

BETTER TIMES

Produced for A.A. members, by A.A. members in the GTA



BILL & BOB'S
REST STOP

UNLEADED

164.00

PREMIUM

574.90

DIESEL

8TH OPEN

SERVICE
HERE!

VACANCY

A.A.
CAFE

Alcoholics
Anonymous

APRIL 2022



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Toronto, ON M4P 1K5
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MEDALLIONS



NAME	YEARS	DRY DATE	GROUP	CELEBRATION
Dave F	25	22/03/1997	Lighthouse Group	01/04/2022
Mike B	35	01/04/1987	Melrose Group	02/04/2022

WOMEN IN AA

A Better Times issue devoted to stories
about women in AA - past, present and future.

Articles, personal stories, poems -- tell your
story and send to bettertimes@aatoronto.org



SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

[Better Times Volunteers](#) [we need writers!](#)

[Phone Greeters](#)

[2 Step Committee Members](#)

[Bilingual Member Resource](#)

[IT Sub-Committee Members](#)

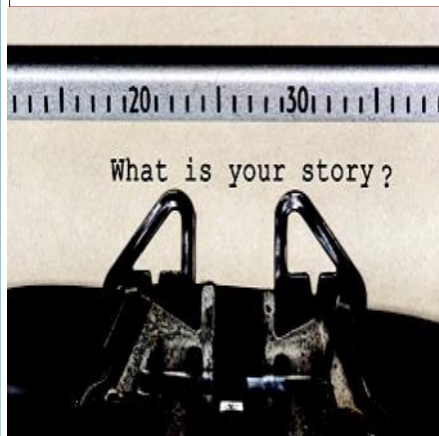
[Self-Support Chair](#)

[Finance Committee Member](#)



MEETING CHANGES

This pandemic has brought about incredible changes and quickly; please don't forget that our website and meeting list updates are dependant on you letting us know [here](#).



Opinions expressed in *BETTER TIMES* are those of the authors and don't necessarily reflect those of the [GTA A.A. Intergroup](#). The Editor reserves the right to edit for length, content and grammar in accordance with layout and quality purposes. Submit group news, medallions, other event notices to: communications@aatoronto.org Letters or articles to the Editor (200-500 words) for *BETTER TIMES* at bettertimes@aatoronto.org

INFO A.A. DAY SERVICE IS FOR EVERYONE



MEETING ID
871 1949 3203
PASSWORD
985556

Virtual doors will
open at 9 am

Full meeting agen-
da will be availa-
ble in the May is-
sue.

JOIN US SATURDAY MAY 28TH 2022 VIRTUALLY

Hear how the legacy of service plays a significant role in recovery.

How to get involved and the many opportunities available.

TWELFTH STEP COMMITTEE carrying the message to the still suffering alcoholic

From the comfort of home, the calls will be channelled right to your phone

We really need overnight greeters. Do you have 1 year of sobriety?

READ MORE HERE:

<https://www.aatoronto.org/twelfth-step/>

EMAIL:

12step@aatoronto.org

or call 416 487-5591

My life is a mess
cause of my
drinking...
I need help!

Hello,
I think I have a
drinking
problem!

Where is there a
meeting?

VIRTUAL EAST TORONTO ARCHIVES BREAKFAST

Hi Everybody: This is your welcoming invite to the 17th installment of the [East Toronto Archives Breakfast](#) which will once again be on-line. It will be co-hosted by the [Archives Committees of Toronto](#) City East District 18, and Scarborough District 22. We've got a great line-up which is guaranteed to satisfy.

The virtual doors open at 8:30 am to allow for fellowship, fun and frolic. All get welcomed in style during the opening remarks after which

Shawn H. will be introduced. He will do a most interesting and informative, power point and pictorial presentation of the historic [Wilson House](#).

Bill W., one of the co-founders of [A.A.](#), was born November 26, 1895, in the Wilson House in East Dorset, Vermont. He spent most of his childhood and adolescence in that vicinity before expanding his horizons. He eventually to become famous for his contributions to a fellowship credited with saving millions of lives. The house remains a national heritage site, and Bill W's body was laid to final rest nearby. A few years ago,

the [East Toronto Archives Breakfast Committee](#) decided to feature a brief historical presentation by a group in each of the Districts, beginning with the oldest first, and then moving on to the next group the following year. This year we will be featuring the SOS group from District 18, and the [Wanstead group](#) from District 22.

