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...**

**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...

**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...

**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...

**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...

**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
Aging

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!