

## March 2018



In light of this month's International Women's Day and Distress Crisis Ontario's upcoming bi-centennial, we would like to dedicate this month's newsletter to the women who have helped shaped Distress Crisis Ontario from its humble beginnings to a now province-wide plus association; women who have promoted distress services and DCO values in the past, the present, and into the future.

It is our hope to continue this retrospective and these acknowledgements in October, which is Women's History Month in Canada.

### Linda Gerger and a Look at Distress Centre History

Throughout the history of the Distress line movement in Ontario, there have been many individuals who have stewarded it, both women and men. As we approach the 50th anniversary of DCO, originally called the Ontario Association of Distress Centres, we can look at that history through a female lens, and in many ways, we can think of Linda Gerger as one of the godmothers of the distress line movement in Ontario. Almost forty years of her life has been devoted to supporting Ontarians in times of crisis, and she has been present almost since the inception of the movement.



[Read more...](#)

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### DCO Women's History Month Part One: The Foundations

Though Women's History Month is commemorated in March in the U.S., the U.K., and Australia and not until October in Canada, this is our opportunity to celebrate the contributions and achievements women have made to DCO and the distress centre movement in Ontario.

There are so many wonderfully dedicated and accomplished women we could recognize, but sadly we cannot tell you about them all. Rather, we've chosen fierce female advocates from DCO's past who advocated for distress services and who laid the foundations for DCO and left legacies for present and future generations.

[Read more...](#)



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## DCO Women's History Month Part Two: The Legacy

DCO is fortunate to attract strong, supportive, empathetic women who move the ideas and principles of the distress line movement into the future.

In part two of our DCO Women's History Month, meet five more female champions of distress services who are or will move current and future generations of women to contribute to the emotional and psycho-social well-being of Ontarians.

[Read more...](#)



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## A Poem to Commemorate Women's History Month

Revered Canadian poet, George Elliott Clarke, writes an ode to women in honour of Women's History Month, and acknowledges women's roles in human survival, women's power, and their strength to fight for their rights.

*What's a woman's place,  
If not first? How could  
Thrive the human race  
Without our live mould?*

[Read more...](#)



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## DCO 2018 Program and Service Recognition

The member organizations of Distress and Crisis Ontario (DCO) have long shown that they are responsive to the needs of their communities, which has led many centres to develop innovative and varied programs and services to serve their communities and provide a psycho-social safety net that keeps individuals at-risk or in distress out of harm's way.

[Read more...](#)



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## DCO 2018 Upcoming Events and Schedule of Meetings

## 2018 DCO Networking Conference

April 24 - 25  
Sheraton Hamilton

### DCO Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 24  
Wednesday, June 13

### Finance Committee Meetings

Monday, April 16  
Thursday, May 31  
Monday, June 11  
Wednesday, October 17  
Friday, December 14

### Spirit of Volunteerism eNews Publication

National Volunteer Week  
April 15 - 21

### DCO Annual General Meeting

Friday, June 22  
Location: Hamilton/Burlington

### Spirit of Volunteerism Recognition (SOV)

Friday, June 22  
Location: Hamilton/Burlington

### Program & Service Recognition Presentation (PSR)

Friday, June 22  
Location: Hamilton/Burlington

### Upcoming Learning Forums Videos

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## News from our Member Centres

***DID SOMEONE SAY CHOCOLATE?*** Oh yes, we did! **Ottawa Distress Centre's** delicious **Chocolate Affair Gala** is back! The annual event takes place at the Shaw Centre from 6:00 - 10:00 pm on Saturday, May 5th, 2018.

Tickets are on sale NOW! [Buy your tickets here!](#)

*When chocolate and charity work together, everyone wins!*



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