

• Contents •

**Mississauga Fall Round Up.....1**  
**Gratitude .....2**  
**Laughter is the best medicine .....2**  
**Have You Heard.....3**  
**Archives Alley ..... 3**  
**Intergroup Report ..... 4**  
**Cartoon..... 4**

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## Mississauga Fall Round Up

Saturday October 2nd 2010



I woke up one morning to sunlight beams streaming through my window. Sunlight provides energy for plants to photosynthesize food and allows humans to produce vitamin D, both essential to life. These are not thoughts I would have had when I awoke in my drinking days. The sunlight would have made my queasy stomach more upset, my burning eyes more painful and my pounding head more unbearable. My perception has changed due to what I have learned in A.A.

Even more profound than these changes of perception with respect to sunlight is what I have learned in A.A. about the sunlight of the Spirit, the maintenance and growth of a spiritual experience (Big Book p. 66 ed.4). The Sunlight of the Spirit is the theme chosen for this year's Mississauga Fall Round Up.

The event takes place on Saturday October 2nd at St. Mary's Catholic Ukrainian Church on Cawthra Road just south of Burnhamthorpe. There is plenty of free parking.

Registration opens at 8 am with freshly brewed coffee and snacks, and kicks off a day filled with excellent A.A., Al-Anon and Alateen speakers. The event should be over by 3:30 pm.

Tickets cost \$20 (\$5 for Alateen guests), unchanged for the last 5 years. You will be treated to a hot and cold buffet lunch, featuring delicious Ukrainian perogies (dumplings) and cabbage rolls, salads, cold meats and buns followed by pastries for dessert. Coffee, tea and snacks will be available throughout the day.

One of the highlights of the day is the A.A., Al-Anon family panel. Members of the same family share their unique perspectives in a powerful session that is one of the most popular of the Mississauga Fall Round Up.

The not-to-be-missed sobriety countdown promises once again to be an exciting celebration of the success of A.A.

Tickets are available from Committee members at meetings throughout District 6 in August and September, can be reserved on-line or can be purchased at the door on the day of the Round Up.

**Mark Saturday October 2nd as a day to be part of "The Sunlight of the Spirit." For more info, visit [www.mississaugafallroundup.org](http://www.mississaugafallroundup.org)**

**The Round Up Committee**

### 32nd Annual Toronto Gratitude Roundup

**Date:** October 15-17

**Location:** Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 475 Yonge St.

This year's theme is *We are not saints*. Hosted by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered A.A. members. Roundup includes speakers, workshops, entertainment and meals. For more information visit [www.torontogratitude roundup.org](http://www.torontogratitude roundup.org).

### 2010 Mississauga Fall Roundup

**Date:** October 2nd 2010

**Time:** 8am - 3pm (approx.)

**Location:** St. Mary's Catholic Ukrainian Church, 3625 Cawthra Road, Mississauga

**Cost:** \$20 (\$5 for Alateen)

# Gratitude Article

To borrow from J.F.K., ask not what AA can do for you, but rather ask what you can do for AA. If AA is the foundation of a new life for me, it is supporting everything that has come my way since joining the fellowship.

So what do I do to support AA? Everyone might ask themselves that question every now and then. There are lots of things one can do as service that support AA at a variety of levels. There has to be one best suited to you and your skills. Not everyone can do everything, but every ONE can do SOME thing. Carrying the message, our primary purpose, can be done in so many ways.

Just showing up at my own group, or at other groups I visit on a regular basis, is uplifting for me. It is reassuring that familiar faces I know and trust are still there. You just never know who you are going to meet, to learn from or to help along our spiritual path. Then there are innumerable tasks that are always required at the group level, the district level and at every other level of service in AA.

And now with Gratitude Month, October, on the horizon, there is the financial aspect of supporting AA. Tradition 7 says we should try to be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions. Since we in AA tend to be tighter than bark to a tree, as stated in the Self-Support pamphlet, we tend to forget that for all the good works we try to accomplish, it is still money that makes the world go round. In the same pamphlet, Bill W. wrote, "Our spiritual way of life is safe for future generations if, as a Society, we resist the temptation to accept donations from the outside world, but that leaves us with a responsibility that we cannot skimp when the group passes the basket."

But beyond the 7th Tradition we can also make a personal annual contribution to support the work of Intergroup during Gratitude Month. The way that I determine the amount of my contribution is to calculate x amount of dollars for each year of sobriety that AA has given me.

