

Criteria #11

YOUTH ACTIVISM AND ADVOCACY FOR PLAY IS NURTURED



CRITERIA #11

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Youth Submission:

By: K Egan, N Ionno, Z Iwachow, & A Brazgal

It is important for youth to voice their opinions on play activities, programs and events that take place within their community. This creates a unified city, which supports the views of youth and creates exciting opportunities in which they would want to participate. There are a substantial number of youth groups throughout the City of Mississauga, which help spread the voice of youth on various topics and issues. Through participation within a number of these groups, youth are able to further develop play programs already established within Mississauga as well as plan new play programs and activities within their neighbourhoods. It is important that Mississauga's youth are able to readily supply their input on current programs found within the city as well as establish new and effective play activities, which would be enjoyed by the majority of youth.

Many libraries located within the City of Mississauga provide youth with opportunities to voice their opinions, through their participation in **Teen Advisory Groups (T.A.G)**, on a number of activities, programs and materials dedicated to youth within the library (Ref 11-1). The number of youth participating in TAG programs range from library to library however, James Dekens, Library Youth Coordinator of the Central Library, said that there are roughly 25 youth participating in TAG at the Central library. Moreover, Melvin Toliao from the South Common library system said that there were about 10-15 youth participating in their TAG program. For the most part these groups meet once a month, unless, as Toliao pointed out, there is a special event that TAG is planning, then it is possible that the group would gather more frequently to work on their special project. Youth involved in the Teen Advisory Group of the Central Library and Clarkson Library are able to voice their opinions on topics that interest them such having the chance to invite the different types of authors to the library for a meet and greet (Ref 11-2). The youth advisory have a say on what events and activities should be provided and allow for changes to happen. The youth coordinator goes to the youth committee to further gain insight on what specific events youth want and how they are going to make it happen.

Moreover, throughout a number of **community centres** within Mississauga there are also **Youth Advisory committees**, whom develop ideas for new programs and events to be held for youth within community centres. Similarly to the library T.A.G groups, there are a number of community centres that offer Youth Advisory committees whose members' focus on programs within the community centres. The **Meadowvale Youth Freeway** is the youth advisory committee, composed mainly of youth between the ages of 12-24, located within Meadowvale community centre (Ref 11-3). The group currently has

approximately 10 members but is actively advertising for new members. The youth advisory group is involved in voicing their opinions in order to bring about positive change within the Meadowvale community centre through the development of new and improved play programs and events directed at youth. Through the use of their Facebook page the Meadowvale Youth Freeway also help to promote their different activities, events and meetings (Ref 11-4). Moreover, South Common Community Centre also has a youth advisory committee, which is made up of roughly 10 to 15 youth, open to youth from the ages of 12 to 24 but a large portion of the group is comprised mainly of youth between the ages of 12 to 19 years old according to Michelle Clement, the Supervisor of Community Programs. The **Clarkson Community Centre** also has a Teen Advisory Group, called **VOICE**, whom meet at the centre every month in their meeting room to discuss what interests them and what they would like to do such as dances, poetry workshops, and gaming programs. The Teen Advisory group is free of charge and they receive volunteer hours. The VOICE committee participants range from 12 to 24 years of age, they have about 15 to 20 members, however; there is a great interest for this program with many applications.

There are also a number of youth groups found within the city of Mississauga which provide youth with the freedom to express their concerns about issues both in their neighbourhood communities as well as worldwide issues. Some groups, especially the **Youth Troopers for Global Awareness**, use artistic mediums and forms of expression as ways in which youth are able to express their concerns to their community. The Youth Troopers welcome youth over the age of 14 years old to participate in their activities, performances and writing pieces. The Youth Troopers put on a number of performances focusing on topics that the group is interested and they present these performances throughout the community and also at the request of various organizations. The group meets weekly at a group member's home to hold meetings and rehearsals, as the group does not have a designated building space to use. Youth primarily are able to learn about the Youth Troopers through word of mouth through their friends and the group also has a Facebook page, which provides information about their program as well as a way for youth to contact the group through e-mail if they are interested in more information or would like to participate in writing an article on a topic of their interest (Ref 11-5).

The Nexus Centre offers an extensive range of opportunities for youth to engage in play activities within their facility. Although the organization is currently undergoing a process of revision for their youth council program they are seeking to improve the program by assisting to encourage greater youth engagement within their facilities. In the future the organization is seeking to establish opportunities for the youth council to meet with their board of directors. Nancy Pereira, the Youth Engagement Coordinator of the Nexus Centre, said that the Nexus Centre is striving to develop a youth council who will be able to assist in developing exciting play programs for youth and whose members will also be able to help facilitate the events. Although the council is not currently active the Nexus centre is striving to improve the centre through greater youth involvement initiatives.

The Peel Chinese Community Service Hub, along with their youth programs, also provide opportunities for youth to voice their opinions and offer suggestions in regards to programs that are currently offered within the group's facility. Gary, who is the Youth

Coordinator of Peel Chinese Community Hub, said that there is a group of ten youth, between the ages of 13 to 19, who meet roughly two to three times a year to discuss their concerns relating to programs and events. Gary mentioned that within this group of youth there is one individual, who the other youth members elect, acts as a spokes person and voices the concerns of the group to the Director of Family Services of Peel. The focus group usually includes a question and answer response as well as a form response. Therefore, by acquiring the opinions of youth the facility is able to produce positive changes to their programs and events.

