

Kawartha World Issues Centre

Newsletter ~ Spring 2004

Spring: a time to grow

Spring is in the air. In keeping with a green theme, this month KWIC launched a fundraising and membership drive. As a small non-profit organization, KWIC depends on generous contributions from our community to provide global education initiatives in the Kawarthas. Our aim is to expand our current membership, to reconnect with old friends, and to generate revenue for future projects.

The need for an accessible downtown KWIC location has been a recurring theme in KWIC surveys and in conversations with members of our community. Recently, KWIC was invited to share space and resources with other Trent and community groups in the historic Sadleir House located at George and Parkhill Streets. The opportunity to create a collaborative and central Education and Resource Centre is integral to the proposal. The shared rent makes the space reasonably affordable, yet still beyond reach of KWIC's financial resources. Inside this newsletter you will find a KWIC Membership and Donation Form: we invite you to give generously and help KWIC grow!

Over the years, KWIC has collaborated with numerous community social justice groups. In the next few weeks, KWIC Board Members will embark on a **community outreach** initiative to meet with local groups to learn what issues others are working on and to explore opportunities for collaboration. Also, watch for our **KWIC History 1988-2004** project, initiated by Trent student Debora Morales for academic credit. Deb will be researching KWIC's history in the local and global context of social justice work. The project will bring community members together to share stories of their activism over the years – while creating a giant **Community Timeline!** If you'd like to share your story with us, we'd love to hear from you. The Timeline will be 'unveiled' at the KWIC Annual General Meeting in November.

KWIC also has a new mission statement. Jim Abel, KWIC's Chair, explains that "the new mission still captures KWIC's mandate as a global education and resource centre, yet challenges us to take that step from 'understanding,' to actively 'engaging' in positive social change."

This is the Spring edition of KWIC's bi-annual newsletter, featuring a few highlights of KWIC events and programs during the past several months. A special thank you to KWIC staff and numerous volunteers, and to our membership: KWIC wouldn't be here without you. Enjoy - and have a beautiful summer! *Julie Cosgrave*, KWIC Coordinator

KWIC's Mandate:

KWIC is a community-based, non-profit, charitable global education and resource centre, serving the Peterborough and surrounding communities.

KWIC promotes dialogue and understanding of world issues to enable people to engage in positive social and environmental change.

Board of Directors:

Jim Abel, Chair
Stephen Bocking
Ebony Davies (Youth Representative)
Kate Eales
Hassan Gardezi
Jean Garsonnin
Rick Lambert, Treasurer
C. Ralph McKim
Joan Smith
Heather Edgar, Secretary

KWIC Office will be closed June 21st –August 23rd.

Check out KWIC's community calendar at www.trentu.ca/kwic and click on the revolving globe. Submit your community events to kwic@trentu.ca.

Youth Building Community: Global Youth Day - April 16

By piKe wright, Global Youth Connect! Coordinator



*Buttons and zines created by
Thomas A. Stewart Diversity Club.*



*Global Youth Day attendees jam
with Whole Art Circles.*



*One of many visual art pieces contributed
by Crestwood Secondary School students.*

In conjunction with millions of youth around the world, KWIC celebrated Global Youth Day on April 16 at the Market Hall. The day-long event recognized and celebrated youth-led volunteerism in our community. The event was the most successful event yet for KWIC's youth program Global Youth Connect!.

Whether youth are organizing local campaigns, volunteering abroad, or participating in community events and projects that address issues of social and environmental justice, their experience and enthusiasm is often undervalued. To counter this, Global Youth Day brought together as many local youth speakers, leaders, workshops, activists, artists, and musicians as possible at the Market Hall on April 16. The air was positively buzzing with energy.

I was delighted and inspired by the range of creative community-building actions that I witnessed at Global Youth Day. The theme words of Global Youth Day were Inspire, Inform, and Involve. Some participants brought drums to make joyful sound together. Workshops ranged from giant puppet-making, to reducing your ecological footprint, to socially-conscious entrepreneurship. Our art show included contributions from Making Her Mark, a province-wide collection of collages, writings, photos and paintings by young women on identity. Keynote speaker Mike Bonnici spoke eloquently about the power of kindness – noting that everyone can make a difference in this world with a heartfelt smile and greeting. Last, the evening concert showcased a wide range of youth musical talent – and some great dancers, too!

The event was truly a celebration and networking event. Youth groups and projects in attendance shared their passion and ideas with each other, reaffirming their commitment to positive social change, both locally and globally. Check out our website www.globalyouthconnect.ca and click on "Youth Projects" for a taste of their inspiring work.

Perhaps the most impressive part of Global Youth Day was that the event itself was planned by an awesome team of young people and community partners, including the Art Gallery of Peterborough and the United Way of Peterborough & District. Thanks for all your hard work and effort – and it will all happen again next spring. See you there!

Transforming Communities: an appreciative approach

by Julie Cosgrove, KWIC staff



Three days, fifty-three community workers and activists, and a mandate to build a network of Appreciative Inquiry practitioners to create a more peaceful community and strengthen the voluntary sector... Sound unlikely? Well, it seems that anything and everything is possible in Peterborough. For three days in March, I participated in a Trillium-funded United Way training program on the theory and practice of Appreciative Inquiry. Coined by Cooperrider and Srivastva in the 1980's, AI is a philosophy, a way of seeing the world, a form of action research, and a social change process - which can be applied to our personal relationships, as well as organizations.

What I love about AI is that it uses a storytelling approach to problem solving, and builds on what has already worked in the past. Instead of focusing on the problem, AI invites us to discover when we have been at our *very best*, to investigate those moments, and to develop a strategy to recreate those conditions that bring out the best in oneself and others. Using an appreciative eye changes the questions we ask, the answers we receive - and the *energy* we create! For more information on AI visit appreciativeinquiry.cwru.edu.

“No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it. We must learn to see the world anew.”

Albert Einstein

Remember
those great
KWIC
T-Shirts?

Partial Spring

by Linda Slavin, KWIC Fundraising Committee

The myriad of details
Kathy lifted from each of us
Hang suspended in the January air
Frozen reminders of her love and our loss.
We connect on the street
Across meetings
At the “dinner”
Hugs and tears not replacing
Her listening heart...
Nor her flowers
Her tranquility

Her ready support
Her chuckle to the end.
We wrap ourselves
Against the cold with long memories
Sharing to survive.
Warmed by meditation and her spirit
We reclaim her wellness.
Treasuring our shared journey,
We defy this empty February,
Bracing for a partial spring.

We remember Kathy Wethy – past secretary and chair of KWIC.

They're coming back -
100% Canadian hemp
as a collaborative
promotion and fund-
raising project with
Trent International
Program. T-shirts will
be available in
September from KWIC
and Speak Volumes
Bookstore on George
Street.

**KWIC Job Posting:
Part-Time Global Youth Connect!
Coordinator**

See www.globalyouthconnect.ca for details.

KWIC sends best wishes with departing staff: Sarah MacHardy, Lan Anh Ha, Amarpreet Sikand, piKe wright (Kieran Cosgrove)