We owe it to ourselves and to those who will follow to squarely accept our responsibility to fully support the program of AA, its service committees, and the programs to carry the message to the suffering alcoholic. We have to go to any length to keep AA alive and healthy.

Yours In Service,

Jim A.

## Laughter is the best medicine!



We are, as best I know, the only animal capable of laughter. That does not mean that we are the only animal which laughs, for all too many of us find nothing about which to laugh.

I know of no better celebration of the gift of sobriety than inducing honest laughter in another human being. Not necessarily the smutty-joke kind of laughter, although I know a few of them myself, but the open, sunny, isn't-that-funny, I-can't-believe-I-said-that, how-did-you-do-that, isn't-that-something laughter.

There are certain things we speak of doing each day, at our own times, in our own ways. Praying, thanking, brushing teeth, working, playing, maybe even going to a meeting.

If I have a gift for laughter, it is because that laughter is within me and must come out. Laughter, of all things, not shared, cannot be laughter enjoyed.

My day is poorly spent if I have not induced a smile or a laugh in at least one other human.

My day has been well-spent if I have been able to laugh at myself, at least once, for in doing so I get a glimpse of much-needed humility, a sense of my smallness in this universe, coupled with a sense of my special significance, for amongst all the bio-mass on this planet, I am the only sort that can enjoy a good laugh.

Christopher G., Member of AA

## Overheard at a meeting:

*"Living my life is like fitting together pieces of a jigsaw puzzle: try this here, put that there, move this around. It is sobriety and AA that is the foundation I can figure it out on!"*

# haveyouheard

## Recent Medallions:

Emma K.	1	Golden Mile Group	August 4
Mimy C.	10	King City Group	August 16
John B.	15	Prince Edward Group	August 16
Roberta W.	20	Unionville Group	August 18
Jim L.	1	Prince Edward Group	August 23
Margaret H.	1	King City Group	August 23
Kathy N.	1	Shepherd Group	August 24
Ken M.	5	Maple Group	August 26
Frank L.	1	King City Group	August 30
Katie B.	1	Prince Edward Group	August 30
Earl L.	15	East York Group	August 31

## Upcoming Medallions:

Peter P.	25	New Anchor Group	September 2
Linda M.	15	A Place to Share	September 7
Kumar B.	40	Anniversary Group	September 8
Bill W.	25	Maple Group	September 9
Michael A.	10	Lawrence Plaza	September 12
Darlene N.	20	Six Points Group	September 13
Mike M.	35	Prince Edward	September 13
Don W.	20	Don Mills Group	September 15
Eva N.	20	Golden Mile Group	September 15
Doug A.	1	Tuesday Night Disc.	September 16
Ed V.	35	New Anchor Group	September 16
Alexandra D.	1	Unionville Group	September 22
Paul G.	35	Golden Mile Group	September 22
Bert J.	25	Silverbirch Group	September 24
Cy C.	35	Back to Basics	September 24
Celie J.	20	Prince Edward Group	September 27

Barry M.	5	St. Patrick's Group	September 28
Mary M.	30	A Place to Share	September 29
Steve E.	10	Kingsway Group	September 29
Betty R.	20	Danforth Group	September 30
Lucio D.	1	Back to Basics	October 1
Gabrielle M.	10	New Anchor Group	October 14

## Meeting Changes:

**Conscious Contact (C)** Saturday 10am (SUBURBAN WEST): Meeting has been cancelled for the summer.

**Heron Park Drop-in Centre (O)** Wednesday 12:15pm (EAST): Meeting is cancelled September 8 & 10

**Joyful Steps to Recovery (C)** Wednesday 3pm (EAST): Until further notice, Joyful Steps to Recovery meeting is cancelled

## New Meetings:

**Silverbirch Group (C)** Monday 8pm (EAST): Silverbirch Group has added a 12&12 discussion meeting. Meeting is located at St. John's Norway Church, 470 Woodbine Avenue. This is in addition to our regular Friday night Open Meeting and Big Book discussion meetings.

## Announcements:

**Mississauga Fall Roundup: Sunlight of the Spirit** will be held on Saturday October 2 from 8am to 3:30pm. Event will be held at St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church at 3625 Cawthra Road in Mississauga. Includes AA, AI-Anon and Alateen speakers and a hot and cold buffet lunch. Tickets are \$20 (Alateen \$5).

**Lake of the Woods 39th Annual A.A. Roundup** will be held September 10–12 at the Best Western Lakeside Inn & Conference Centre, near 470 1st Avenue S in Kenora, ON.