Furthermore, the **YMCA of Mississauga** engages youth and actively seeks their opinions through the Youth Leader Corps program. There are two programs, which comprise the Youth Leader Corps. The first is "Leaders-in Training" which is for youth between the ages of 11 to 14 and the second program is "Leaders", which is designated for youth between the ages of 15 to 17. Interested participants are able to apply to the program by filling out an application form that can be located within the YMCA facility. The Youth Leader Corps group is comprised of a maximum of 15 youths who work alongside a YMCA advisor. The Youth Corps program is held between the months of September to May. The Youth Corps has assisted the YMCA youth council with the creation of "Teen Night" an event, which is for kids between 13 to 18 years old and began on October 14th 2011 and is now held every Friday between 7:00 – 10:00p.m. Therefore, through their participation in these activities it demonstrates that the voices of youth are important within the community to help unify the city and create positive change. Moreover, the YMCA also offers a Youth Council composed of energetic youth between the ages of 15 to 18 who volunteer their time to help create positive changes within the centre. Application to the Youth council is open to all youth between the ages of 15 to 18, in order to enrol in the council youth are required to fill out an application form available in the YMCA. The Youth Council normally meets once a month on Fridays from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. The Youth council also assists in creating and developing new events; one example of this is the "Teen Night" event, which was discussed earlier.

The Youth of Mississauga are able to voice their opinion about Mississauga through Facebook. Groups such as "**Voice Your Opinion Mississauga Youth**" are examples where Facebook members can join and discuss issues about the city, that matter to them. They are encouraged to fill out a questionnaire about the programs they are involved in, and whether or not they feel the city is youth friendly.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORTING EVIDENCE:

City of Mississauga

- City politicians actively encourage youth to participate in open forums for ideas discussion such as the Our Future Mississauga Engagement Sessions. Youth were included in the sessions and assisted in the development of the City's Strategic Plan. Under the "Belong" pillar of the plan, the City commits to ensuring that Mississauga is a place where youth THRIVE (Ref 11-39).
- In the development of the Mississauga Youth Plan, youth engagement was the cornerstone (Ref 11-6).
- Regular program and service surveys are conducted both electronically and manually by various city departments. User feedback is a very important aspect of the City's continuous improvement philosophy.
- Community input is often solicited during the idea and creative phase of a project. Projects that are designed with specific uses often have small group community/ stakeholder consultation to ensure that the targeted user's interests/ideas are considered. Some examples include skateboard and BMX parks, community playgrounds, multi-purpose open play spaces and complex facility structures such as Hershey's Sports Zone. Concept designs are usually presented to the community for additional opportunities to give opinions and feedback prior to proceeding with the project's next step. Mississauga values the community input (Ref 11-7).
 - City Hall Skatepark/ Nexus feedback (Ref 11-8)
- Youth Advisory Groups: Library TAGS, Community Centre Advisory Committees, Agency Based (ie Nexus, the Dam),
 - City of Mississauga Youth Advisory Groups hosts a variety of activism-based initiatives. For example, the Burnhamthorpe Youth Committee ran a community clean up event in the Spring of 2011 (Ref 11-9)
- **Mayor's Youth Advisory Youth Task Force** is an elite group of individuals who generate awareness through a campaign initiative (topic is decided annually by a vote at a general meeting). This group is a sub-committee of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (Ref 11-10)
- **Mayor's Youth Advisory Ambassador Program**
- In the fall of 2011, Barbara Tabuno (2010 MYAC President) ran for Councilor of Ward 5 in the bi-election (Ref 11-11)
- In 2011 several groups of youth have been giving regular deputations to council at general meetings (Ref 11-18).

Other Agencies

- Formal surveys are often conducted by many service providers to gain service gap information (For example, Region of Peel Health Department and Nexus Youth Services)
- Youth are encouraged to make online comments or send feedback via email on various service providers' websites, discussion boards and facebook pages (Mississauga Youth Orchestra, The Dam Youth Drop In, Mississauga.ca/youth)
- Local media supports youth activism with such outlets as Letters to the Editors,

- School Scopes, Rogers Community TV/ Teen Talk etc
- The Region of Peel's **1 Life 2 Live- Make the Right Choices for You! Youth Health Conference** is a full day event that is designed to inspire Peel's young leaders. It includes an exciting and motivational keynote speaker, educational and interactive workshops, and networking opportunities. Each year the conference offers workshops that are specially designed to engage students and teachers/school staff on health-related issues that affect youth. Students and teachers/school staff are encouraged to become healthy living ambassadors for positive change in their schools and communities by using the knowledge and skills gained at the conference (Ref 11-12).
 - Youth Led Activism in Mississauga:
 - **Meals with Love** is a youth-led group that collects donations and assembles food hampers to distribute to low income families. It is part of the Shape the Future- Youth Leadership Program (Trillium Funding) (Ref 11-13)
 - **Peel Environmental Youth Alliance** (Ref 11-14)
 - Students celebrate Stewardship Day: PEYA hosted its 6th annual Stewardship Day to more than 300 students at 7 sites in Peel. They planted trees, cleaned up parks and participated in workshops.
 - **Eco Source** is a Mississauga-based environmental education organization who serves children, youth & Adults. (Ref 11-15)
 - University of Toronto Mississauga Vote MOB (Ref 11-16 VIDEO)
 - **Access Charity** is a student-run organization the focuses on the importance of education and they advocate on behalf of this cause. (Ref 11-17)
 - The old cell phone drive aims to reduce the impact on the environment and the organization receives funds for every phone donated (Ref 11-18)
 - Youth Making a Difference Workshop (Ref 11-17 VIDEO)
 - The Arts for Change Talent Show is run by Access Charity in partnership with the Mississauga MYAC and Brampton Mayor's Youth Team. (Ref 11-19)
 - **United Way Young Leaders Council** are a group of active and emerging leaders working together to promote the engagement of our generation within Peel. (Ref 11-20)
 - **East Mississauga Health Centre** (GLT Youth Group) (Ref 11-21)
 - **REACHOUT Walk for Peace** (Ref 11-22)
 - **Fundraisers for Japan** (Erin Mills United Church with Boys & Girls Club) (Ref 11-23)
 - **Orphan Run at University of Toronto Mississauga** (to raise money & awareness) (Ref 11-24)
 - **Youth Beyond Barriers** provides support and resources to queer and Tran gendered youth in Peel as well as educational workshops and community events to raise awareness. (Ref 11-25)
 - **Mississauga Youth Leadership Committee** is a non-profit organization formed to help youths in acquiring important leadership qualities for inner improvement and in becoming active within the community by

