



NEWSLETTER

2024 | SEMI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



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CELEBRATE MARKHAM PROJECT 23/24 -- "TRADITIONAL CHINESE ART EXHIBITION"

IS.E.A.S. Centre received funding from the City of Markham's Celebrate Markham initiative to launch a seniors' club focused on exploring various art forms. Through this project, seniors had the opportunity to engage in creative activities such as paper cutting and other artistic crafts. In Fall 2023, we hosted a Paper Cutting Class, followed by a Creative Arts Class in Winter 2024. Both sessions were met with great enthusiasm, with over 50 participants taking part throughout the project. This initiative not only provided seniors with a platform to learn new skills but also fostered creativity, social connection, and community engagement.



PAPER CUTTING CLASS

CREATIVE ARTS CLASS



SEAS ART EXHIBITION

-- March 16, 2024 | Aaniin Community Centre

As a celebration of the achievements of our seniors who participated in the project, S.E.A.S. Centre proudly hosted an Art Exhibition to showcase their incredible talents and creativity.

The exhibition featured a diverse range of art forms, including:

- Stocking Flowers by Maggie Fu
- Traditional Paper Cutting by Dr. Li Xi Qin
- Calligraphy by the Scarborough Calligraphy Club
- Creative Arts by the Cedar Cultural Educational Group

This exhibition was a wonderful opportunity to honor the hard work and artistic expression of our seniors, while also bringing the community together to appreciate and celebrate their accomplishments.



NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS PROJECT 23/24

In 2023/2024, S.E.A.S. Centre proudly received funding from the New Horizons for Seniors Program (NHSP) to launch an initiative called 'Connecting Communities Together.' This project was designed to enhance social participation among seniors, reduce social isolation, and promote healthy aging within our community.

Over the past year, we organized a series of skills training sessions tailored specifically for seniors to help them navigate the digital world with confidence. These sessions focused on teaching seniors how to use their electronic devices, troubleshooting common technology issues, and raising awareness about safeguarding personal information.

In addition to technology training, we held a variety of educational workshops aimed at connecting seniors and their families with valuable government resources. These workshops covered essential topics such as accessing legal aid, understanding income supports for individuals and families, and exploring the housing supports available within the community. Through this initiative, we have empowered seniors with the knowledge and tools they need to stay connected, informed, and supported in their daily lives.

On March 19, we hosted a vibrant cultural sharing session that provided seniors with the opportunity to showcase their talents and share their artistic creations with the community. The event featured a beautiful array of traditional Chinese arts, including Chinese calligraphy, painting, and intricate wood carving. These timeless art forms allowed seniors to express their creativity while celebrating their cultural heritage.

After a prolonged period of social distancing, this gathering brought immense joy as seniors reconnected with one another in person. The event not only highlighted their artistic abilities but also fostered a sense of togetherness, reminding everyone of the importance of community and cultural expression. The positive energy and enthusiasm throughout the day were a testament to the power of art and culture in bridging generations and strengthening bonds within the community.

NHSP 24/25

As a recipient of the NHSP funding for 2024-2025, we are currently working on a new project aimed at promoting digital literacy, raising awareness of community resources, and fostering community engagement. This initiative will be delivered through seniors' clubs, series of workshops, a photo contest, and a chess tournament. For more information, please visit the calendars on our website or follow us on social media for the latest updates.

We are also seeking volunteers to assist with the planning and implementation of this project. If you're interested in joining us, please contact us to apply.



COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUND -- “SENIOR HOME AND ROAD SAFETY AID”

The “Senior Home and Road Safety Aid” project was funded by the York Region through the Community Investment Fund. As we identified an increasing need and importance in raising awareness of home and road safety for seniors in the community, we proposed a project in promoting home and road safety for seniors.

With the funding from the Community Investment Fund, S.E.A.S. Centre purchased a number of home first aid kits, carbon monoxide/smoke detectors, and LED wristband. These materials were then distributed towards seniors living in York Region through number of outreach activities, including educational workshops, partnerships with community partners, and visits to subsidized senior housing in York Region. In total, the project benefited more than 200 households in York Region.



COMMUNITY SAFETY WORKSHOP

-- February 22, 2024 @ York Region Senior Building

In order to promote the awareness of senior home and road safety, S.E.A.S. Centre invited York Region Police to deliver a workshop on community and pedestrian safety at 20 Water Street, a subsidized senior building in York Region.

In the workshop, PC Lam emphasized the importance of following pedestrian signs and illustrated the possible dangers on roads.

At the end of the workshop, residents in the building were given home first aid kits and LED wristband.



LUNAR NEW YEAR LUNCHEON

-- February 28, 2024 @ Grandeur Palace



S.E.A.S. Centre hosted a Lunar New Year Celebration Luncheon at Grandeur Palace, marking our first in-person Lunar New Year event since the pandemic. This special gathering symbolized a joyful reunion and reconnection for our community, offering a valuable opportunity for S.E.A.S. Centre service users and community members to come together after a long period of distance.

