

November 2025 11th Tradition

The 11th Tradition is a reminder that “our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion” and “we need always maintain personal anonymity”.

SHARE YOUR STORY



Please scan the QR Code or tap this box and you will be directed to our anonymous content submission page.

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BETTER TIMES is published monthly for AA members in the Greater Toronto Area.
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Opinions expressed in Better Times are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Greater Toronto Area Intergroup

How To Reach Us

Submit Group News, medallions, event notices, letters to the editor and articles to Better Times, before the 10th of the month prior to month of issue by email to

bettertimes@aatoronto.org
or contact Alex at 416-487-8110

GRATITUDE



There are so many things to be grateful for in this life. Since joining AA, my list has grown enormously. Life and health are merely the starting point. Sobriety expanded my catalogue of blessings, and more seem to arrive daily. Having arrived in the program several years ago and at “late middle age,” I realized that God is constantly working to give me the wisdom to know the difference between what I can change and what I cannot. One realization is the fact that life is brutally short. As Dan Fogelberg so eloquently stated in his song, “In the Passage”: “Life is never long when seen from end to end; the future’s never coming, and the past has never been”. I believe that in the final reckoning, good deeds are measured against all the foibles and mistakes of life. The gift of helping the next needy and troubled soul has given me the opportunity to be of service to the poor in spirit, the derelict, the sick, and those who are still suffering from the scourge of alcoholism. As clearly put in Step Twelve, I, as a recovering alcoholic, must make every effort to bring the message of Alcoholics Anonymous to the suffering alcoholic.

Gratitude must not be allowed to live in isolation. It needs to be passed on, or “invested” in the form of helping another downtrodden human being.

My blessings have included healthy, beautiful and talented children, a productive career spanning thirty-eight years, opportunities to explore nature and its bounty, and yes, the God-given responsibility to be of service to the less fortunate person. Thanksgiving is the truest form, not just a holiday full of excess, but of continuing “giving” that never stops. Gratitude lives on forever if seen in its totality.

-Victor V.

WANTED: PHONE GREETER COORDINATOR(S) FOR ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS TORONTO



Great opportunity for someone who has recently retired and who is computer-literate. This position makes use of the talents and abilities acquired over the years in the workplace, allowing you to stay current with technology.

You are savvy, organized, and love working in a team of other dedicated volunteers.

You've been around AA for some time. Your love is giving back. You welcome a challenge. If this describes you, the greeter coordinator position is tailor-made for you.

Anyone interested in filling this position can email:
greetercoordinator@aatoronto.org

DISTRICT 2 – 1ST UNITY IN RECOVERY ROUNDUP

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22ND,
2025.

Full day event: 9:00 am - Midnight

Tickets on Sale now – **No tickets sold at the door.**

Royal Canadian Legion
80 Mary Street, Brampton, ON.

Tickets:

Krishna D. (647) 299 - 3138

Maria M. (416) 884 - 6529

1ST ANNUAL DISTRICT 02 UNITY IN RECOVERY Roundup

Al-Anon Family Groups
Ontario South Al-Anon/Alateen

Together, we can do what we couldn't do alone.

Early Bird Prize \$50 The Keg Voucher

Day Ticket Includes:
Theatre Style Seating
Speakers
Self Serve Lunch
Social Room
Late Speaker & Dance
\$25

Full Day Includes:
Reserved Tables,
Speakers, Sit Down Lunch,
Social Room,
Sit Down Dinner,
Late Speaker & Dance
\$45

Feature Speakers
Paul G. Akron, Ohio
Paul K. Bradford Al-Anon, Keswick, ON
Annie H. Black River Group, Sutton, ON
Roman R. Stepping Stones, Toronto, ON
Christina G. Akron, Ohio
Late Speaker
Deb H. Akron, Ohio

NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR

22 NOVEMBER 2025

**ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION
80 MARY ST. BRAMPTON, ON**

EVENT DETAILS

- Inspiring Speakers
- Early Bird Prize
- Door Prizes
- 50/50 Draw
- Lunch
- Gift Shop
- Social Room
- Fellowship
- Dinner
- DJ & Dance

AGENDA

9:00am - 10:00am	Registration
10:00am - 4:30pm	Speakers & Lunch
4:30pm - 6:00pm	Social Room
6:30pm - 7:50pm	Sit Down Dinner
7:50pm - 8:00pm	Welcome & Gratitude
8:05pm - 9:05pm	Late Speaker
9:15pm - 12:00am	Dance With DJ

INFO / TICKETS

Krishna D. 647-299-3138
Rexdale United Group

Maria M. 416-884-6529
Brampton Recovery Group

Ticket Sales Start August 1st / Early Bird Deadline is September 15th / Ticket Sales End November 1st
Limited Seating Available / Vegetarian Option Available / Location is Wheelchair Accessible

*In keeping with AA traditions, this event is fully self-supporting and not affiliated with any outside organization.