- volunteering (Ref 11-26)
- o **Volunteering Peel** was the brain child of a group of students at John Fraser secondary school who were having difficulty finding volunteer placements for their 40 hours. The youth saw a demand and advocated for the program. It has since grown and has partnered with the adult-led organization Volunteer MBC for continued support to ensure continuity. They organize groups of students (teams of 30-40) to volunteer together at events (Ref 11-27).
- o **Youth Taking Action** is a global initiative with a Mississauga based chapter. They aim at instilling social awareness amongst peers and providing them an opportunity to convert small actions into large impacts (Ref 11-28).
- o **Art Gallery of Mississauga** hosted a panel discussion on Creating Open Spaces where professionals working with marginalized youth and issues of public space discuss ways to create open spaces

In the Media:

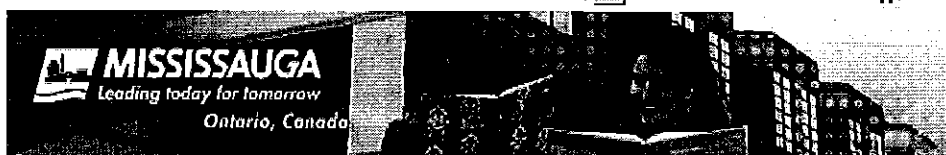
- Young activists heading north: Two Mississauga teens submitted essays for the annual Brita Eco-Challenge about themselves and how they are taking a leadership role to help protect the environment. As a result, these two budding environmental activists will head to the Arctic to continue their learning. (Ref 11-29)
- Teen encourages others to get active: A Malton teen was selected to become a Sogo Active Ambassador (national youth activity program affiliated with ParticipACTION to encourage sports participation in Canada). Attinderpal Toor earned a \$5,000 scholarship and a \$500 grant to promote physical activity in his community as a result of his efforts to get students at Lincoln Alexander more active (Ref 11-30).
- Letter to the Editor- Ban Teen Smoking: A grade 10 student wishes the government would go beyond making it illegal to sell cigarettes to minors, but they should make it illegal to smoke as well (Ref 11-31).
- Letter to the Editor- Youth Step Up: Dave Toycen (President of World Vision) takes the time to acknowledge the young people in Mississauga for their contributions to the Youth Action Campaign. To date, youth in Mississauga have raised \$426,861 (Ref 11-32).
- Letter to the Editor- Letter of the Week: A student voices their concern about the inequities of only offering summer jobs to disadvantaged youths in Peel (a provincial government initiative), stating that job opportunities should be equally accessible to all youth (Ref 11-33).
- Letter to the Editor- A Great Ride: A student writes about the Bike to City Hall Challenge. Three Mississauga high schools participated in the program to raise awareness of green initiatives and to bridge the gap between students and police (Ref 11-34).
- Peel Planet Day a Success: Volunteering Peel & PEYA participated in an event to plant trees and clean up garbage. Over 400 students attended the initiative to promote awareness about the environment and learn about maintaining a sustainable and clean environment in workshop settings (Ref 11-35).

- Voices unite for Habitat: Cawthra SS Chamber Choir participated in a multi-choir event to fundraise for Habitat for Humanity (Ref 11-36)
- It was lights out: Peel Environmental Youth Alliance ran an event to promote earth hour in an effort to raise awareness about environmental issues. The event included a ceremonial dimming of the lights at City Hall by the mayor, hop hop dance performances, a poetry slam and live music performances. City councillors were in attendance and Mississauga Hydro donated 500 flashlights that light up the great hall (Ref 11-36).
- Young Activist leads march: Leanne Iskander (16) didn't think it was fair that a gay-straight alliance was denied in a catholic secondary school and has been advocating on behalf of the group across Ontario. Pride Toronto named her LGBTQ youth of the year (Ref 11-38).

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TAG - TEEN ADVISORY GROUP



JOIN TAG!

WHAT IS IT?

Teen Advisory Groups (or "TAGs") are comprised of youth 14 to 18 years old who assist library staff in creating captivating programs for young adults. TAGs also provide staff with feedback on the library's teen collections, contribute website ideas, write book reviews, create teen-oriented displays to promote reading, provide input on the creation of inviting teen-spaces at the library and much more.

Teens join TAG for many reasons: to meet other teens, to share a love of books, to gain experience to list on university and scholarship applications, to receive credit for volunteering, and – above all – to have a direct voice in shaping the type of library they envision for themselves and their peers.

Related Links:

FEATURED ARTICLES

Game Days @ Central Library

Hosted by the Central Library TAG (Teen Advisory Group). ▫ [Details](#)

Earn Community Service Hours!

Teens help children to improve their reading skills and earn community service hours. ▫ [Details](#)

Central Library Teen Book Club

Come join the Mississauga Central Library's Teen Book Club. Meet and discuss popular books written for teens! ▫ [Details](#)

Tours and Workshops at the Mississauga Central Library

Sign your group up for a tour of the Mississauga Central Library. Special tours and workshops for secondary school classes. ▫ [Details](#)

Art Appreciation - TAG

View some great art by teens in the Library Teen Advisory Group ▫ [Details](#)

TAG (Teen Advisory Group) of Central Library

The Teen Advisory Group provides an opportunity for young people to have a voice in the Library ▫ [Details](#)



SOCIAL TAG

[Central Library TAG Blog - TAG III](#)
Book reviews and more to come!

Central TAG Shelfari Book List

An interactive book shelf - share your favorites, write reviews

TEEN BOOK CLUBS

Join the Central Library Teen Book club; meet with other teens to discuss some great titles.