From recounting some foundations of the fellowship, to shining a spotlight on local group histories, we'll then ask you to help us give a nice warm welcome to Ruth P. from the [Pine Hills group](#), with 48 years of sobriety. Ruth will share her experience, strength and hope with us. A widely recognized principle that many hold dear is that a person gets to keep their so-

briety by giving it away. Ruth's story will certainly contain many examples of service in action—48 years worth. All of our personal stories are examples of the miraculous ways in which the Higher Power of our own understanding (which some choose to call God) has touched our lives, and offered us release from a seemingly hopeless state of body and mind.

To reflect that, those of us present will then be invited to participate in the sobriety countdown. We will be asked to disclose the length of our individual sobriety, which when tallied together, will show the collective length of sobriety we all share. Certainly a reason to celebrate and express gratitude!—[East Toronto Archives Breakfast](#)

VIRTUAL EAST TORONTO ARCHIVES BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 1, 2022, 9 am to 12 pm EST Doors open at 8:30 am

Zoom Meeting ID: 268 768 0432: 18221822

Telephone Access: (647) 789-7890

For more information or to make an e-transfer contribution to the Archives Committees of Districts 18 and 22 go to easttorontoarchivesbreakfast@gmail.com



72nd GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE

Check out the 2022 Pre-conference Agenda Sharing [Dashboard](#) and your [Invitation](#) to participate

(Sharing Sessions will be held March 20–April 11, 2022)

GROUPS BEGUN IN APRIL:

- April 2, 2011 - [A Place of Hope Meeting](#)
- April 4, 2009 - [Saturday Night Main Street Meeting](#)
- April 6, 2007 - [Leslie Group](#)
- April 9, 1956 - [Pine Hills Group](#)
- April 10, 1997 - [12 Tradition Group in Pickering](#)
- April 12, 1992 - [Back to Basics Group in Richmond Hill](#)
- April 13, 2017 - [Gay Sober Men Group](#)
- April 19, 1992 - [Meadowvale Fellowship Group](#)
- April 21, 1957 - [Welcome Group](#)
- April 24, 1949 - [Toronto Sunday Morning Men's Meeting](#)



VIRTUAL

**#17
East Toronto
Archives
Breakfast**



**Sunday, May 1, 2022
Virtual Archives Breakfast
9:00 am - 12:00 pm EST**



9:00 am Chairperson's Welcome

9:15 - Wilson House Presentation
10:30 am the house where
Bill W. was born

10:30 am Open speaker meeting
Ruth P. 48 yrs sobriety
Pine Hills group

11:30 am Virtual sobriety count-down

12:00 pm Fellowship

Virtual Event on Zoom

meeting ID: 268 768 0432

passcode: 18221822

telephone access:

(647) 558-0588

[join meeting](#)

