO

The Toronto Chapter began this year by attending the **National Biennial Conference** held in Halifax, Nova Scotia, between dates **May 6 - May 8, 1990**.

Members of the Toronto Chapter submitted issues of importance and suggestions for upcoming meetings to the **Regional Representative Sybil Garrick**. The following issues were pin pointed for the National Executives to consider: the **Federal Immigration Ministry and Undocumented Black Women; Employment Equity; the National Constitution; organizing the National Conference and the membership of the National Body in mainstream National Organizations**.

The Toronto Chapter's executive, in keeping with the desire for a uniformity of vision, participated in an **Effectiveness Leadership workshop**. **Yvonne Smith** delivered the workshop which touched on issues such as problem identification; how to build effectiveness and personal action plans.

The Toronto Chapter actively participated in community issues which included unfair hiring practices of the **Ontario Human Rights Commission**; the increasing number of Caribbean deportees; discrimination against **Black Social Assistance Recipients**; and the treatment of Caribbean clients and staff workers by **Intercede**. Members participated in a vigil at City Hall in support of the students who were massacred in China.

On February 14th members attended a street celebration honouring **NELSON MANDELA'S** release. The **Barsha Kelly/Cari Co-op Housing Project** is a joint initiative with the **Coalition of Visible Minority Women**. This project is moving towards the final stages of planning however members are still needed for the selection committee.

The **Anti-Racist Child Care Strategies Film Project** is in progress. A co-ordinator and researcher were hired and both research and the grant application are in progress.

The Toronto Chapter made several unsuccessful attempts to meet with **Intercede** to discuss its service



delivery to Caribbean domestics therefore they decided to support Caribbean domestics by helping them to establish an agency to administer to their needs. They have received funding from the Ontario Women's Directorate to educate Caribbean domestics on the issue of sexual assault.

#### Objectives for 1989 - 1990 included:

1. Forging links with organizations such as Ujaama; Organizations for Parents of Black Children; Coalition of Visible Minority Women; The Black Secretariat and community groups that need boosting eg. Sick Cell Anemia Association.

2. Achieving a Bank balance of \$2000.00 by end of fiscal year

3. Organize at least five educational programs

4. Host three social events

5. Retention of active membership

## RESOURCE LIST

We have a Random Selection of names of Resource Persons for our **First Newsletter**. Please submit names for our next issue.

- Thora Espinet Scarborough Chapter Lawyer
- Doris Ferguson Scarborough Chapter Liaison Officer Scarb. Board of Ed.
- Hazel Garrick Scarborough Chapter Fashion Consultant
- Bev. McFarlane Durham Chapter Free Lance Writer
- Fay Campbell Durham Chapter Galloway Instit. Director
- Florine Powell Toronto Chapter Social Worker Harambee
- Akua Benjamin Toronto Chapter Educator/Activist
- Bernice Campayne Toronto Chapter Librarian
- Claudette Johnson Mississauga Chapter Equal Opportunity Officer
- Chloe Callendar Waterloo Chapter Race Relations Officer

Any members who would like to advertise in our next issue please get in touch with **Donna Guerra**, Program Co-ordinator at our Regional Office, (416) 534-3114, for further details. Also, if you are aware of any business people, within our community, who would like to attract additional people, please submit their names and numbers for our next issue.

**CONGRESS OF BLACK WOMEN CANADA**  
756 Ossington Avenue, Unit #6, Toronto, Ontario M6G 3T9

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO EMERGENCY RELIEF

A Co-ordinating Task Force for Emergency Relief has been established under the direction of the High Commission and the Consulate General for Trinidad and Tobago. Chairmanship of the Task Force resides in the Consulate. Six sub-committees have been established to solicit public assistance.

### PLEASE HELP US !

Call 1 800 387-6333 and/or the following committees:

1. Non-perishable food items - Andrew McLeod (416) 298-4017
2. Medical supplies - Mr. Afzal Abdool (416) 639-0333 (B)
3. Fund raising - Mrs. Jean Sheen (416) 286-6846
4. Public Relations - Mrs. Jasmin Phillip-Garraway (416) 495-9442
5. Inter-organization liaison - Ken Simon/Mannie Dick (416) 274-9001 / (416) 393-0741
6. Transportation, Warehousing and Packaging - Mr. Ram T. Bissoon - (416) 299-1721

Companies and individuals wishing to donate money are asked to make their cheques and money orders payable to:

**Trinidad and Tobago Emergency Relief Trust Fund.**

Trinidad & Tobago Consulate

2005 Sheppard Ave. East Suite 303, Willowdale, Ont. M2J 5B4

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Drop-off points for non-perishable food items and medical supplies are:

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**Kindly give in your prayers and your financial contribution so that Trinidad and Tobago can cope with this crisis.**