[Check it out!](#)

Join the Central Library online BINGO Summer Online Book Club. Write book reviews, rate your faves!
[Play BINGO now!](#)

[Mississauga Library System | Teen Zone](#)



FIND A TAG

TAG groups now exist at several libraries throughout Mississauga including:

[Central](#)
[Churchill Meadows](#)
[CourtneyPark](#)
[Erin Meadows](#)
[Frank McKechnie](#)
[Lorne Park](#)
[Malton](#)
[Mississauga Valley](#)
[South Common](#)

[TAG Application Form](#)

6 Items found.

ecityapp2:16450



City of Mississauga
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada L5B 3C1
General Inquiries: Call 3-1-1 or 905-896-5000

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MISSISSAUGA LIBRARY SYSTEM

Follows Program for Term

VAMPIRES & Victorians

A Fall by Alexandra Harvey

Join Canadian writer Alexandra Harvey, author of the YA vampire series *The Queen Bees* and YA Victorian *Madame Fother*, for a reading of her work, book signings and special presentation of *Vampires and Victorians*.



Mississauga Central Library
101 Burnhamthorpe Road W.
Grove Park Branch
Mississauga, Ontario L5R 1A1
Tel: 905-277-8100

Supports a program of the Mississauga Library System
and the Mississauga Community Foundation



MISSISSAUGA

Meadowvale Community Centre

RECREATION AND PARKS

6655 Glen Erin Drive | L5N 3L4 | 905-615-4710



Newsletter 2011

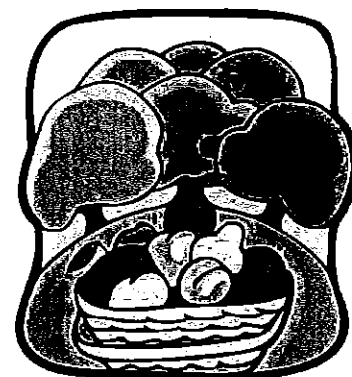
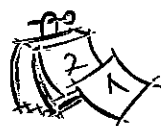


Get Active



Important Reminders

- Register for fall programs now!
In person at a Community Centre or online
www.mississauga.ca/connect2rec
- Fall/Winter Brochures are available for pick-up at local Community Centres
- We will be closed September 5, October 10, December 25 & 26
- Programs begin September 17
- ALL programs are subject to minimum and maximum capacities so reserve your spot early to avoid disappointment.



New Program Changes

- consistent exception dates
- more affordable sessions
- shorter breaks between sessions

Session Dates

- Fall 1 Week of Sept 17th to Nov 18th
- Fall 2 Week of Nov 19th to Feb 3rd
- Winter Week of Feb 11th to Apr 20th

Register now for all 3 sessions!



Youth Advisory Committee: Our youth advisory committee, Meadowvale Youth Freeway, are currently seeking more youth to join the committee. This opportunity is for youth 12-24 years of age who are interested in getting involved in the community and earning hours towards their high school volunteer requirements. For more information please call 905-615-4710.

Check this out!



Meadowvale CC offers pool and room rentals for birthday parties, special occasions and meetings!
Call 905-615-4710 ext. 2562 for more information!

Pre-Teen Dances

Just for Grades 5 and 6! Each dance offers a fun night of dancing to the latest tunes, dance contests, theme nights and more! Dances are held the second and fourth Friday of the month. Get your friends together and come out for a fun night just for you!
Call 905-615-4710 for more information.

Featured Program



Hands – The First Sign of Good Grooming!

Allyson



SEARCH

CALENDAR

EVENTS

SNAP NORTH MISSISSAUGA

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RETURN TO EDITION

SHARE

Back 2 School Bash

In early October, the Meadowvale Youth Freeway Committee hosted its first community event, a "Back 2 School Bash", held at the Meadowvale Community Centre. The weekend event, which was promoted through local schools, included games (with prizes!), a live band and DJ, a BBQ, and more! The Committee plans to promote more events in the future, and encourages area youth to get involved with the Meadowvale Youth Group! Visit <http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/residents/meadowvale> for info about the Meadowvale Community Centre.



Photos by Lesley Tulko

Staff and volunteers

0

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Interact with your community! Share the photo with your friends, leave a comment for the world to see, or buy a copy of the photo as a print or downloadable file to keep forever.

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Share Comment Buy



Share Comment Buy



Share Comment Buy



Share Comment Buy



Share Comment Buy

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Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



Meadowvale Youth Freeway

Like

Create a Page

Community Organization · Mississauga, Ontario

- Wall
- Info
- Photos
- Discussions
- Events

Wall Meadowvale Youth Freeway · Everyone (Top Posts)

Share: [Post](#) [Photo](#)

7 like this

4 talking about this

Likes



We Day



The Riverwood Conservancy



Mississauga Youth Plan



River Grove Currents Youth Advisory



Meadowvale Community Centre

Create a Page



Meadowvale Youth Freeway

Want to work out at Meadowvale but not sure where to start? Try our new Weight Training for Youth program starting November 19. Open to ages 13-16, a trainer will guide you while you develop a routine to meet your personal goals.

Weight Training for Youth
www1.city.mississauga.on.ca

Learn how to perform various weight training exercises using machines and free weights. The trainer will teach proper progression, allowing participants to develop their own personal weight training routine.

Like · Comment · 17 hours ago ·



Meadowvale Youth Freeway

One more way to have your voice heard - visit the Voice Your Opinion Mississauga Youth Page, the best pic/video/story/answer will win a Square One gift certificate!



Voice your opinion Mississauga youth

Hi youth of mississauga (ages 13-19) Voice your opinion about the city of Mississauga. Tell us whether or not you feel the City of Mississauga is Youth friendly. Post pics, videos, and stories about...

