

The Newsletter of the Consumer Health Information Providers Interest Group

November
2008

IN THIS
ISSUE

Page 1

AIDS
Committee of
Toronto Library
Open House

Page 2

Homewood
Health Centre

Page 3

Bridgepoint
Health -
Living with
Chronic
Conditions

CHIS Toronto
Asthma Fair

Page 4

HIDDEN GEMS

Page 5

CHIPIG
NEWS
HELLOS
MOVES &
CHANGES

Consumer Health in Specialized Services

AIDS Committee of Toronto Library Open House

On September 24, 2008 the AIDS Committee of Toronto (ACT) Library held an open house to mark its first 20 years (1987-2007). The anniversary was an opportunity to reflect on the Library's contributions to ACT's work in providing support and education to people living with and at risk of HIV/AIDS, as well as to their family, friends, and service providers.

We aimed to make the open house interactive and engaging and created a number of displays. These featured historical information about the library which we gathered by reviewing archived agency documents and connecting with former ACT librarians. A timeline reviewed the library's milestones from the past 20 years. A slideshow presentation provided a more personal view and included old pictures, photos, and other documents, along with reflective quotes from the former librarians that we contacted. A self-guided tour, complete with guide book, was staged throughout the library and encouraged visitors to view items from the collection that we had on display. We made draw prizes out of our ACT Library mug and bag which were originally created as volunteer appreciation gifts and not widely distributed, offering visitors a chance to own true pieces of library history. There was also an anniversary poster on which people were encouraged to leave a message. The poster will be hung in the library as a reminder of the event and the good wishes of our supporters.

The open house was a great way to commemorate and recognize the important role a library can play in a community-based organization addressing psychosocial, medical, and service delivery needs. ACT Library services have also been impacted by the changing nature of HIV/AIDS from a terminal disease that people knew very little about, to a more chronic illness with a range of prevention and treatment options available. As we move forward, the library will be planning a needs assessment to better understand how to respond to the information needs of people living with and at risk of HIV/AIDS today, and how to better capitalize on current information management trends like online resources and the growing interest in knowledge transfer and exchange. Changes in both the HIV/AIDS community and the library and research community will surely create many new milestones for the ACT Library if the need to address HIV/AIDS continues and sees us around for another 20 years.

To view the timeline and presentation from the open house, visit the ACT Library online at www.actoronto.org/library

Submitted by:

*Erica Lee, Librarian
AIDS Committee of Toronto*



Homewood Health Centre

Homewood Health Centre in Guelph, Ontario is a leader in mental health and addiction treatment, providing specialized psychiatric services to all Canadians. A 312-bed facility, it is located on 47 beautiful acres of wooded land on the Speed River.

In 2008, the Homewood Health Centre is proudly celebrating 125 years of service. Earlier this year the Guelph Museum held a successful four month exhibit entitled 125 years of Improving Life.

Homewood has received numerous awards, including the prestigious Canada Award of Excellence – Quality Award, Healthy Workplace Award and the Order of Excellence Award.



Dr John A. Watt, Homewood's Executive Director from 1986-90, was one of the first psychiatrists in Canada to realize the benefits of bibliotherapy. (Can. Jrl of Psych., V37(3), 1992) He suggested that our librarian, Joyce Pharoah, purchase consumer health books for our book cart as an adjunct therapy for our patients. Our patient library was established in 1982 and has continually expanded and improved its services. Today, the Homewood library has grown to over 300 users daily, and houses over 20,000 catalogued items.

The library's mission is to empower those in need of mental health care to make informed decisions by facilitating learning and behavioural changes that will permit early recovery and a quick return to the community at large.



The Homewood library provides the following items and services to clients:

- Reference books
- Large-print collection
- Talking Books
- 900 VHS videos / DVDs
- 25 magazine subscriptions and 3 daily newspapers
- Consumer health books (predominantly mental health)
- Fiction
- Biography / Autobiography
- Internet Access through 8 computer stations
- Pamphlets and picture files
- Photocopying, scanning, printing, faxing, and laminating services

The patient library is totally funded by the Homewood Volunteer Association (HVA). The HVA also operates the cafe, the gift store and various fund raising activities. The library is fortunate to receive some of the profits generated by the HVA.

