



MACAULAY TODAY

Macaulay Child Development Centre's Newsletter
Special Anniversary Issue



Celebrating 75 Years!

Thousands of people attended the launch of Macaulay's 75th Anniversary Celebration at Downsview Park. One of 14 free community events scheduled for 2007-2008, the October 14 Fall Fair included traditional wagon rides, a petting zoo, pumpkin carving, scarecrow making and face paint-



ing. The crowds were entertained by buskers, a puppet show, the... p.2

Our Founder- a Fabulous Soul

Robert Macaulay describes his mother as a "fabulous soul". The wife of Leopold Macaulay, MPP for York South, Hazel Macaulay supported her husband's work in the riding where unemployment rose to 60% during the Depression years. Many women were forced to seek domestic work to earn some income, leaving their children home alone or with older siblings.

Robert says, "My mother opened our

basement to provide a place where working mothers could leave their children and know that they would be fed, cared for and taken to the park." His brother, Hugh says, "We had practically nothing except good will." But Hazel had come from a poor family herself and Robert says "was very used to struggling for everything." She got her friends together and found a church basement for the pre-school and went around to stores to "cadge food for

the children," Hugh says.

At the agency's 1987 annual meeting, her late daughter, Mary Macaulay Adams explained how a child's book cover inspired her mother to choose the agency's original name: Cradleship Creche. It was "a picture of little children floating through the clouds in a fantastic cradleship. It was a delightful drawing and so the title and the logo were born."

Macaulay Child Development Centre

- Early learning and child care centres
- Licensed home child care
- Early years programs
- Family literacy programs
- Homework clubs
- Parenting groups
- In-home parent education and support
- Speech and language services
- Early identification and intervention
- Youth mentoring program
- Support for children with special needs
- Consultation services

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...Celebrating 75 Years!

Polka Dot Door Literacy Show and steel pan performances. Macaulay's Licensed Home Child Care Program organized a Literacy Stage featuring guest readers who included Toronto Argonaut players, CTV's Marci Ien, and Downsview Park CEO, Tony Genco. Children enjoyed stories told in Spanish, Italian, Chinese, Somali, Urdu, Twi and English.

The celebrations continued the following week at the Eglinton West Street Festival. The "More Than a Haircut" event, organized by the Barbershop

Project, featured award-winning storyteller, Dr. Rita Cox, the Self-Esteem Academy Choir, York Square Drumming Squad and a limbo contest. One young boy won the opportunity to give his dad a haircut under the watchful eye of a professional barber. Guest readers included City TV's Dwight Drummond, a uniformed police officer, a local librarian, and a barber.

Macaulay's Jane Street Child Care Centre hosted over 300 people at a special anniversary event on Universal Children's

Day on November 20. The

"Celebrating Children Around the World" event featured children performing in Mandarin, Hindi, Gujarati, Arabic and Spanish. Former school principal and Ontario's first black, female Cabinet Minister, Zanana Akande, City Councillor Bill Saundercook and uniformed firefighters read children's books to the audience.



"More Than a Haircut" limbo contest

From Volunteers to Professionals

Until the late 1940s, the Creche relied on many dedicated volunteers to run the day care program under the direction of the paid supervisor. Members volunteered at least once a week to prepare and serve meals, take the children on outings, and supervise naps. Board members were responsible for assessing the need for service, setting and collecting fees and keeping records. In 1946, when the Day

Nursery Act was passed, the agency had to be licensed and operate under the Act's guidelines. At this time, additional staff was hired to take over program activities, freeing the members to volunteer in other areas like fundraising and organizing special events for the children. It marked the beginning of increasing professionalism in the day care field.

Message from our Executive Director

Macaulay's 75th anniversary is an opportunity for us to both honour our past and consider our future. Most of all, it is our time to recommit to the agency's vision.

From our past, we learn that one woman and a small group of friends can make an enduring difference. Not only did Hazel Macaulay and the Macaulay Group address the immediate need for child care in 1932, but they established an organization with the capacity and commitment to endure over 7 decades. Throughout that time, we have built on their original mission while responding to changing times.

Today, we are proud of our staff and volunteers- who like Hazel Macaulay – care deeply about children and families and take steps to make a lasting difference.

To the future, we look with great confidence. We will continue to address issues of importance to children and families. These include: the importance of high quality early learning and care; full service accessibility for those with special needs; and the elimination of child poverty. Our programs and services will continue to innovate and adapt in order to provide the most effective interventions and supports. Together, we will carry out the enduring mission of *helping children reach their full potential in caring families and communities*. Hope to see you at one of our celebration events.

Sharon Filger

Breaking Ground at Regent Street

June 17, 1955 was a memorable day in the history of Cradleship Creche when the Regent Street Child Care Centre was officially opened after 20 years of operating in church basements, rented houses and shared facilities.

