

Character Community



E-News



A Town of Richmond Hill initiative.

A Town of Richmond Hill Character Community monthly e-letter

October is Inclusiveness

I will work to build a community where everyone feels included, empowered and valued for his or her unique contributions.

October 2006

Character Community Organization Showcase

CHARACTER COMMUNITY DAY

Date: Wednesday, October 18th

Time: 5:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Hillcrest Mall (Yonge St. & 16th Ave.) at centre court

Be sure to join us for the 3rd annual Character Community Organization Showcase at Hillcrest Mall. All Character Community Organizations will receive a special Town of Richmond Hill package and those who are new organizations will also be presented with their welcome packages by Members of Council at 6 p.m.

The evening will be filled with things to do for the entire family, including:

- *Community Groups Displays*
- *Character Community Presentations*
- *Character Entertainment*
- *Meet York Regional Police and Firefighters*
- *And More!*



York Region and its nine municipalities are committed to keeping and enhancing our communities as places where families are strong, homes and streets are safe, education is effective, businesses are productive and neighbours care about one another.

For further information about participating in this event, please contact Risa Healey, Community Development Coordinator, at (905) 884-0855, ext. 224 or by e-mail at rhealey@richmondhill.ca.

A Very Special Organization

Special Olympics is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering individuals with intellectual disabilities to become physically fit, productive and respected members of society through sports training and competition. Special Olympics offers children and adults with intellectual disabilities year-round training and competition in 26 Olympic-type summer and winter sports. There is no charge to participate in Special Olympics.

Special Olympics currently serves more than 2.25 million persons with intellectual disabilities in more than 200 Programs in more than 150 countries. Those numbers are the result of an overwhelmingly successful Campaign for Growth that began in 2000. That year, Special Olympics made a bold commitment to reach 2 million athletes by the end of 2005, while simultaneously changing attitudes about people with intellectual disabilities



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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 Rams Hockey Club

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.

around the world. Over the course of those five years, in addition to providing more than 1 million more athletes the opportunity to experience the joy of sport, Special Olympics transformed itself.

Today, Special Olympics stands as a leader in the field of intellectual disability. It is a truly global movement, with more than 500,000 athletes in China, more than 210,000 in India, almost 550,000 in the United States, more than 600 in Afghanistan and 4,400 athletes in Rwanda. Special Olympics World Games were held in Ireland in 2003 and Japan in 2005 and, in 2007, China will host the World Summer Games. Most importantly, Special Olympics sharpened the focus on its mission as not just "nice," but critical, not just as a sports organization for people with intellectual disabilities, but also as an effective catalyst for social change.

Children and adults with intellectual disabilities who participate in Special Olympics develop improved physical fitness and motor skills, greater self-confidence and a more positive self-image. They grow mentally, socially and spiritually and, through their activities, exhibit boundless courage and enthusiasm, enjoy the rewards of friendship and ultimately discover not only new abilities and talents but "their voices" as well.

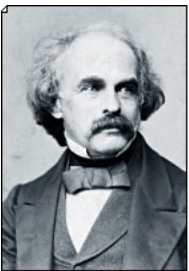
Source: www.specialolympics.org

Fashion Show & Sale

Sunday, October 15, 2006 @ 2 p.m.

The Amici Centre is sponsoring a Fashion Show & Sale in support of York Central Hospital's Continuing Care Department at the Richmond Hill Spruce Italian Social Club Hall (18 Spruce Avenue) on October 15 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 (includes refreshments). Please call Anna for tickets at (416) 873-1608.

Inclusiveness "Quotes"



"Every individual has a place to fill in the world and is important in some respect whether he chooses to be so or not."

~Nathaniel Hawthorne, author



"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent."

~Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady

Next Month's Attribute:
November is Fairness

What Does INCLUSIVENESS Look Like?

- Everyone is included regardless of religion, social status, sexual difference, gender, age, physical or mental ability, or any other factor that separates people.
- Differences in values, cultures, concepts, learning styles and perceptions that individuals possess are used constructively.
- Workplaces and communities are more diverse.
- An openness and an enriched, safe, equitable, hospitable, and appreciative environment exists to support everyone.
- A wide range of involvement is evident: parents, with business leaders, with educators, with administrators.
- The weakest, the neediest, and those generally most excluded in a society are included in decision making.
- Inclusiveness keeps faith with dream of a nation where all are welcome.
- Handicap parking is left for those with stickers.
- Teach your children to see the positive value of all differences and to accept them. Inclusiveness is crucial to our ability to educate youth.



In August, the Town of Richmond Hill Dragon Boat team paddled hard together around the lake at Seneca College King Campus. The team included adults and children alike.

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.