The library is staffed by one full time librarian, 1 part time assistant and 52 volunteers. The staff also serve the information needs of the Homewood employees. We are open 7 days a week from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. - thanks to our large roster of volunteers.

Submitted by:

*Joyce Pharoah, Co-ordinator of the Library & Jayne Harley, Library Technician
Homewood Health Centre
Guelph, Ontario*

Providing Information to People Living with Complex Chronic Conditions

Evidence shows that there are growing numbers of people living with complex chronic diseases. This fact has been recognized by both the World Health Organization and the Ontario Government as one of the important emerging health issues of the 21st century. Bridgepoint Health, a complex care and rehabilitation hospital in Toronto has opened our new Health Information Centre in response to an overall need to address health literacy and this chronic disease epidemic.



An aging society and the increasing number of people living with chronic conditions also means that their information needs are increasing. Development of the new Centre supports the hospital's overall LiveWell! Initiative. This is a wellness philosophy that focuses on health promotion, both as part of the overall organizational culture and in the provision of integrated disease prevention programs and services. One of the main goals of the LiveWell! Program is to support self care and empowerment of patients and families so that they may develop the confidence and skills to find meaning, personal satisfaction and achieve quality of life.

The new Health Information Centre opened October 31st 2008 and currently services patients, their families and the larger Bridgepoint community. As well as a specialized book collection, we provide access to information resources, programs and relevant services. Suggestions from Bridgepoint staff and our patients and families have been incorporated into the collection development. Telephone, e-mail and in-person information requests are handled by a professional librarian or trained volunteer.

This service will be further extended with a substantial web component and online reference service that is currently under development. As people with complex chronic conditions become more sophisticated and knowledgeable in their quest for information and in use of new technologies, resource centres such as this one need to find innovative ways to provide timely and accessible health information. To meet this requirement our LiveWell! Health Information Centre will focus on incorporating the best of the world wide web and emerging consumer-driven sites and technologies to our online planning and design. Ideally, this online presence will be a 'one stop shop' for people living with complex chronic conditions. It will help them not only to learn more about how to live with and manage their conditions, but also to prevent further complications and progression of these conditions and so enable them to thrive.

The LiveWell! Health Information Centre is located on the First Floor, Room 104 at Bridgepoint Health, 14 St. Matthews Road Toronto. LiveWell! Staff can be reached at 416-470-6723 or livewell@bridgepointhealth.ca

Submitted by:

*Susan Himel & Bozenna Karczewska
Bridgepoint Health
Toronto, Ontario*

CHIS Toronto Asthma Fair

On September 29, the Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS) hosted an Asthma Fair in the Atrium of the Toronto Reference Library. Major exhibitors included the Asthma Society of Canada, CMHC, the Hospital for Sick Children, the Ontario Lung Association, Toronto Public Health and, of course, CHIS.

The Fair was a great success with close to 300 people attending. Highlights included an informative lecture, consultations with experts in the field, lots of handouts, and fabulous prizes.

Submitted by:

*Glynis Sheppard
Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS)*



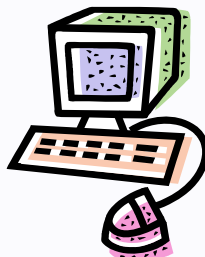
Susan Murray, Manager of CHIS, cutting the ribbon to open the Fair



HIDDEN GEMS

Websites

Toronto Public Library's Consumer Health Information Service (CHIS) Blog



The aim of the CHIS blog, launched in mid-September, is to help the public, librarians who assist the public, and health intermediaries make sense of timely health topics. The blog messages are short articles written in plain language that link to evidence-based sources. Recent topics include listeriosis, bisphenol A, breast cancer, childhood obesity, and others. Feedback and suggestions for future topics are welcome: go to the blog and click on the "contact CHIS" feature.

<http://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/chis>

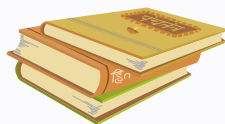
CAPHIS Consumer Connections

CAPHIS Consumer Connections are now available at the following website, the majority of the content being book reviews. One does not need to be a member to access them.