**Event hosted
by District
18 & 22**

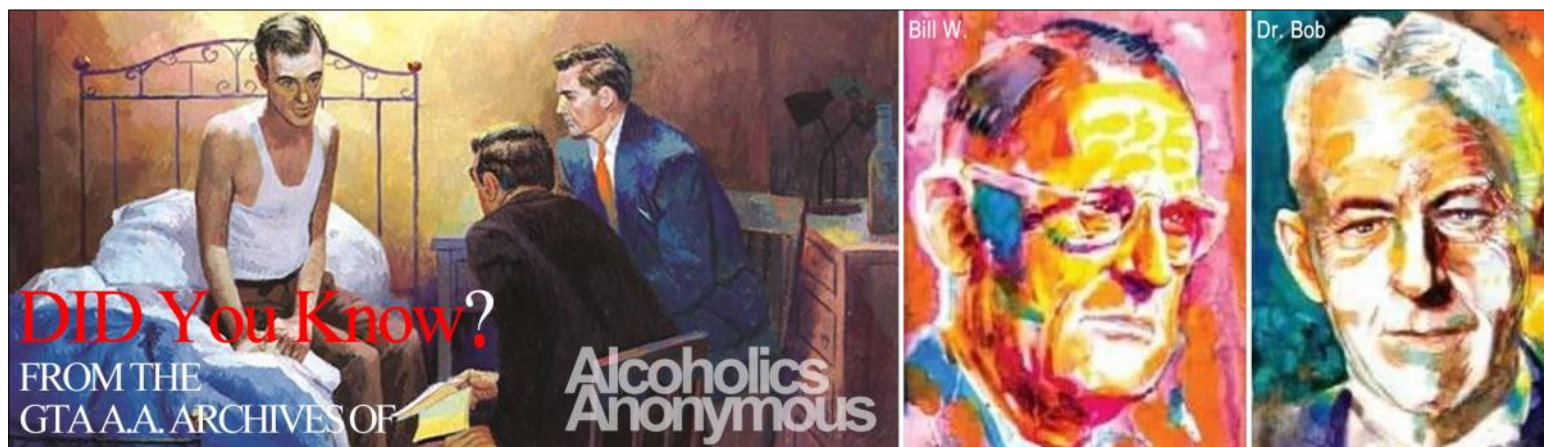


**Bring a friend, bring a sponsee,
bring your sponsor!**



Your contributions support Archives in Districts 18 & 22.
e-transfers accepted at: easttorontoarchivesbreakfast@gmail.com

Print and Post Please



- In April 1933 beer became legal and Dr. Bob went through a "beer experiment." Soon he was drinking over a case a day fortified with liquor. In his [Big Book](#) story Dr. Bob says that this was when he began in the Oxford Group, participating in it for over two years before meeting Bill W.
- In April 1935 and discouraged at having no success in sobering up other alcoholics, Bill came close to giving up on his efforts. However his wife Lois reminded him that HE was staying sober because of his working with others. Bill W. had a talk with [Dr. Silkworth](#) who advised him to stop preaching about his "hot flash" experience and hit the alcoholic hard with the medical view on alcoholism. Dr. Silkworth advised Bill to break down the strong egos of alcoholics by telling them about the obsession that condemns them to drink and the allergy that condemns them to go mad or die. It would then be so much easier to get them to accept the spiritual solution.
- In April 1937 Ebby T., who brought the message to Bill W., got drunk after 2 years and 7 months of sobriety. It began an on-again, off-again pattern of drinking and sobriety that would stay with Ebby.
- In April 1938 the writing of the Big Book began at the business office of NY member Hank P. (story in 1st Edition Big Book "Unbeliever") at Honors Dealers, 17 William St., Newark, NJ. Bill W. wrote draft outlines on legal pads and spontaneously dictated the expanded text to Ruth Hock who was then the Honors Dealer Secretary. Each week Bill would read the drafts to those who met at his home at 182 Clinton St, Brooklyn, NY. Edited copies were sent to Dr. Bob and the Akron members for further review and editing. As they worked their way through the chapters, NY and Akron members also wrote the personal stories to be included in the book.
- On April 4, 1939 the first edition of "[Alcoholics Anonymous](#)" was first published. 4,730 copies were published at \$3.50 a copy. The printer, Edward Blackwell of Cornwall Press, was told to use the thickest paper in his shop. The large, bulky volume became known as the Big Book. Bill W. later wrote that the idea was to convince the alcoholic he was getting his money's worth. Ray C. (whose Big Book story is "An Artist's Concept") designed the "circus color" dust jacket. The book had 8 Roman & 400 Arabic numbered pages. "The Doctor's Opinion" started as page 1 and the basic text ended at page 179 (not 164).
- On April 25, 1939 Morgan R., a former advertising man, asylum patient and friend of radio-man Gabriel Heatter, appeared on Heatter's 9 pm program "We the People." Morgan told his story and made a pitch for the Big Book. Prior to the broadcast, Bill W. and others raised \$500 to mail 20,000 post cards to physicians about the broadcast. There were only twelve replies.
- On April 26, 1939 the bank foreclosed on Bill and Lois's Brooklyn home at 182 Clinton St. It began an almost 2-year period of moving from house to house and staying with friends. They stay with Hank P. in Monclair, NJ, the first of 54 moves (by Lois Wilson's count) they would make before buying Stepping Stones in Bedford Hills, NY in 1941.
- On April 11, 1941, after 23 years of marriage, Bill and Lois moved into their own home in Bedford Hills, NY. It was first named "Bill-Lo's Break" and later renamed "Stepping Stones." Lois said "to get to the house from the garage, we used a shortcut of rugged stone steps down the steep hill. Because of the constant climbing up and down, we changed the name of the house to Stepping Stones. This also implied a connection with the Twelve Steps". The 7-room house was on 1.7 acres and financed at \$6,500. The mortgage payment was \$40 a month.