**District 70 Renfrew-Pontiac Fall Conference** will be held October 9th at 115 Veteran's Memorial Boulevard in Renfrew, Ontario. For more info visit [www.aatoronto.org](http://www.aatoronto.org).

**63rd Annual Cornwall AA Conference** will be held November 5–6 at the Ramada Inn, 805 Brookdale Avenue, Cornwall, Ontario. For more information visit [ottawaaa.org](http://ottawaaa.org).

**59th Eastern Ontario Area A.A. Conference** will be held September 3–4 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 101 Lyon Street in Ottawa. For more information go to [www.ottawaaa.org](http://www.ottawaaa.org) and follow the Conference link.

**42nd Autumn Leaf Hamilton Roundup** will be held September 17–19 at the Sheraton Hamilton Hotel, 116 King Street West in Hamilton. For more info call 905-522-8399 or email [autumnleafroundup@aahamilton.com](mailto:autumnleafroundup@aahamilton.com).

**32nd Annual Toronto Gratitude Roundup** will be held October 15–17 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 475 Yonge St. This year's theme is *We are not saints*. Hosted by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered A.A. members. Roundup includes speakers, workshops, entertainment and meals. For more information visit [www.torontogratitudearoundup.org](http://www.torontogratitudearoundup.org).

**Markland Wood Group** will be celebrating their 40th anniversary on October 21 at St. Clements Catholic Church, 409 Markland Drive in Etobicoke. Plenty of food and fellowship to be had. All are welcome to join us in our celebration!

## archivesalley

### Publishing the Big Book

In the early days of AA, deciding to publish a book was a means of acquiring some income for Dr. Bob and Bill W. and to publicly acknowledge the help they could offer to alcoholics. Both men were fully engaged in working with alcoholics and had insufficient revenue to finance such a venture.

By 1937, Bill W. and Dr. Bob were in severe financial straits. Only Bill's wife Lois held down a job in a department store in Brooklyn. Dr. Bob's medical practice had ground to a halt and never fully recovered. Bill's future looked grim. The main reason that he went to Akron, Ohio was to gain control of a tire company that included a position for him. That fell through.

Bill W. wrote, edited and rewrote the Big Book. Ruth Hock, A.A.'s first secretary, typed it and circulated it to AA members from New York to Akron. Many outside of AA offered excellent guidance.

Hank P. was the first alcoholic that Bill W. sobered up in New York. He was a high-powered energetic entrepreneur

and he engineered the publication of the book. His solution to financing the book was to sell shares for \$25 each (\$300 today). The shares called 'Works Publishing' eventually came under AA's control and the book was published in April 1939. The cost of the book was \$3.50 (\$40.00 today). Few of them sold.

Bill W. was offered \$1500 (\$18,000 today) in advances by Harper Bros. publishers for the book. It was a huge sum for an unpublished author. The newly formed Alcoholic Foundation was not supportive of AA's self-publication but Bill and Hank were adamant. Ironically, their only concern was a run-away best seller and how to deal with the flood of requests for help. That didn't happen overnight.

Today, our book "Alcoholics Anonymous" is one of the greatest successes in the history of publishing.

**Bernadette MacL.** (reprinted from *BT June, 2003*)

# July 2010: Intergroup Report

**Chair's Opening Remarks:** John C. (Half Century), Executive Committee Chair – "Remember when it doesn't hurt anymore"

**Finance Report:** Don M. (Hill), Finance Chairperson – Finance Report for the month of June 2010 Summary:

	Income	Expenses	Net Income
<b>June</b>	\$21,669	\$14,664	\$7,005
<b>Comp. to Budget</b>	7,661	-2,375	10,086
<b>Year to Date</b>	\$208,105	\$176,404	\$10,132
<b>Comp. to Budget</b>	126,233	84,549	34,173

Don also reported that non-cash items (for example: interest income) tallied at \$3,175 and an unrealized gain of \$2,130 complies with audit recommendations.

A new position of Membership Coordinator, approved by the Executive Committee, was created in an attempt to reach out to groups that currently do not participate at Intergroup. This position is a one-year trial basis. Gregg W. (Rox Glen Traditional) will take on the position and will meet with groups in order to make them aware of Intergroup's role and ask group members for contact information. This position will be funded by a budget under-run.