Winter Season Open House (Free Event):

DEC 25TH 10 AM-4 PM

It will be held at:

Timothy Eaton Memorial Church

230 St Clair Ave W, Toronto, ON M4V 1R5

Dunvegan Rd entrance.

Committee meetings will be held at:

Timothy Eaton Memorial Church

230 St Clair Ave W, Toronto, ON M4V 1R5

In-person and Zoom option for committee meetings.

Sunday, Sept 14th 2025, at 9 am-10:30 am

Sunday, Oct 19th 2025, at 9 am-10:30 am

Sunday, Nov 16th 2025, at 9 am-10:30 am

Sunday, Dec 14th 2025, at 9 am-10:30 am

If you're interested in joining this fun, active committee, please contact Zobie G.

wsqh@aatoronto.org

Zobie - (416) 709 - 0178



SHARE YOUR STORY

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR BETTER TIMES' SUMMER ISSUES

FALL is Here – AUTUMN– Share Your Thoughts and Pen a letter to Better Times

Please scan the QR Code or tap this box and you will be directed to our [anonymous content submission page](#).



GTAI/DISTRICT - NOVEMBER SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS

Accessibilities - Sun. Nov. 16, 8 p.m.

ID: 824 8962 1874 - PW: 799763

Archives - Fri. Nov. 14, 7 p.m.

ID: 841 5376 9412 - PW: 018851

Communications - Tues. Nov. 18, 8 p.m.

ID: 850 5256 7237 - PW: 984555

CPC/PI - Tues. Nov. 25, 7 p.m.

ID: 854 7547 0291 - PW: 002060

Correctional Facilities - Tues. Nov. 04, 7 p.m.

ID: 883 8002 9737 - PW: 950392

Self-Support - Meets every other month.

Next Meeting: TBA

ID: 820 9238 0206 - PW: 319853

Treatment - Sun. Nov. 16, 4 p.m.

ID: 868 2207 4860 - PW: 787289

Twelfth Step - Tues. Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

ID: 813 0646 6967 - PW: 572531

IT Subcommittee - Mon. Nov. 03, 7 p.m.

ID: 814 0942 9019 - PW: 379691

Information AA Day - TBA

ID: 811 827 5978 - PW: 587553

GTAI Archives Breakfast

Saturday, November 8th, 2025 - Bloordale United Church. Tickets are \$35.

Would you like to enhance your sobriety with a deeper connection to both our founders and AA history?

The Archives Breakfast offers this opportunity! In the early days of AA, a member with a car would load it with 4 or 5 members, and drive two hours or more to a meeting!

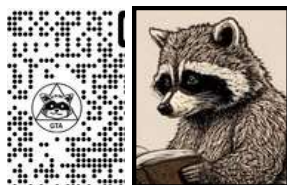
I have joined in this tradition with numerous road trips to both meetings and AA events across Ontario. These road trips have led to many spiritually rewarding experiences for both myself and fellow passengers. We have the same kind of camaraderie at the Archives Breakfast. Coffee and fellowship begin at 9:00 A.M. A professional, fully catered, abundant bacon and eggs Breakfast, at 10am, includes fresh fruit. Our long-time member will interweave AA history, of the time, into their story at 11 am. The event will finish with: a sobriety countdown, raffle and door prizes. Please order your tickets today. We look forward to you joining us for another fabulous day of sobriety.

Thank you!

-Glenn G. GTAI Archives Committee Chair



TO DONATE AA/GTA ARCHIVAL ITEMS TO ARCHIVES PLEASE CONTACT ARCHIVIST EDDY G. 416-536-7536 or archives@aatoronto.org OLD GTA MEETING BOOKS ARE NEEDED FOR THE ARCHIVES.



Scan this QR code to access more "Better Times" issues!

GRAPEVINE

<https://www.aagrapevine.org/>

srsId=AfmBOoq6pkYTdz8fon1zHN2L.OutD9zXR8hSGTn77kxjYbi_gBNuUppdy

-Imran R. Grapevine

IS THERE AN UPCOMING MEDALLION?

Please send your medallion details to bettertimes@aatoronto.org in the format of:

name - homegroup - year(s) of sobriety - medallion date

Kindly note that Better Times only publishes the first year of continuous sobriety birthday celebrations or every subsequent 5th year of continuous sobriety (i.e. 1, 5, 10, 15, 20...)

