

# 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 2007

## RHLC Shows True Character!

The Richmond Hill Lifesaving Club (RHLC) was created in 2005 to introduce young athletes to the sport of lifesaving while encouraging healthy living and regular physical fitness. Throughout the year, specially trained Lifesaving Coaches concentrate on developing strength, power and endurance. Athletes focus on teamwork, sportsmanship, achieving personal bests and most of all, having fun. In June of this year, it was the first time that the RHLC participated in the Ontario Junior Lifeguard Games which resulted in the RHLC winning the Club Championship title. Way to go team (see photos to the right and on page 2).



## Inclusiveness Quotes



"It took me a long time not to judge myself through someone else's eyes."

**-Sally Field**

"It's not who you are that holds you back, it's who you think you're not."

**-Author Unknown**

"Make the most of yourself, for that is all there is of you."

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

## Calling All Characters!

The Town is once again celebrating Character Community Week with a public celebration at Hillcrest Mall, thanking all of the Character Organizations on Character Community Day on Wednesday, October 17 from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. at Hillcrest Mall. This is an opportunity to showcase your community group and network with others for free! There will also be Character Community presentations to new groups, Character entertainment and more! Check out the flyer on the Town's Website by clicking on the Character Community logo at the bottom of any page for more details. To reserve your booth contact Risa Healey at rhealey@richmondhill.ca or (905) 884-0855, ext.224. Hope to see you there!



- The Amici Centre
- Arts Richmond Hill Inc.
- Between Friends
- Community Living York South
- The Curtain Club
- Girl Guides of Canada York South Division
- Helpmate Community Information
- Hill House Hospice
- Ja'fari Islamic Housing
- Learning Disabilities Association of York Region
- Lions Club of Richmond Hill
- Music For Young Children
- Music to Care for Your Life
- 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 Community Sports Council
- Richmond Hill Lawn Tennis Club
- Richmond Hill Rams Hockey Club
- Richmond Hill Community Soccer Association
- 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
- St. Matthew's United Church Health Cabinet
- Stroke Recovery Network
- Volunteer Association of York Central Hospital
- Wilderness Lifeskills of Youth Inc.
- York South Association of Community Living

## Special Olympics in Canada: Their Vision

The following statements "paint a picture" of the desired long-term future for Special Olympics in Canada.

### **Opportunity & Accessibility**

- Provide all athletes with choices in their opportunity to train and to compete;
- Be accessible and open to all athletes with a intellectual disability, regardless of their ability;
- Be a change agent for social inclusion - advocating for and providing all athletes with opportunities for integration through sport;
- Be recognized as an integral and valued part of the sport delivery system by working in partnership with sport organizations.

### **Quality**

- Provide quality programs and services for our members



## **Easter Seals Society of Ontario**

### **Their Mission**

The Easter Seal Society, Ontario is dedicated to helping children, youth and young adults with physical disabilities achieve their full individual potential and future independence. Easter Seals funds disability solutions through financial assistance, summer camp, the Recreational Choices funding program, research, advocacy, and public and consumer education.

### **Their Commitment**

Over 20,000 children, youth and young adults in Ontario live with a physical disability today.

Some children were born with disabilities such as cerebral palsy and spina bifida, some have spinal cord or brain injuries resulting from childhood accidents, others sustained brain damage through infections like encephalitis and meningitis. Regardless of the cause, these children share a common desire for independence, acceptance and achievement.

Since 1922, The Easter Seal Society, Ontario has been helping children and young adults with physical disabilities to address life's challenges and achieve personal goals. While the specific programs and services may have changed over the decades, Easter Seals' dedication to helping kids succeed is unwavering.

Today, families rely on Easter Seals to purchase expensive equipment needed for mobility and communication, send kids to summer camp and recreation programs, provide access to information and resources, and invest dollars in research and prevention programs.

At the core of Easter Seals is a common passion for caring, shared by its 140 staff and thousands of volunteers, and by those who support its mission. This heart-felt desire to serve children, youth and young adults with physical disabilities and their families, is what Easter Seals is all about.

**Next Month's Attribute:**  
November is Fairness

and supporters;

- Provide quality training for athletes and coaches;
- Provide a high level of support for athletes in training and competition including a focus on their personal health, well-being and safety.

### **Community Awareness & Support**

- Have a very high level of community awareness so that people know who we are, what we provide and how to access opportunities;
- Be in every community that wishes to join the Special Olympics movement;
- Be an integral and valued part of communities, such that if we failed to exist there would be an outcry in the community.

### **Organization:**

- Be an integrated cohesive organization (thinking globally, acting locally);
- Have a strong committed group of volunteers;
- Provide opportunities for all athletes in the movement to input to and access decision-making processes;
- Ensure that people know where to voice their concerns and that they have an opportunity to be heard;
- Be officially bilingual and respect the diverse cultures in Canada;
- Be accountable to our members and partners, and decision-making processes will be transparent, clear, fair and understood;
- Support research and development on issues affecting people with a intellectual disability;
- Play a leadership role on the community, provincial, national and world stages in advancing all Special Olympics;
- Constantly challenge ourselves to enrich the lives of Canadians with an intellectual disability through sport.

*Source: <http://www.specialolympics.ca/SOC/vision.html>*



Members of the Richmond Hill Lifesaving Club (RHLC) celebrate their Club Championship title win at the Ontario Junior Lifeguard Games this summer.

*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).*