<http://caphis.mlanet.org/publications/consumerconnections.html>

Recommended by:

*Susan Murray
Consumer Health Information Service
Toronto Reference Library
Toronto, Ontario*



Books

Crohn's & Colitis Diet Guide by A. Hillary Steinhart and Julie Cepo. Toronto: Robert Rose, 2008

Written by two clinicians from the gastroenterology department at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, this publication deals with the nutritional needs and special dietary requirements of individuals with Crohn's

disease and ulcerative colitis, both chronic conditions of the digestive system. It offers reliable dietary advice and strategies combined with 150 appropriate recipes.

Goes Down Easy by Elsie Mecklinger with the Princess Margaret Hospital Dietitians. Toronto: The Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation, 2006

A practical cookbook containing over 100 recipes to help people living with cancer and their families to manage eating difficulties during treatment. Consumer health books that focus on nutrition therapy are popular with both patients and clinical staff, as the importance of good nutrition to well-being is increasingly recognized.

Recommended by:

*Christine Marton
Adjunct Instructor
University of Toronto, Faculty of Information*

DVDs



Beyond Memory: a Documentary about Dementia produced and directed by Sharon Bartlett & Maria LeRose. Ottawa: National Film Board of Canada, 2007. 76min.

A DVD from the National Film Board which provides a moving revelation of what it's like to live with dementia or to love someone with the disease. Five individuals with different types of memory loss and their families are shown coping with the situation and getting the best out of each day. An excellent resource for caregivers, as well as those in the early stages of these devastating conditions.

This is just one of several DVDs on health topics which can be obtained from the National Film Board at <http://tinyurl.com/59fbpz> Select the category Health and Healing in the left hand column.

Recommended by:

*Liz Gibbon
Health Information & Wellness Centre
Trillium Health Centre—West Toronto
Toronto, Ontario*

CHIPIG MEMBER NEWS!

The Marion Powell Women's Health Information Centre is on the move!

In early 2009, the centre will be moving to a temporary space on the first floor. While the space is smaller, it is on a well-traveled path so visibility is expected to increase.

The centre will probably move one more time while the present Women's College Hospital is torn down and a new building is built.

In 2014, the location in the new building is to be located on the first floor in the main lobby and the space will be even larger than that at present. In 2014 there will be an opportunity to create the ideal consumer health library!

News from the CHIPIG Executive

New Members

Marilyn Schafer and Marg Muir were elected to the executive. Their bios are on the CHIPIG website

The Executive for 2008/09

Co-Chairs [Mary Anne Howse](#) and [Marilyn Schafer](#)
 Secretary [Erica Lee](#)
 Treasurer [Mary Robinson](#)
 Membership [Marg Muir](#)
 Newsletter Editor [Judith Purdell-Lewis](#)
 Webmaster [Taryn Lenders](#)
 Member-at-Large [Christine Marton](#)

CHIPIG website www.chipig.ca

The webmaster, Taryn Lenders, has given the website a new look and added a "members only" section

A listing of Consumer Health Libraries (alphabetical) is now available on the website.

Membership

Consumer health librarians and information specialists are encouraged to become members of CHIPIG. See <http://www.chla-absc.ca/chipig/members.html> for more information.

HELLOS

Marilyn Schafer

Marion Powell Women's Health Information Centre,
 Women's College Hospital
 Toronto, ON

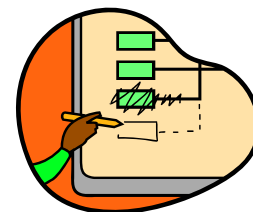
Bozena Karczewska

Coordinator
 LiveWell! Health Information Centre
 Bridgepoint Health
 Toronto, ON

Please check the CHIPIG website for contact information on these new people.

>Welcome

MOVES AND CHANGES



Mary Anne Howse

Manager, Library Services

Mary Anne is now responsible for managing the Health Sciences Library as well as the Marion Powell Women's Health Information Centre at Women's College Hospital.

Judith Purdell-Lewis

Board Member, Community Information Service,
 Hamilton

The Consumer Health Information Centre at St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton unfortunately closed its doors in August due to funding cuts. Judith continues to be involved in consumer health from her home base and continues as co-editor of this newsletter

For more information about the CHIPIG newsletter contact the Newsletter Committee members:

Liz Gibbon at egibbon@thc.on.ca,

Judith Purdell-Lewis at judithpl56@gmail.com