**Question:** Why are we not exempt from HST? **Answer:** The Province granted PST exemptions to charitable organizations for program-related items which we applied to all sales in the Literature Department. With the implementation of HST, only books are exempt from the Provincial part of HST (8%). Literature customers will continue to pay only GST on books. Charities only remit 60% of HST collected and we get a rebate of 82% of the Provincial portion of HST that we pay for goods and services. Under PST, we received no rebate for PST that Intergroup paid. These HST changes were intended to be revenue-neutral and we expect them to actually benefit Intergroup's net income.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

**Access Ability:** Cathy Z., Chairperson – We've been asked to participate at District 22's service day in September. We are going to begin replacing our old VHS and audio tapes we use for our displays with CD's and DVD's.

**Archives:** Gord H., Chairperson – On October 3, 2010, an "A.A. Through the Eyes of a Member (Bobby D.)" event will be held. This is an amazing collection of information that Bobby kept of all meetings for almost 50 years. Event will be held on Sun. Oct. 3 from noon until 4 p.m. at the location where the Leslie Group meets. This event is free. Voluntary contributions will be used to preserve and conserve the collection.

**Corrections:** Sara M., Executive Committee member – In District 18, the Don Jail is always looking for volunteers. 2 years of sobriety is needed for this service, and volunteers need to fill out a CPIC (Canadian Police Information Centre) form to be vetted for Corrections service. The Toronto East Detention Center also requires 2 years of sobriety to volunteer there. In District 02, at both the Roy McMurtry and Vanier facilities, volunteers have been carrying the message to young women. Volunteers reported that, although the young women admit that they have issues with drugs, they also realize alcohol is indeed a problem for most of them. Literature and books are always needed in facilities.

**CPC:** No report was given.

**Info AA Day 2010:** Phil M., Chairperson – 206 tickets were sold for the event (142 advance sales; 64 tickets sold at the door). All expenses have been paid and the remaining monies left over (\$873.72) will be donated between GSO, Area, and Intergroup.

**ORC 2011:** Sara M., Hotel Coordinator, ORC 2012 – Committees for 2011 and 2012 event met for an informal 'meet and greet'.

**Public Information:** A brief report was given by Phil M. – Committee in the process of being vetted by the Toronto District School Board; they have been approved. Volunteers are needed to speak in schools. Young AA members would be beneficial for this service, as the students would be able to identify with younger folk. A Speaker Training Session is going to be held to inform

volunteers on how to give presentations in schools. Please call 416-910-9161 for more information. The sobriety requirement for this service is two years. School Presentations are usually given during lunch hours.

**Twelfth Step:** Tom S., Chair – Tom was in San Antonio, and while there attended a workshop on Intergroups. He found that a survey had been done which determined that alcoholics first call local Intergroup Offices for help. He then read the mission statement from our current Procedures and Guidelines: "Greater Toronto Area Intergroup is a coordinating body that supports the 12 Step Work of AA Groups in the Toronto Area, providing a point of contact between individual groups, the public, and the still-suffering alcoholic." Volunteers are always needed. Volunteers for monthly Greater Captains are also needed.

**Website/Better Times:** Aaron K. – If you were at the World Convention in San Antonio, we would like to hear about it – either in a sentence, paragraph, or a full 350-word story. Please send in submissions anytime online, and please have them in by the 10th of the month. We have a new medallion order form online as of this morning (the 27th). There is a direct link on the homepage [www.aatoronto.org](http://www.aatoronto.org).

## NEW BUSINESS

A new Executive Committee member is needed, as EC member David B. hasn't attended Intergroup for the last 3 months. There was call for nominations and/or volunteers. Donna C. (Unionville) is the new Executive Committee member.

Tracy R. (Anniversary) read a letter from The Anniversary Group regarding a proposal to restructure the ORC fee schedule. A full copy of the letter can be seen online at [www.aatoronto.org](http://www.aatoronto.org)

**MOTION:** That the Toronto Intergroup members examine the feasibility of a flexible admission package for members of Alcoholics Anonymous to attend future Ontario Regional Conferences (ORC).

After this Motion was read, Executive Committee Chair John C. commented that the ORC operates independently of Intergroup. Don M., Finance Chair, added that members can make recommendations directly to the ORC.

A Floor member inquired as to whether a member of the Anniversary Group could volunteer on the ORC committee to advance this proposal. Sara M., Executive Committee member and ORC 2012 member, stated that there are no spaces available on the committee, but said that she would present this to the ORC 2011/2012 committee in September.

There being no further business, Motion to close meeting was moved by Dee T. (Streetsville) and seconded by Sharlee G. (Pathfinders). MOTION CARRIED.