Like · Comment · Yesterday at 2:27pm ·



Meadowvale Youth Freeway created an event.



Youth Freeway Meeting

Yesterday at 4:00pm
Meadowvale Community Centre, Mississauga, ON

Like · Comment · October 21 at 9:09am



Meadowvale Youth Freeway

Did you know that you can swim on Sunday afternoons for only \$1? Only available until November 11.



Meadowvale Community Centre

Loonie Swims and Skates are back! From now until November 11, 2011, enjoy swimming or skating for only \$1 at participating pools and arenas. Meadowvale Pool's Loonie Swim is on Sundays from 2:45-4:10pm, see www.loonieswim.ca for full schedules.

Like · Comment · October 14 at 3:18pm ·



Meadowvale Youth Freeway created an event.



Youth Freeway Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 3:30pm
Meadowvale Community Centre, Mississauga, ON

Like · Comment · October 14 at 2:41pm



Meadowvale Youth Freeway



Email Password

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Facebook helps you connect and share with the people in your life.



YTGA Youth Troopers For Global Awareness

Non-Profit Organization · Mississauga, Ontario

Wall
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Photos

Wall YTGA · Everyone (Top Posts)

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155

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9

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Alliance Against Modern Slavery (AAMS)
57 like this

The Toronto Palestine Film Festival
1,732 like this

YTGA
UoFT students: what are you doing November 4? Come to Hart House and check out YTGA UoFT's first Annual General Meeting to learn more about our organization and how you can be a part of it!

YTGA UoFT General Meeting
Friday, November 4 at 7:30am

Like · Comment · 9 hours ago ·

<http://english.aljazeera.net/programmes/slaverya21stcentury/vil/2011/10/2011101010134454998749.html>

Sex slaves
www.aljazeera.com
There are an estimated 1.4 million sex slaves in the world today and international trafficking is on the rise.

Like · Comment · October 24 at 6:28pm ·

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=203923473013317>

YTGA UoFT General Meeting
Friday, November 4 at 7:30am

Like · Comment · October 14 at 12:46pm ·

RECENT ACTIVITY

"Hey there! Just wanted to make..." on Peel District School Board's Wall.

"Hey everyone at Bendale! Ever..." on Bendale Business And Technical Institute's Wall.

See you all there!! https://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=126430507463835&view=wall¬if_t=event_wall

Feed the Need Eid Dinner hosted by UTM PDF & UTM Islamic Relief
Wednesday, November 16 at 12:00pm, Blind Duck Pub at UTM

Like · Comment · October 23 at 10:20pm ·

BBC News - Panorama - The secret lives of Britain's child beggars
news.bbc.co.uk

The BBC's Panorama programme confront the people who use children to beg on the streets of London, tracking them to their homes in Romania.

Like · Comment · October 22 at 2:07am ·

sad..
October 22 at 6:41am

YTGA
If you are a youth in high school, and would like to attend this amazing event, apply online: <http://tedxyouthtoronto.ca/index.php?page=signup> applications are being accepted until tomorrow, October 25! Tell your friends! YTGA will be there, performing and supporting this educational and awesome event!

TEDxYouth@Toronto 2011 | Universal Children's Day (Nov. 20)
tedxyouthtoronto.ca

Joanne Foote

From: Wesley Anderson
Sent: 2011/08/02 9:25 PM
To: Joanne Foote
Subject: FW: Focus Group - 23 August 2011

Importance: High

I've forwarded this to YAT members. I'd like specifically for Chris, Alex and Azim to attend, since they were the ones most interested with the Cultural Mapping project when John presented.

From: Bonnie Dowhaniuk
Sent: 2011/08/02 2:49 PM
To: Wesley Anderson
Subject: FW: Focus Group - 23 August 2011
Importance: High

Hi Wesley,

As noted below by John Ariyo(see highlighted part), can you please provide me with three youth contacts that we could approach to ask for their input into the Culture Mapping project.

Look forward to your response asap.

Thank you,
 Sincerely,

Bonnie Dowhaniuk
 Project Manager
 City of Mississauga | Culture Division

301 Burnhamthorpe Road West
 Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3Y3
 ☎ 905.615.3200 x 4150
 📠 905.615.3828
 ✉ bonnie.dowhaniuk@mississauga.ca

From: John Ariyo
Sent: 2011/07/30 1:32 PM
To: Ramona Braganza
Cc: Susan Burt; Bonnie Dowhaniuk; Richard Pearce
Subject: Focus Group - 23 August 2011
Importance: High

Hi Ramona

We are planning to do a focus group with selected City staff and external stakeholders to obtain feedback on the draft "look and feel" of the Cultural Resource Map. The focus group will be scheduled for Tuesday, 23rd August 2011. But because I am away, Susan suggested you can assist us by sending invitation to invitees and understand who can attend. If we have enough attendees, then we'll hold the meeting. If not, then we can cancel.

So here are the attendees I am suggesting:

City Staff:

1. Core Project Team: John Ariyo, Rich, Dave, Annemarie, Derek Allen, Steve Czajka, Susan Amring
2. Steering Committee: Shawn, Larry, Don, Susan, John Calvert
3. Culture Staff: Bonnie, Paola, Lobna
4. Communications: Lindsay, Marie, Tina, Rob

External Stakeholders:

1. MAC - 3 staff (Linda, Heather, Sonja)
2. VAM - 1 staff - Margo
3. AGM - 2 staff - Rob, Gail
4. Heritage Mississauga - 1 staff - Jayme
5. Youth - 3 youths (please contact Wesley Anderson at the City to give you three names. I've already discussed this with him)
6. Individuals - 3 individual artists (I suggest Christine Montague, Sonja Hidas and Jane Motyka)

Bonnie can help with the contact info if needed. Most of the contact info is saved under: K:\Arts & Culture\Cultural Mapping\1_CULTURAL MAPPING\Public Engagements\Focus Group - 30th November

TOTAL: in Total, we should be having about 32 invitees. If 15 and above are able to attend, then we're good.