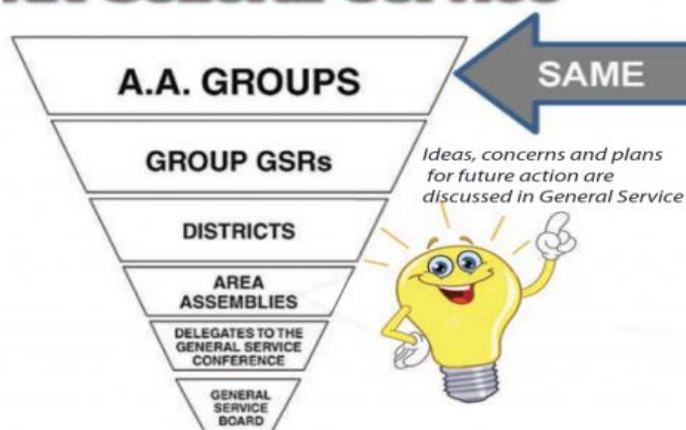
OLD GTA MEETING BOOKS ARE NEEDED FOR THE GTA ARCHIVES

TO DONATE AA/GTA ARCHIVAL ITEMS TO THE GTA ARCHIVES PLEASE CONTACT
THE GTA ARCHIVIST EDDY G. at 416-536-7536.

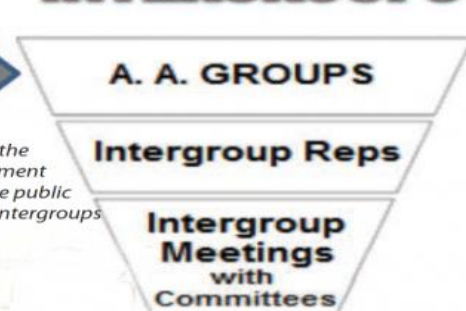
Service Connection Community

E	Y	A	I	T	W	G	S	A	T	S	E	R	V	I	C	E	C	S	F	traditions
C	W	G	E	H	N	H	E	L	P	B	D	E	B	Q	G	D	O	I	O	service
J	L	R	P	R	O	O	O	C	A	B	S	G	P	I	P	P	N	C	O	help
N	S	C	A	E	U	F	I	U	V	N	R	U	J	V	P	V	C	O	L	committees
W	S	D	O	O	V	T	Z	T	F	A	O	V	M	X	K	S	E	A	L	general
K	R	W	S	J	V	O	C	O	A	R	Q	N	Q	M	Z	L	P	O	C	conference
Z	N	S	B	S	I	B	Z	U	G	T	P	D	Y	R	E	D	T	S	E	intergroup
G	O	J	C	P	E	A	T	R	R	V	O	V	N	M	R	R	S	D	A	Toronto
G	Z	J	P	V	Y	N	E	R	A	T	K	R	J	V	I	N	I	H	D	chair
E	Y	N	U	Y	T	T	I	Z	S	Z	S	O	B	W	V	T	E	S	Y	representative
C	R	V	O	M	N	L	B	S	A	D	G	U	T	O	Y	R	Y	P	I	tradition
N	E	Q	R	I	X	J	A	N	U	N	U	P	Y	N	T	S	N	I	O	two
E	T	Y	G	I	T	G	B	R	N	B	A	L	G	O	O	J	Q	R	E	group
R	S	Y	C	C	A	I	Q	G	E	E	M	V	E	I	P	R	S	I	R	conscience
E	A	Q	O	H	H	Y	D	P	R	N	R	D	Z	T	E	Q	O	T	Y	trusted
F	M	Q	J	T	N	Z	K	A	C	L	E	O	A	C	K	V	W	T	F	servants
N	B	L	L	C	H	L	T	H	R	I	T	G	X	E	Z	U	S	A	A	area
O	E	J	N	T	A	E	N	G	C	T	M	Z	O	N	A	S	T	G	Q	webmaster
C	W	W	F	M	P	X	R	S	T	C	T	N	D	N	Z	E	N	Y	T	community
G	G	B	F	N	A	Q	Y	S	O	R	A	B	I	O	M	E	A	L	H	connection
A	W	Q	Y	Q	C	S	W	K	U	R	A	O	U	C	C	T	V	V	W	rotation
G	N	I	T	E	E	M	L	S	Y	G	J	D	B	C	T	T	R	D	Q	spirit
C	C	F	X	Z	A	U	T	W	K	P	Q	N	I	W	D	I	E	M	G	structure
C	I	L	D	L	C	E	S	D	E	Q	B	S	O	T	X	M	S	B	V	anonymity
S	R	Y	Y	T	D	W	O	D	Y	M	U	B	B	Z	I	M	C	J	S	business
D	F	R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T	I	V	E	O	E	P	A	meeting
Z	O	Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	W	H	P	K	B	C	N	G	Q	God
H	A	L	C	O	N	S	C	I	E	N	C	E	C	H	A	I	R	S	H	concepts