After a modest beginning in the basement of founder, Hazel Macaulay, the demand for day care

services grew rapidly, and by the late 1940s the agency had a long waiting list for service. In 1949 Supervisor Mary Dale-Harris reported to the board, "The Creche is the only whole day nursery in northwest Greater Toronto but this waiting list is the devil. The children we have on it this year have been waiting for two or more years. Sometimes we don't know what to do. Suppose a husband deserts his wife, leaving her to get a job and support herself and the child. You can't tell her that the Creche will be only too glad to look after her children two to three years from now."

In response, volunteer members of the Creche and Junior Creche worked hard to build a permanent

home for the day nursery. Through annual balls, floor shows, garden parties and other fundraising events, they raised \$110,000. Equipped with a kitchen, laundry room, dining room, isolation room (for ill or "unruly" children) and an outdoor playground, the state of the art facility was the first of its kind in Canada.



Breaking Ground at Regent Street Centre, 1955

At the opening Miss Dale-Harris said, "The one-storey building will be ideal for keeping an eye on all three groups of children at once in their three playrooms." The new centre was soon operating at full capacity with 45 children and a growing waiting list. Fees ranged from 10 cents a day to \$2.50 with an average of 60 cents a day.

In 1965, the centre was renovated to accommodate a new kindergarten program and to provide

office space for the first Executive Director who offered counselling services to families using the nursery program, marking a shift to providing more comprehensive services to children and families that has continued to be a focus of growth ever since.

Eight Decades of Caring and Innovation

Throughout our 75 year history, we have continually broadened our focus on promoting child development by working with children directly and by helping to strengthen their families and communities.

1930s

* Cradleship Creche was established by Hazel Macaulay. Run by volunteers with one paid supervisor, the Creche provided care for pre-school children whose mothers were forced to work because of financial hardship.

1940s

* The Creche provided care for children whose mothers worked in war industries.

1950s

* Creche board and membership raised funds for the Regent Street Child Care centre—the first purpose-built day nursery in Canada.

1960s

* The Regent Street building was expanded to include space for its first subsidized kindergarten program. For the first time, short-term counselling services were offered to parents and caregivers.

1970s

* The Creche developed a licensed home child care program that contributed to the development of the Day

Nurseries Act for Home Child Care. The agency's mandate expanded to provide supports to families and caregivers through innovative programs like Project Positive Parenting and the York Early Identification and Prevention Project (EIPP).

1980s

* The EIPP won the Margaret Fletcher Program Award for excellence. The EIPP was applied to all agency programs and extended to other day care centres in York. The Caregiver Support Program expanded and the agency began to share its expertise to the community at large through consultation and training manuals. The name was changed to Macaulay Child Development Centre.

1990s

* Macaulay introduced many new services and programs including consultation services, Family Literacy programs, and Homework Clubs, Family Resource programs and Community Parent Programs.

2000s

* Macaulay programs doubled in size since the 1990s to address the growing community need with programs like Ontario Early Years Centres, expanded parent support and education and we opened three new child care centres in addition to Regent Street.



Macaulay Child Development Centre




Celebration of Families
Join us for these Free Public Events
with storytelling, music & special guests!



- Wednesday, February 27 **Celebrating as a Family** H.J Alexander School 5:30PM to 7PM
- Wednesday, March 12 **March Break at Dufferin Mall** 2PM to 4PM
- Friday, March 14 **March Break at Lawrence Square** 2PM to 4PM
- Wednesday, April 16 **Family Celebration** Dovercourt Public School 5:30PM to 7PM
- Friday, May 9 **Mother's Day Barbeque** Regent Street 5PM to 7PM
- Sunday, June 8 **Family Fair with 12 Division** Black Creek/ Trethewey 1PM to 4PM
- Wednesday, June 18 **Child Idol** Humberwood Great Hall 5:30PM to 7:30PM
- Tuesday, July 8 **Subway Family Gathering** Eglinton West Subway 6PM to 8PM
- Wednesday, July 9 **Caregivers' Picnic** High Park 10AM to 2:30PM
- Monday, September 15 **Grandparents' Day** Columbus Centre 10AM to 11:30AM
- Monday, October 6 **Community Celebration** Weston-Mount Dennis Hub 4PM to 6PM

For more information: 416-789-7441 or www.macaulaycentre.org

If you'd like to help with our work please contact our head office:

-  Volunteer Your Time by working in one of our programs or by assisting the Agency to develop policies and programs that reflect the needs of the community.
-  Sponsor one of the 75th Anniversary Events scheduled as part of our 75th Anniversary Celebration of Families.
-  Make a Donation to support our work on-line at www.canadahelps.org or www.paypal.com

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