The luncheon featured an exciting array of activities, including interactive games, a lucky draw, and several lively singing performances. A highlight of the event was the appearance of the 'God of Fortune,' who distributed red envelopes to over 160 guests, extending heartfelt wishes for a happy and prosperous Lunar New Year to everyone in attendance.



尊敬的协群工作人员：

非常谢谢你们用心组织了这次春节联欢会。我第一次参加，觉得非常开心。我们的社工梁姑娘和其他几位协群的工作人员都安排得有条不紊。组织活动能力极强。

这个活动非常有意义，活动内容丰富，用餐非常可口，几乎找不出任何缺点。

真是辛苦你们了。我代表所有去参加的人员表达感谢之情。

篇幅不长，但是这个活动对我们中国人在海外凝聚在一起意义非凡。

此致

敬礼 (ANONYMOUS)

LETTER FROM EVENT PARTICIPANT

CANADA DAY CELEBRATIONS 2024 @MARKHAM | @RIVERDALE PARK

S.E.A.S. Centre has recruited over 50 volunteers to volunteer at the Canada Day celebration organized by the City of Markham. People in Markham came to celebrate and feel the aura of community on a sunny long weekend. There were children activities, beloved mascots, food trucks, stage performances, followed by a fireworks show to mark the end of the event. At the event, volunteers helped with crowd control, supporting booths and food vendors at the event, ensuring the activities run smoothly, providing information of the event and conducting surveys. Our volunteers demonstrate their adaptability to any matters, allowed every participants to enjoy the event safely.



This event is a huge success on SEAS's youth and volunteer service. Most volunteers on July 1 are enthusiastic new recruits from all around Markham, expanding our network with adolescents and high school students. It provided a chance for youths in the post-pandemic era to interact with our local community and target groups.

A SHARING ON CANADA DAY CELEBRATION EVENT AT RIVERDALE PARK

-- sharing from summer youth workers who attended the event

The event was a vibrant tapestry of activities and performances that truly embodied the spirit of our community.

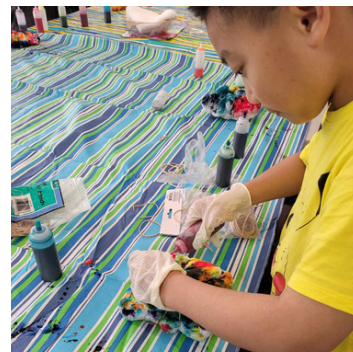
We enjoyed a mix of live music, traditional dance performances, and engaging activities for all ages, including martial arts dance and the kids singing the Canadian anthem.

The energy was infectious, and it was heartwarming to see so many smiling faces coming together to celebrate.

We also felt a strong sense of unity and pride throughout the day, as people from diverse backgrounds celebrated together.

SUMMER CAMPS 2024

In July, both the Markham and North York offices successfully hosted a vibrant 4-week summer camp for children aged 4-12. Our dedicated summer youth workers skillfully organized and planned an exciting lineup of activities, including hands-on science experiments, creative arts and crafts, and outing trips. The camp provided a well-rounded experience, fostering learning, creativity, and outdoor adventure for the children.



STAFF SHARING – JEFFERY WONG YOUTH WORKER

"I first learned about SEAS Centre when I was ten years old, attending the summer camp. Now I am seventeen years old working as a student worker in Markham, SEAS Centre feels like a second home for me. I've developed a deep connection to SEAS, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to return and contribute to SEAS Centre's youth services in this post-COVID era. It has been a challenge to regain clients back to SEAS's in-person programs. However, these challenges have provided me with invaluable lessons and workplace experience that many my age haven't had the chance to gain. Working through these difficulties has not only strengthened my skills but also deepened my appreciation for the Centre's mission. I sincerely hope that more young people will continue to engage with SEAS Centre, bringing new energy and ideas, and helping us build a stronger future together."



UPCOMING EVENTS/ PROGRAMS



**協群八公里
S.E.A.S 8 KM
WALK-A-THON
慈善步行籌款**

**COME JOIN US TO
RAISE FUNDS AS A
COMMUNITY!
協力齊心為我
們的社群籌款**

Date & Time | 日期 & 時間:
Saturday October 19th @ 10AM
10月19日 (六) 上午10點正

Finch Station East Parking Lot
Finch地鐵公交站東面停車場
(Willowdale Entrance | 夾Willowdale街入口)

**REGISTER
報名電話** 416-490-6491 SHAN

SEAS S.E.A.S. CENTRE
協群社區服務中心

United Way
Greater Toronto

UPCOMING EVENTS/PROGRAMS

SEAS Annual Walkathon

October 19, 2024 | 10am | Finch Station East Parking Lot

SEAS Charity Gala

November 9, 2024 | Hilton Toronto/Markham Suites
Conference Centre & Spa

Beadwork Class (Beginner Level)

October 4, 2024 | 11:00 am-12:30 pm | Markham Centre

HPV Workshop

October 22, 2024 | 1:30-3:00 pm | Zoom: 249 568 1118

Dance Class for Women

Every Mondays | 2:00-4:30pm | North York Centre

Every Thursdays | 10:00 am-12:00 pm | North York Centre

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