

# Character Community



## E-News



*A Town of Richmond Hill initiative.*

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

## March is Perseverance

*I will not give up when things get tough. I will stick to my goals and work hard to achieve them, despite obstacles and challenges.*

March 2006

## A Carpenter's Gift: An Inspirational Story about Perseverance

Once upon a time two brothers who lived on adjoining farms fell into conflict. It was the first serious rift in 40 years of farming side by side, sharing machinery, and trading labor and goods as needed without a hitch.

Then the long collaboration fell apart. It began with a small misunderstanding and it grew into a major difference, and finally it exploded into an exchange of bitter words followed by weeks of silence.

One morning there was a knock on John's door. He opened it to find a man with a carpenter's toolbox. "I'm looking for a few days work" he said.

"Perhaps you would have a few small jobs here and there. Could I help you?"

"Yes," said the older brother. "I do have a job for you. Look across the creek at that farm. That's my neighbor, in fact, it's my younger brother. Last week there was a meadow between us and he took his bulldozer to the river levee and now there is a creek between us. Well, he may have done this to spite me, but I'll go him one better. See that pile of lumber curing by the barn? I want you to build me a fence - an 8-foot fence - so I won't need to see his place anymore. Cool him down, anyhow."

The carpenter said, "I think I understand the situation. Show me the nails and the post-hole digger and I'll be able to do a job that pleases you."

The older brother had to go to town for supplies, so he helped the carpenter get the materials ready and then he was off for the day.

The carpenter worked hard all that day measuring, sawing, nailing.

About sunset when the farmer returned, the carpenter had just finished



Town of Richmond Hill Mayor William F. Bell welcomes members of the Richmond Hill Social & Bocce Club as they become an official Richmond Hill Character Community Organization.

his job. The farmer's eyes opened wide, his jaw dropped. There was no fence there at all. It was a bridge... a bridge stretching from one side of the creek to the other! A fine piece of work with handrails and all - and the neighbor, his younger brother, was coming across, his hand outstretched.

"You are quite a fellow to build this bridge after all I've said and done."

The two brothers stood at each end of the bridge, and then they met in the middle, taking each other's hand. They turned to see the carpenter hoist his toolbox on his shoulder. "No, wait! Stay a few days. I've a lot of other projects for you," said the older brother.

"I'd love to stay on," the carpenter said, "but, I have many more bridges to build."

*Author Unknown*

**Source:**  
[www.askalana.com/stories/carpenter.shtml](http://www.askalana.com/stories/carpenter.shtml)

### 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

Learning Disabilities Association of York Region

Lions Club of Richmond Hill

Music of 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.



Town of Richmond Hill staff celebrated Character Community Day on Wednesday, October 19, 2005.

## Character Community Events

**April 5-6**

2006 Character Community Conference

**April**

"Music For Young Children" Program

*(see articles on this page for more info.)*

## A Canadian Role Model of PERSEVERANCE

Terry Fox is a Canadian hero. Over the course of 143 days, Terry ran 5,373 km and ran through six provinces, raising a total of \$24 million for cancer research. It was Terry's perseverance and his belief in himself and his mission that made his Marathon of Hope a success.

At one point during the run, Terry said, "Everyone seems to have given up hope of trying. I haven't. It isn't easy and it isn't supposed to be, but I'm accomplishing something. I just wish people would realize that anything's possible if you try."



## "The Music For Young Children" Program



In April 2006, "The Music for Young Children" program will be holding a series of "TRY-IT" classes in Richmond Hill. This will give the opportunity for parents to experience a class with their 3, 4, 5, or 6 year old children before they make a commitment to the September 2006 – June 2007 music lessons. For more details please contact Liz at [lizcouture@hotmail.com](mailto:lizcouture@hotmail.com) or call (905) 508-0458.

## Building Communities of Character Conference 2006

The 3rd annual Building Communities Character Conference is coming up next month. This year the conference will be at Angus Glen Golf and Country Club on April 5-6.

This is a conference for anyone interested in character development whether it be educators, community groups, non-profits, churches, parent councils, municipal employees or business leaders.



Dr. J.P. Pawliw-Fry is the feature guest speaker and is the President and Co-founder of the Institute for Health and Human Potential (IHHP), a leader in emotional intelligence to increase performance.

For a list of guest speakers, workshops and more information please go to [www.charactercommunity.com](http://www.charactercommunity.com).

**Next Month's Attribute:**  
April is Respect



Order of Canada recipient and Famous People Players (FPP) founder, Diane Dupuy, delivers a heart-felt presentation to Town staff as part of the Character Community Day events. FPP is a professional black light theatre company that combines music with life size characters that pay tribute to the music and artistry of Famous People with performers who are developmentally challenged. Her inspirational stories and her humour, courage and compassion delighted and entertained all in attendance.

*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).*