

Character Community



E-News



A Town of Richmond Hill initiative.

A Town of Richmond Hill Character Community monthly e-letter

April is Respect

*I will treat myself and others
with consideration, high
regard and dignity.*

April 2008

Sesame Stories Promote Tolerance, Mutual Respect in Middle East

Program fosters respect, understanding among Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian youth

Washington -- Among the innovative children's programs related to Sesame Street around the world, the landmark Sesame Stories is credited with breaking down stereotypes and fostering greater understanding among young Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian youth.

"At a time when television and other media are transmitting difficult news, Sesame Stories encourages children to appreciate similarities and differences in their own culture and others," said Shari Rosenfeld, Sesame Workshop's vice president for developing and emerging markets, in an April 4 interview with the Washington File. "Sesame Stories celebrates the diversity of the human experience and examines that diversity from within the child's own home and community."

Based on the children's series Sesame Street, the centerpiece of each episode is a tale that illuminates themes of tolerance, child self-empowerment, empathy and respect, she said. Launched in 2003, Sesame Stories consists of three parallel series -- Hikayat Simsim (Jordan), Sippuray Sumsum (Israel), and Hikayat Simsim (Palestinian Territories) -- that were created, written, and produced by local educators and television professionals. Programs are broadcast in Arabic and Hebrew.

"Locally developed Muppet characters appeal to young children through cleverness and humor relevant to their respective cultures, while animation and live action pieces foster self-esteem and mirror the rich cultural heritage of children's everyday lives," she added.

The original Sesame Street, developed by a team of artists, writers and child development experts at the Children's Television Workshop, first aired in the United States in September 1969.

Source: <http://usinfo.state.gov/scv/Archive/2006/Apr/06-78519.html>



Character in Sport Student Contest

The York Region Character Community Foundation and the Character in Sport Committee is holding a Character in Sport Student Contest between March 24, 2008 and May 2, 2008.

Students may submit to the Character in Sport Committee any of the following media: comic strip, banner, poster, billboard, video, t-shirt, collage, pamphlet, scrapbook or announcement.

For more information visit www.charactercommunity.com and click on "Sports" or e-mail character.community@york.ca.



- 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.

Going back in time, respect played an important role in survival. If we think of a small tribe wandering in the desert we can imagine that a person not respected by anyone could be left behind and die. Such a person was considered to have no worth, no importance, no value to the group. This, I believe is the foundation of our psychological need to feel respected.

Nowadays it seems much more possible to survive without being respected. Someone could, for example, inherit a large sum of money, have many servants and employees and have salesmen constantly calling on him and catering to him, yet not be respected in the least. Someone could also make a lot of money through having a particular talent which is valued, such as being able to dunk a basketball yet not really be respected, perhaps because of the way he treats others.

Still, there is a value to respect which money can't buy. Though someone's life might not depend on it, there are times, many times in fact, when another person has the chance to make a personal decision - a judgment call. When

that person feels sincere respect for someone else, they will make a different decision than if they feel no respect, even if they have customarily shown a false, pseudo-respect to the person.



We can all sense whether we are respected or not. This holds true for those with money and power as well. Moreover, it is quite possible that those who pursue money and power are actually trying to gain a type of respect that they never have truly felt.

When we are respected we gain the voluntary cooperation of people. We don't have to use as much of our energy and resources trying to get our needs met. When people respect one another there are fewer conflicts. In summary, it is for both evolutionary and practical reasons that respect is important, and also why we simply feel better when we are respected.

Source: <http://eqi.org/respect.htm>

Plenty of Character Events Coming Up!

The Character Awards

Thursday, April 3

7 - 9 p.m.

Markham Theatre



Recognizing York Region citizens who demonstrate positive character attributes. Contact the Region at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 1522, or by e-mail at character.community@york.ca.

Mayor Barrow's Character In Business Breakfast

Wednesday, April 9

7:30 - 9 a.m.

Sheraton Parkway



For only \$25 you can join the Mayor for breakfast and learn how businesses can incorporate character into their workplace. Visit www.rhcoc.com for details.

Canada Day

July 1



Don't forget to reserve your booth for the Canada Day Home Show at Richmond Green on July 1. Remember, the booths are **free for Character Community Organizations only!** Contact Risa Healey at (905) 771-5489 or rhealey@richmondhill.ca.

Respect Quotes



"The capacity for getting along with our neighbor depends to a large extent on the capacity for getting along with ourselves. The self-respecting individual will try to be as tolerant of his neighbor's shortcomings as he is of his own." **-Eric Hoffer**



"Treat others as you want them to treat you because what goes around comes around" **-Anonymous**



"It is the highest form of self-respect to admit our errors and mistakes and make amends for them. To make a mistake is only an error in judgment, but to adhere to it when it is discovered shows infirmity of character." **-Dale Turner**

Next Month's Attribute:
May is Responsibility



More than 600 Richmond Hill residents and business owners joined Mayor Dave Barrow and Members of Council on March 20, for the second annual Mayor's Norooz Celebration, the traditional Iranian New Year holiday. Guests enjoyed dinner while being entertained by traditional music and dance performances.

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.