MEETING DETAILS:

Date: Tuesday, 23 August 2011

Venue: Book a venue for 30 people (I suggest Committee Room A or the like)

Time: I suggest 10:30 - 12:00 noon, but considering paid parking, may be 7:00 - 8:30PM. (please discuss with Susan her preference). Or ask potential attendees to indicate their preference first.

THE MESSAGE TO SEND OUT:

Please work with Bonnie and Rich, and possibly Lindsay to craft out a message. All we are doing is that we'll be having the first look and feel created for Cultural Mapping. We need their inputs/feedback on the concepts. Please send this message out ASAP to the invitees, as soon as possible, but latest by Thursday, 4th August, and ask them to respond latest by Thursday, 11 August.

Thanks!

John

Kristina Zietsma

From: Joanne Foote
Sent: 2011/08/04 12:01 PM
To: Melissa Louka; kanslow@peelcc.org
Cc: Lisa Boyce-Gonsalves; Stu Taylor; Kristina Zietsma
Subject: Follow up - Civic Skate Focus Group Sept 2010
Attachments: Civic Skate Park Focus group feedback Sept 15 2010.doc

Hello Melissa and Karen

Since the implementation of the Youth Plan, the City has worked with local youth to make changes in the Civic Skateboard Plaza and have followed up on a number of the comments and requests that NEXUS youth provided in the September 2010.

I have indicated the positive action we have taken in red on the original document (see attached).

We will be continuing with further programming and events of the skateboard plaza space this summer.

If you have any comments or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Enjoy!

Joanne Foote
Youth Plan Co-ordinator
Recreation and Parks Division
Community Services
950 Burnhamthorpe Road West
905-615-3200 x5319
joanne.foote@mississauga.ca



Feedback: Nexus Youth Services

Topic: Sculpture Court, Mississauga Civic Centre

Date: Wednesday, September 8, 2010

Number of participants: 15

Youth Plan implementation response to youth feedback.

A focus group took place at Nexus Youth Services located in Mississauga's Central Library. The focus group involved placement students, Nexus Youth Council and other youth visiting the centre. Some youth have been engaged at the Sculpture court by the City of Mississauga's Child and Youth Consultant; their feedback has also been included. Some of the highlights of the feedback included the following;

- Space to closed in (not easily monitored by passer-by's) Closed off space helps contain any loose skateboards that may endanger passer by's, intimacy of the space creates a dedicated hangout for teenagers, closed off space allows for loud live music for events
- Not enough ramps/rails (too basic for most skateboarders) Intent was to use existing space on Civic Centre property that would allow skateboarders a dedicated and legal area to skate instead of previously illegal, unsafe spaces such as the underground parking garage, we worked with what was available as close to where the skaters were already
- Better promotion of space will draw more users (youth would like to see events in this space) Youth Connect 2011 event youth volunteer Chris Kay organized setting up stage in skateboard plaza with 4 local bands, youth dancing, very positive feedback , almost 100 teenagers participated
- More attractions Youth Ambassadors receiving feedback from users so that they can organize attractions that the youth want, Art Gallery is also organizing youth events such as Panel Discussion with youth to discuss how tdo youth create open spaces for play, belonging and identity
- move the log to create more space Log prevents skateboards from escaping down the stairway and provides a place for teenagers to sit, it was very well used during the Youth Connect concerts and works well to contain the skateboards for everyone's safety
- have events/competitions in the space (BBQ/Game tables etc) Youth Ambassadors scheduled in the skateboard plaza nightly to hang with the teenagers and create a positive atmosphere, gather input from the users
- Remove port-a-potty (concerns around cleanliness, also provides as space for illegal drug use, drinking and possibly a concealed area for sexual activity) Done

Over an hour and a half the focus group discussed specific questions which are outlined below; their specific feedback is also provided. The consensus is that the group would like to continue to see the space be available for a variety of activities. Having the space programmed or holding special events would encourage positive use of the space. An asterisk (*) indicates more than one participant provided the same answer.

What current activity are you using the space for?

- Skateboarding
- Chillin' watching skateboarders*
- relaxing*
- quiet spot to read a book
- relaxing with friends*



- biking with my cousins
- interaction/resource
- Nothing at all

How often do you visit/use the space?

- Only when I walk by it
- I've only been there once
- whenever possible, random visits
- Every weekend
- 2-3 times a week*
- 2-4 times a week
- Once a week

What do you like most about the space?

- location* users tell us they like promimity to Sq One bus terminal, movie theatre and food court, close to their school Father Michael Goetz , close to where they live
- It's a very safe environment
- A lot of nice people go around there to chill*
- It's very useful to skaters
- It's a place where people can chill outdoors, discuss with and meet people
- It is in a relaxing environment and it's right by square one
- Interaction between youth
- Nothing really
- The Graffiti referring to the wall murals

What do you least about the space?

- It isn't open**
- dirty* Parks staff and Youth Ambassadors clean daily 2011
- too small
- feel boxed
- it's closed in and not enough people come through
- too shady/closed in 2011 very hot, humid, kids appreciated the shade this year, during YouthConnect 2011 concert in the plaza shade was very welcome
- not enough ramps and activity space

What improvements could be made to the space?

- make space bigger
- clean up area/regularly maintained Being done
- change or add basketball court
- add more ramps and rails*
- also paint artwork to make it more visually appealing Murals were re painted 2010, new mural added in 2011 , all were painted by teenagers
- open it up /make more space
- Hold events that will draw people to the space so it can be used by more people YouthConnect2011 July 29 successful, more events will be planned by youth



- block parties
- remove wall/close in hidden corners
- remove portable washroom Done, permanent washrooms now available by fountain in 2011
- Picnic tables

2011 we had 10 corporate security report incidences in the skateboard plaza up to July 8, 2011. We have had no CSR's since July 8, 2011.

