

# 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 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



### Integrated Learning

#### *An Inclusion Teacher...*

- T**akes on the challenge of a multi-level classroom.
- E**ver learning new teaching techniques.
- A**ccepts each child for where he/she is in life.
- C**hanges teaching style to match individual learning styles.
- H**as heart!
- E**xpects the best each child can be and aims high!
- R**ealizes all children are gifted- and it's important to identify, recognize and highlight those individual gifts!

#### *An Included Child...*

- C**hallenged to be a shining star.
- H**as heart!
- I**mproves interpersonal relationships.
- L**earns to the best of his/her ability.
- D**ares to dream of friendships and the future!

### You're Invited To Character Community Week 2008!

The Town is celebrating our 4th Annual Hillcrest Mall Character Community Organization event. It will take place on Tuesday, October 28 from 4:30-9 p.m. Organizations are invited to set up a booth to showcase themselves. The Mayor and Council will be presenting certificates and character packages to our new organizations, honours to our Richmond Hill Character Award Nominees for 2008, and make presentations to our existing five-year Character Organizations. There will also be entertainment by local school choirs and bands. If your organization is interested, contact Kathy Sampson, Community Development Coordinator, at (905) 884-0855, ext. 224.



## A Walk In The Clouds

I walked amongst the clouds today  
and then I took a seat,  
to try to understand the world  
that spun beneath my feet.

It was the grandest picture  
my eyes had ever seen.  
I couldn't make out color -  
except for blue and green.

And yet, I could see people;  
A whole race on the run.  
To tell the truth, from where I sat,  
they clearly moved as one.

With fear, they searched for answers  
they thought were on the ground.  
And though they spoke in different tongues,  
they made the sweetest sound.

They had the wrong perspective,  
with no way they could know:  
There are no individuals,  
but just parts of a whole.

And so I made a wish for them,  
that someday they would see:  
Only when they really love  
is when they're really free.

I'll dance amongst the stars tonight,  
while others search in vain.  
For just above their point of view,  
there's no such thing as pain.

Source: [www.post-gazette.com](http://www.post-gazette.com)

## Inclusiveness Quotes



"Teaching children to be knowledgeable about differences, supportive of others, and active in changing structures that are oppressive to various groups can all begin within inclusive classrooms."  
~ Mara Sapon-Shevin



"Never look down on anybody unless you're helping them up."  
~ The Reverend Jesse Jackson



"We are for difference: for respecting difference, for allowing difference, for encouraging difference, until difference no longer makes a difference."  
~ J. Cole

**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.
- Keep faith with the 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.

Source: [www.charactercommunity.com](http://www.charactercommunity.com)



### Richmond Hill's Fully Accessible Crosby Park Opens!

The much anticipated Crosby Park reopened this past month and there's something for everyone to explore! No ordinary park, Crosby Park has been re-designed for inclusive recreation and now everyone, from the able-bodied and physically challenged to those with sensory and cognitive impairments, and even seniors, can enjoy the simple pleasures of outdoor recreation. Check out more information at [www.richmondhill.ca/crosbypark](http://www.richmondhill.ca/crosbypark)

*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).*