

Character Community



E-News



A Town of Richmond Hill initiative.

A Town of Richmond Hill Character Community monthly e-letter

July is Integrity

I will do what is right and ensure there is no difference between what I say and what I do.

July 2008

Town of Richmond Hill Character Community Organizations

- The Amici Centre
- Arts Richmond Hill Inc.
- Between Friends
- Catholic Community Services of York Region
- Community Living York South
- The Curtain Club
- Girl Guides of Canada York South Div.
- Helpmate Community Information
- Hill House Hospice
- Ja'fari Islamic Housing
- Learning Disabilities Association of York Region
- Lions Club of Richmond Hill
- Music to Care for Your Life
- Opera York
- Optimist Club of Richmond Hill
- Region Of York Recreationists (ROYR)
- 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
- Top o' the Hill Co-operative Nursery School
- Volunteer Association of York Central Hospital
- Wilderness Lifeskills of Youth Inc.
- York Region Support Group of Parents of ADHD Kids

Take Our Character Community E-news Readership Survey!

The Town's Character Community Committee is committed to keeping and enhancing our town as a place where we all care about one another. This Character Community E-News is just one of the ways we assist with that. We want this publication to be something you value and use, so your opinion is truly needed in our readership survey. Please take five minutes to tell us what you like, what you don't like, what you want to see instead, etc. It's a short, simple online survey that you can find by going to: www.richmondhill.ca/charactercommunity

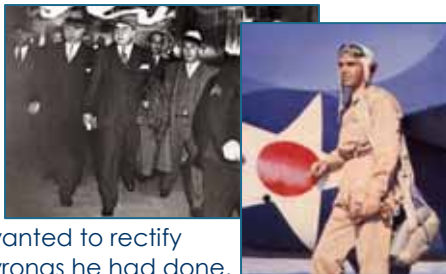
Integrity & The Mob?

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder. Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was his lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time.

To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but also Eddie got special dividends. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block. Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had the best of everything: clothes, cars and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object. And, despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was.

Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name and a good example. One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie



wanted to rectify wrongs he had done. He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name and offer his son some semblance of integrity.

To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified.

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion and a poem clipped from a magazine. The poem read:

*The clock of life is wound but once
And no man has the power,
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour.
Now is the only time you own.
Live, love, toil with a will.
Place no faith in time.
For the clock may soon be still.*

Eddie's son, Butch, later went on to become the U.S. Navy's first flying ace and Medal of Honor recipient in World War II and had Chicago's O'Hare airport named after him.

Source: www.redstatepatriot.com

Living with Integrity - Handling Broken Promises

by: Miami Phillips



Each and every day, we all make promises. We make these promises in many different ways, and in a variety of forms. A promise can be as simple as "I'll call you back", or as committing as "I promise to get that done!"

Often we can make promises and commitments without thinking through the time, effort and resources necessary to complete them. When that happens, someone feels like they got the short end of the deal. Sometimes that person is yourself! More often it means someone else has been let down.

I believe that we all make promises that we are unable to keep for whatever reason - it just happens. Maybe we have too much going on and we really wanted to do what we committed to but simply could not get it done. Personally, because one of my top four values is integrity, when I make a promise or commitment and am unable to keep it, this can be painful. Many times my inability to perform an obligation or commitment affects me more than the person I made the promise to in the first place!

I have learned to recognize when I am unable to meet a deadline, or a commitment, or to fulfill a promise and to take an additional crucial step. This step is simple, yet powerful. It allows me to maintain my integrity, and removes any feelings of guilt or worry I used to carry due to perceived lack of integrity on my part.

This simple step is forgiveness. I ask forgiveness of myself or the person to whom I am unable to fulfill a commitment to. We are not always able to do what we say we are going to do. For whatever reason, we cannot always send a payment as we promised, or finish a report that we committed to, or complete a project by the date we said we would.

However, we can, and should notify the party to whom we have committed and ask forgiveness. We then set up a payment plan, redefine the report due date or reset the project due date.

This simple but powerful step should be taken as soon as you see yourself unable to meet your commitments. It can make your life so much better by removing most of the worry and guilt feelings that normally accompany this loss of integrity. As soon as you recognize this situation, act immediately! Immediate action not only helps you, but also communicates to the other party that you recognize and honor their basic right to know what is going on. They will respect you more for it.

And here is the way to solve the problem so it never happens again. Recognize what you can and cannot do. Consistently under-promise and over-deliver on all your commitments!

Source: <http://www.selfgrowth.com/articles/Phillips7.html>

Integrity Movies



There's Something About Mary (1998)

This is a hilarious comedy where everyone pretends to be someone that they are not to win Mary's affections. In the end, no one has been honourable, except Brett Favre!



RoboCop (1987)

An action adventure where a half man, half robot attempts to discover who he is/was. He's not just a machine, but he has a history and an identity as a person with integrity.

Integrity Quotes



"Integrity is doing the right thing, even if nobody is watching." ~Unknown



"Integrity is what we do, what we say, and what we say we do." ~Don Galer



"The measure of a man's real character is what he would do if he knew he never would be found out." ~Thomas Babington Macaulay

Next Month's Attribute:
August is Compassion



Photo taken June 28, 2008

Inaugural Theatre Season Announced!

Town of Richmond Hill Mayor & Council presented details of the highly anticipated inaugural 2008/09 professional season of the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts (inset) on June 4 at the new Cosmo Music Centre, located on Leslie Street in Richmond Hill. Construction is winding down and the official gala is slated for November 1 so mark your calendars and buy your tickets at: www.richmondhill.ca/theatre

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.