GREATER TORONTO AREA INTERGROUP

Join the 12 Step Help Line Phone Greeter Team

Do you have 4 hours a month to do service outside your home group?

TRAINING AVAILABLE	ONE YEAR SOBRIETY REQUIREMENT
ANSWER CALLS REMOTELY OR IN THE OFFICE	COULD BE THE MOST GRATIFYING SERVICE OUTSIDE THE GROUP

phonegreetercoordinator@aatoronto.org

OR VISIT AATORONTO.ORG LOOK FOR SERVICE COMMITTEES AND CLICK ON 12TH STEP COMMITTEE

ARCHIVES CORNER

History of the Winter Season Open House (WSOH) 81st Year December 2025

January 20, 1944: AA Central Office opened at 1170 Yonge St.

December 25, 1944 - December 25, 1959: Open House at 1170 Yonge St.

January 15, 1960: 1170 closed and 2 Gerrard St. West opened.

December 25, 1960 - December 25, 1970: Open House at Columbus Hall on Sherbourne St.

December 25, 1971 – December 25, 1979: Open House at Metropolitan United Church.

The reason the Open House left the Metropolitan U.C. was “rowdiness and drinking at the Church. The Church would not tolerate what was taking place. Intergroup did not feel it was in a position to police the gathering. Various elements in the Fellowship used the Steps and Traditions to prevent the necessary controls.”

December 25, 1980 – December 25, 1988: Open House at North Toronto Memorial Gardens.

Intergroup chose this site for the Open House because it wanted to remove it from the downtown problem areas. “At this time, the Xmas Open Houses were the responsibility of the elected representatives of the Fellowship in Toronto. An element in the Fellowship did not feel the proper way of treating the downtown alcoholics was being followed by moving up to Eglinton West (the area where North Toronto Memorial was located), where the drinking drunks would not go. At this point, the minority took it into their own hands, and the result was the start in 1981 of the dinner at St. Bartholomew’s, which has continued. It has unquestionably been successful, but it was not fulfilling the wishes of the majority. It is a controversial issue. The elements who have put it on have shown that it is useful.” Accordingly, “a number of members of AA who felt that AA should be helping drunks at Xmas time in the downtown area, started a dinner at St. Bartholomew’s, Dundas St. East, beginning

December 25, 1981, and continuing to today and probably into the future. “In 1989, they were requested to consider realigning themselves, but they chose not to (do so).”

December 25, 1989 – 2014: Open House at Emmanuel Howard Park United Church, 214 Wright Ave.

A Xmas Open House was started in the West End and handled again by Intergroup. “It was felt by Intergroup that the group involved at St. Bartholomew’s was in effect dealing with the East end”, while Intergroup’s Open House took care of the West end... One other note: a few years ago, the assembled representatives at Intergroup decided to change the official name from “Christmas Open House” to “Winter Season Open House” to avoid the Christian bias of the traditional name. The assembly acted in response to the challenge that, as a worldwide institution now seeking to help alcoholics of all stripes, regardless of religion or irreligion, AA should avoid officially associating itself with any particular form of religion, as declared in the “Preamble”.

December 25, 2015 - 2017: Open House at St. James Cathedral’s Snell Hall. (Southeast corner of Church St. & Adelaide St. E.) Moved to this location because the hall is fully accessible, and it is in a central location.

December 25, 2018 – 2019: College Street United Church, 452 College St. (College & Bathurst).

December 25, 2020 - 2021: Did not take place because of the COVID pandemic.

December 25, 2022 – 2023: Roncesvalles United Church, 240 Roncesvalles Ave. (front entrance) (formerly the Emmanuel Howard Park United Church, 214 Wright Ave. side entrance)

December 25, 2024 – present: Timothy Eaton Memorial Church, 230 St. Clair Ave. W. (Dunvegan Rd. entrance). Moved to this location because the hall is fully accessible, a central location & TTC accessible.

The above summary, written in 1991, is based on a memo from Tommy H. Archives Records.

-Eddy G., GTA Archivist

NOVEMBER MEDALLIONS

Donna K., Brampton Recovery Group, 1 yr, Nov. 5th

Manohar S., Noon Rap Group, 1 yr, Nov. 11th

Brenda, The Hill, 25 yrs, Nov. 20th

Bernadette M., King City Group, 35 yrs, Nov. 24th

Caroline P., King City Group, 5 yrs, Nov. 24th

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Meg L., Brampton Recovery Group - 3 yrs - Nov. 25th

Lisa S., Brampton Recovery Group - 9 yrs - Nov. 25th

Kim M., Brampton Recovery Group - 32 yrs - Nov. 28th

Tony D., Brampton Recovery Group - 16 yrs - Nov. 30th