

NEWS / NEIGHBOURHOODS



SAGE ADVICE: Doris Nagorski (centre) shares her advice on career and employment success with Marissa McTasney (left) and Elnora Magboo

Times Change Women's Employment Service celebrates International Women's Day

Ambition and passion key to career success

Text and photo
By Katie Didyk

Marissa McTasney of Moxie Trades Ltd. believes in telling it like it is.

"In a bad economy, employers need 110 per cent from their staff," McTasney told participants at a networking breakfast honoring International Women's Day. The founder of a successful company that distributes colored work boots and accessories, advised underemployed and unemployed women to "dream big, think the impossible and love passionately."

Along with McTasney, four other dynamic women shared practical advice and strategies for finding and keeping successful employment in a recession, March 6 at the Times Change office at Bloor and Sherbourne. The event's theme: "The Road to Employment Success" supported that of International Women's Day in Toronto, "Good Jobs and Dignity for All".

Guest speakers shared their stories of work/life balance; unemployment; lack of education; abusive relationships and finding personal fulfillment. Throughout their working lives the women possessed similar goals: to be strong role models for their children; to find meaningful, satisfying work; better and bigger lives.

Along with McTasney, the panel included Kimberly Ney, Senior VP Marketing and Communications, Alterna Savings; Doris Nagorski, Employment Consultant, Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities; Fatmatta Kanu, an educator and author of *Through the Calabash* and Elnora Magboo, Program Manager, the George Hull Centre for Children and Families.

As a new immigrant, Magboo faced barriers to her career goals. So she turned

to Times Change for help and attended the career planning workshop. Today, she's happy in her work in the non-profit sector. "It's important to have skills and ability." However," she emphasizes, "Passion gets you the job."

Passion was a re-occurring theme with the panel of successful career women. Nagorski also said it's important to be passionate about the company itself in an interview. She also suggested that women "take a job that might not be what you want in the beginning. You never know what's gonna happen down the line."

The uplifting environment that morning at Times Change at Bloor and Sherbourne, was enhanced by words of inspiration and practical advice for women seeking work in an economy marked by recession. Ney advised women to be themselves. "Don't try to be like a man. Don't be something you're not. Be authentic. Be a successful woman."

As the wife of a diplomat, Kanu often found she was expected to take a back seat to her husband's career. Said Kanu, who recently published her own autobiography: "People said 'You don't have to work.' But I always asked myself, what can I do for me? I never let myself be housebound because of the children. I knew that for me, I needed to do something for myself. It's really precious."

After breakfast and panel questions, guests were treated to a stress relieving yoga demonstration by Graydon Moffat, founder of YogaMum. A mom and entrepreneur, Moffat has been practicing yoga for over 15 years.

Times Change, a non-profit agency since 1974, at 365 Bloor St. E. offers career and educational counselling, computer services and a resource centre to unemployed and underemployed women, free of charge. For more information call (416) 927-1900.

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It's a TD Bank coming for Carlton & Parliament

As announced in a March 20/09 OCBA newsletter

Plans for the site at Carlton and Parliament have passed the City's Committee of Adjustment. The owner has announced that the first floor will be a Toronto Dominion Bank and office space will appear above it. By next week,

a copy of these plans will be available on the (OCBA) newsletter. The BIA has also started planning the exterior landscaping to complement the TD Bank entrance at the corner.

Have some SPARE TIME?
Spend it well - see SPARE TIME WELL
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