

# Character Community



## E-News



*A Town of Richmond Hill initiative.*

*A Town of Richmond Hill Character Community monthly e-letter*

*June is Honesty*

*I will be sincere, trustworthy  
and truthful.*

June 2006

## The Cherry Tree

By: M.L. Weems,

*Good Stories for Great Holidays*

When George Washington was about six years old, he was made the wealthy master of a hatchet of which, like most little boys, he was extremely fond. He went about chopping everything that came his way.

One day, as he wandered about the garden amusing himself by hacking his mother's pea-sticks, he found a beautiful, young English cherry tree, of which his father was most proud. He tried the edge of his hatchet on the trunk of the tree and barked it so that it died.

Some time after this, his father discovered what had happened to his favorite tree. He came into the house in great anger and demanded to know who the mischievous person was who had cut away the bark. Nobody could tell him anything about it.

Just then George, with his little hatchet, came into the room.

"George," said his father, "do you know who has killed my beautiful little cherry tree yonder in the garden? I



would not have taken five guineas for it!"

This was a hard question to answer, and for a moment George was staggered by it, but quickly recovering himself he cried: --

"I cannot tell a lie, father, you know I cannot tell a lie! I did cut it with my little hatchet."

The anger died out of his father's face, and taking the boy tenderly in his arms, he said: --

"My son, that you should not be afraid to tell the truth is more to me than a thousand trees! Yes, though they were blossomed with silver and had leaves of the purest gold!"

**Source:**

<http://www.inspirationalstories.com/1/106.htm>

### Town of Richmond Hill Character Community Organizations

Arts Richmond Hill Inc.

The Curtain Club

Girl Guides of Canada York South Division

Helpmate Community Information

Hills House Hospice

Ja'fari Islamic Housing

Learning Disabilities Association of York Region

Lions Club of Richmond Hill

Music For Young Children

My Canada! Integration Settlement Services

Optimist Club of Richmond Hill

Richmond Hill Aquatic Club

Richmond Hill Canoe Club

Richmond Hill Chamber of Commerce

Richmond Hill Community Food Bank

Richmond Hill Social & Bocce Club

Richmond Hill Training Centre

Richmond Hill Winter Carnival

Royal Canadian Legion Branch #375

Spiritual Assembly of the Bahai's of Richmond Hill

Stroke Recovery Network  
The Amici Centre

Wilderness Lifeskills of Youth Inc.



## Canada Day 2006

We would like to invite you and your Character Organization to set up a display booth at Richmond Green on Saturday, July 1 for Canada Day 2006. For more information, please contact Risa Healey at 905-884-0855 ext. 224 or [rhealey@richmondhill.ca](mailto:rhealey@richmondhill.ca). To reserve your booth please contact Mark Elsenaar at 905-737-1818 ext. 6003 or [melsenaar@richmondhill.ca](mailto:melsenaar@richmondhill.ca).

## Welcome Our New Organization

Please join us in welcoming **Ja'fari Islamic Housing**, our newest Town of Richmond Hill Character Community Organization.

## Tips For Being More Truthful

1. Make a commitment to tell the truth and honor it.
2. Tell someone about your commitment and progress.
3. Think before you give a dishonest answer, explanation or reason.
4. Be careful of when and how you use exaggeration, sarcasm and irony.
5. Be careful not to twist the truth or leave out part of it.
6. Don't indulge in little white lies; don't get caught in cover-ups.
7. Watch out for silent lies. When you know about a lie and keep quiet, the lie lives on.
8. When you catch yourself lying, throw your mouth into reverse and tell the truth.
9. Talk to yourself quietly and ask "what is the best thing to do."

Source:

<http://www.k12.hi.us/~mkunimit/honesty.htm>

## Be HONEST With Yourself

- *Accept responsibility for your own actions; don't blame others.*
- *Be honest about your feelings.*
- *Face issues as they arise.*
- *If you are considering lying, try to think of the consequences.*
- *When confronted with a situation, think of others.*

Source:

<http://www.k12.hi.us/~mkunimit/honesty.htm>

## Honesty Means...

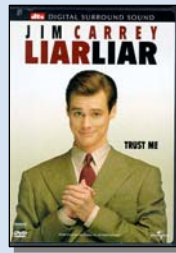
*Honesty means there are no contradictions or discrepancies in thoughts, words or actions. To be honest to one's real self and to the purpose of a task earns trust and inspires faith in others. Honesty is never to misuse that which is given in trust.*

Source:

<http://www.livingvalues.net/values/honesty.htm>

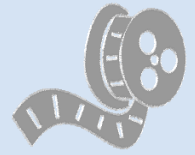
**Next Month's Attribute:**  
July is Integrity

## Good Movies To Watch...Honestly



### Liar Liar

You just know there will be retribution when the lying adult steals the children's idea.



### The Parent Trap

Twins swap places to bring their estranged parents back together. When everyone's honest, in the end, there is happiness.



### True Heart

Two young people, lost in the Canadian wilderness, gain knowledge about themselves and each other as they try to find their way home.



### Toy Story

Plenty of lessons about being honest with yourself in this movie, as Woody finally accepts the fact that he feels threatened by Andy's new toy.



Town of Richmond Hill Council and staff participated in the Big Bike For Stroke event on May 17, peddling around the Hillcrest Mall area neighbourhoods. The team raised money for the Heart & Stroke Foundation while proudly wearing their Character Community t-shirts on the 30-seat bicycle.

Character Community E-News is a monthly e-mail newsletter to share information about upcoming events within our organization and beyond. If you would like to contribute upcoming Character Community event information, story ideas or photos, please forward it to the Editor, Michelle Lipkus, at [mlipkus@richmondhill.ca](mailto:mlipkus@richmondhill.ca).