Note: Skateboard Ambassador Program started July 10, 2011 , YouthConnect2011 event was July 29, 2011. We will monitor correlation between reported incidents and Skateboard Ambassador Program

In contribution to Earth week, BCC
has decided to do a...

Burnhamthorpe

Community Centre

100 Burnhamthorpe

West York, Ontario

MISSISSAUGA
Leading today for tomorrow

Community Clean Up!

Hosted By the BCC Youth Committee



WHEN: Wednesday April 20th, 2011

TIME: 3:30pm

WHERE: BCC





Youth Committee Garbage Clean-up



Youth Committee Tree planting



The Youth Task Force

The applications are now out! All applications are due October 31, 2011 at midnight!
Click here to download the application! (If the previous link doesn't work for you click here!)

Email your finished applications to myac@mississauga.ca MAKE SURE your email subject is "Youth Task Force Application - First name, Last name"

- Role* The Youth Task Force (YTF) is a sub-committee of MYAC that is co-chaired by the Chairperson and the Director of Government Relations. This program has a mandate to raise awareness of issues important to Youth. This program empowers the Youth across Mississauga to advocate for change in a positive direction and to develop solutions that affect and impact Youth. At the beginning of every new term, MYAC general members vote on what issue the Task Force should deal with.
- Responsibility* The Youth Task Force consists of 20 members, representing schools from all over Mississauga, and is selected by the Chairperson and Director of Government Affairs from a handful of applicants. Depending on the issue that the General Members of MYAC vote on to tackle, the Youth Task Force will generate awareness through a campaign initiative.
- Rewards* This program is rich in providing Youth Task Force member with an excellent opportunity to gain valuable skills including leadership, communication, teamwork, and decision-making.
- Obtain volunteer hours
 - Obtain a reference letter
 - Run as a candidate for MYAC Executive elections
- Commitment Expectations*
1. Attend monthly meetings
 2. Respect any commitments they make to Youth Task Force colleagues and MYAC
 3. Average 5 - 10 hours per month of activity (according to their schedule)



Tabuno eyes Ward 5 seat



Ward 5 candidate. Barbara Hazel Tabuno is running for the Ward 5 City Council seat in the Sept. 19 by-election. *Supplied photo*
Chris Clay

August 2, 2011

Barbara Hazel Tabuno believes her youth will be an asset for the people of Ward 5.

Tabuno, 24, is running in the Sept. 19 by-election to fill the vacant Ward 5 City Council seat.

"I really feel being 24 and the youngest person running," is working in my favour, said Tabuno, a graduate of York University who's continuing her education while working part-time at Toronto General Hospital. "I'll bring bold, brave and practical ideas to Council.

"I want to shake up City Hall and bring it into a new era of open confidence and good governance," she continued.

Tabuno served as chair of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee for one year and said during that time she increased the number of youth members from 40 to 160. She organized the Mississauga Youth Achievement Awards,

which were presented in July, and the Mississauga's Got Talent contest, slated for September.

She currently serves as a member of the City's Mississauga Celebration Square, Healthy City Stewardship Centre and Living Green Master Plan committees.

Tabuno wants to make life better for all Mississauga residents and wants to see more investment in youth and seniors, improvements in public transit, reduction of traffic and safe streets and homes.

Engaging the community is a top priority.

"I'll bring City Hall to the residents," said Tabuno, who'd hold quarterly town hall meetings with constituents if elected. "There's been poor engagement of the community and residents' voices have been left out. I'm running to make sure the community stays engaged."

She also believes it's time for new voices on Council.

"We need a new generation of leaders and I represent the new Mississauga," said Tabuno, who was diagnosed with t-cell lymphoma in her teens.

Having lived in the ward her entire life, Tabuno feels that will benefit her as councillor.

"I'm a strong local citizen of Ward 5 and the ward needs someone who understands its needs and reflects its residents," she said.

cclay@mississauga.net

Got an extra smoke? Ever heard that plea?

It can be heard pretty much everywhere – outside convenience stores, in parking lots, on sidewalks. But thanks to the work of a handful of dedicated students, that catchphrase is being heard less and less around Port Credit Secondary School.

And it all started with something called 1L2L – 1 Life 2 Live.

Not a text message. And definitely not a TV soap. 1L2L is a conference put on by Peel Public Health. It's designed to give youth the skills they need to lead peer-to-peer health initiatives at their high schools. And it supports school staff to help them champion the plans developed by their students.

Four students and one staff member from Port Credit returned from this conference with a goal – open the eyes of fellow students to the perils of smoking and the manipulations of the tobacco industry.

They formed a committee and took a step toward that goal. They worked with staff from Peel Public Health and received a grant from the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion to support their efforts.

They decided to focus their work on a week-long tobacco awareness event. It included several displays – including a trivia game and other interactive prisms – from Peel Public Health, a visit from the Ontario Lung Association, materials from Stupid.ca and *extinguish the source* (Peel Public

Health's youth tobacco advocacy group), a school-wide scavenger hunt, movie screening and more. The "more" included the Black Angels.

Talk about getting attention.

Imagine coming to school one day and finding 130 large black angels hung ominously in the windows of the school foyer. The angels – one for every Canadian who dies from a tobacco-related illness each day of the year – were a not so subtle way to illustrate the dangers of the tobacco smoke.

The buzz was incredible. The angels were impossible to miss. So was the message.

Buoyed by their success, the committee then worked with Peel Public Health and its *extinguish* advocacy group on a petition against chewing tobacco, a product that is increasing in popularity among young people.

The committee is less than a year old so it's hard to measure its success. But based on the buzz in the halls and the talk in the staff room, it's pretty easy to guess they're making a dent... not only in preventing tobacco use before it ever starts but also reducing smoking around their school.