AA General Service



INTERGROUPS



SAME GROUPS

Carrying the message to the alcoholic in prisons, treatment centers, and informing the public is typically carried out in Intergroups

CORRECTIONS UPDATE SPRING 2022

The [GTA Inter-District Corrections Committee](#) coordinates the work of individual A.A. members and groups to carry the message of recovery to alcoholics who are in custody. The Committee meets monthly to share the resources of the eight Districts in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) serving

the Toronto South Detention Centre, Toronto East Detention Centre and the Ontario Corrections Institute. These resources include but are not limited to: connecting those being released with [A.A.](#) members in [Bridging the Gap](#), reaching out to probation and parole offices to carry the A.A. message, coordinating [PenPal](#) correspondence and assisting in the coordination of volunteers who go into these institutions [temporarily suspended due to COVID-19 but reopening hopefully soon]. A.A. members including those who have previously received security clearances **will need to reapply** (check with your local police services as fees made be waived for volunteers) and now is a good time to begin this process. In the interim, A.A. literature continues to be provided.

Bridging the Gap—past experience has shown attending an A.A. meeting on the outside on the day of release is one of the most effective tools for making a sober transition and maintaining continued sobriety. It is strongly recommended that the person in custody who is an A.A. member have an A.A. contact on the outside. This contact should preferably have at least one year's sobriety and be of the same gender. That member makes contact and arranges to meet the person leaving custody on the day of release to help in "Bridging the Gap" between the institution and A.A. on the outside [from the [Corrections Workbook](#), M-45i, p.36].

The [Corrections Correspondence Service](#) has been one of the most productive ways for individual A.A.

members to carry the message to persons in custody. The [General Service Office](#) staff responsible for Corrections receives approximately 35 letters a day from persons in custody who wish to receive A.A. literature, A.A. contacts, interim sponsorship, and correspondence with A.A.'s on the outside. It is difficult for an A.A. member

behind the walls to participate in ongoing individual sharing about the A.A. program of recovery, particularly in large prisons. The Corrections Correspondence and PenPal services

allow inmates to correspond with outside A.A.s on an individual basis [from the [Corrections Workbook](#), M-45i, p.45 and [PenPal Brochure](#)].

[A.A.s Carry the Message Behind the Walls](#) because it is an opportunity to carry the A.A. message to the confined alcoholic who wants to live sober, one day at a time. Through a Corrections Committee working with Corrections personnel, alcoholics are connected to our program who might never otherwise have found A.A.. An active Corrections Committee is a vital link to prisons and jails, providing professionals and other workers in correctional facilities with information about A.A., literature and guidelines for setting up A.A. groups on the inside [from the Corrections Workbook, M-45i, p.4].

For more information please email correc-tions@aatoronto.org. Please also email us if you are interested in attending one of the [monthly meetings](#) (1st Wednesday of each month) being held virtually until further notice (all are welcome) or read more about Corrections service work [here](#).

—[GTA Inter-District Corrections Committee](#)

"As we know, all A.A. progress can be reckoned in terms of just two words: *humility and responsibility*. Our whole spiritual development can be accurately measured by our degree of adherence to these magnificent standards." —Bill Wilson talk to the 1965 General Service Conference