Their hope? That their friends and peers will say "no thanks" instead of bumming a smoke.

Now that would be success.



"Students have the ultimate power to be role models in promoting a tobacco-free lifestyle."

Angela De Maria, Peel Public Health Nurse

1 life 2 live

YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Region of Peel's 1 Life 2 Live - Make the Right Choices for You! Youth Health Conference is a full day event that is designed to inspire Peel's young leaders. It includes an exciting and motivational keynote speaker, educational and interactive workshops, and networking opportunities. Each year the conference offers workshops that are specially designed to engage students and teachers/school staff on health-related issues that affect youth. Students and teachers/school staff are encouraged to become healthy living ambassadors for positive change in their schools and communities by using the knowledge and skills gained at the conference.

In addition, interested schools have the opportunity to receive information and submit applications for grant funding at this event.

All secondary schools in Peel are invited to send one teacher/staff advisor and up to four students at no cost. A complimentary breakfast and lunch (*includes menu items such as fruit, bagels, assorted sandwiches/wraps, and beverages*) will be provided to all participants, but transportation to and from the event must be arranged individually by each group.

Information about this year's conference:

The 5th annual 1 Life 2 Live - Make the Right Choices for You! Youth Health Conference will be held on Wednesday, November 2, 2011 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Living Arts Centre in Mississauga.

This year the motivational keynote speaker is David Major.

Registration is now closed.


MEALS WITH LOVE.....

FROM OUR HEART TO YOURS... FROM OUR HEART TO YOURS... FROM OUR HEART TO YOURS... FROM OUR HEART TO YOURS...

BLOG

[« Back to Blog \(http://mealswithlove.webs.com/apps/blog/\)](http://mealswithlove.webs.com/apps/blog/) [« Older Entry \(http://mealswithlove.webs.com/apps/blog/show/prev?from_id=3264966\)](http://mealswithlove.webs.com/apps/blog/show/prev?from_id=3264966) | [Newer Entry » \(http://mealswithlove.webs.com/apps/blog/show/next?from_id=3264966\)](http://mealswithlove.webs.com/apps/blog/show/next?from_id=3264966)

[Youth get together to hand out ?Meals with Love? - News Release - Community Environment Alliance of Peel \(http://mealswithlove.webs.com/apps/blog/show/3264966-youth-get-together-to-hand-out-meals-with-love-news-release-community-environment-alliance-of-peel\)](http://mealswithlove.webs.com/apps/blog/show/3264966-youth-get-together-to-hand-out-meals-with-love-news-release-community-environment-alliance-of-peel)

 Posted by mealswithlove on March 27, 2010 at 12:07 PM

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Youth get together to hand out "Meals with Love"

Brampton, ONT. -- Five passionate youth from Brampton and Mississauga created 50 food hampers and distributed them to low income families across the Greater Toronto Area. What was unique about this distribution was the fact that it included a variety of fresh locally produced Ontario fruits and vegetables and low sodium food items. The food was accompanied with tips on healthy eating. It was packed in reusable environmentally-friendly bags and involved zero-waste packaging! Approximately 350 lbs of fresh fruits and vegetables were distributed by the youth to 50 families to help take care of a week's supply of ration. Each hamper consisted of organic and low sodium food items including: onions, potatoes, bell peppers, tomatoes, carrots, peaches, Canola oil, rice, whole wheat bread, chocolate, a water bottle, and a \$5.00 grocery store gift certificate for milk. The tag line of the Meals with Love initiative -- "from our heart to yours" -- describes the spirit of the initiative.

On August 26, the hampers were distributed at not-for-profit agencies working with abused women. Some of the hampers were also distributed to marginalized seniors. The agencies where the distribution took place included: the Interim Place, Surveyor's Point Social Housing and South Asian Family Support Services. In each agency, the youth began their distribution with a short skit on healthy eating. The skit included tips on how to distinguish between healthy and unhealthy ingredients.

The distribution of these hampers led to the launch of the "Meals with Love" project. This project is the brain child of five youth completing their global citizenship and leadership program called "Shape the Future". "We wanted to apply the concepts we learned in the Shape the Future program. So we came up with the idea of these hampers that have less food miles and are healthy," says Project Coordinator Aaron Pinto.

Subsequently, the youth raised funds for buying the food items and launched the program with support from Community Environment Alliance, a Peel-based non-profit agency.

Through this initiative, Aaron Pinto (Project Coordinator), Amita Pande (Finance Director), Simona Rasquinha (Marketing Director), Shreya Bhandari (Communications Director) and Zarmina Khan (Public Relations Director) hoped to make a difference in the world this summer, starting first with their local community!

The Meals with Love project is a part of Shape the Future Youth Leadership Program (STF-YLP) of Community Environment Alliance. The program was launched last year with generous financial support from Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Community Environment Alliance of Peel is a registered, community based organization dedicated to building healthy communities through education, action and empowerment.



Students celebrate Stewardship Day

Rebecca Araujo
May 9, 2011

More than 300 students turned out on for sixth annual Stewardship Day, organized by the Peel Environment Youth Alliance (PEYA).

Held April 28, the volunteers planted native trees, picked up litter and took part in workshops designed to increase environmental knowledge. PEYA's mandate is to make positive change for the environment.

The event was held at seven Peel Region sites: University of Toronto, Riverwood Park, Credit Meadows Park, Dunn Park/Arbour Green, Heart Lake Conservation Area, Orchard Heights Park and Sandalwood Park.

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EcoSource
Growing a Green Community

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Programs

Research & Resources

Get Involved

Making It Possible

Who We Are

EcoSource is an Ontario-based innovative environmental education organization serving youth, adults and families. Our work began in Mississauga and has expanded throughout the Region of Peel and beyond! Our hands-on programs focus on how each of us can change our daily habits to become better environmental citizens.

At EcoSource, we believe that when people realize how much impact their daily choices have on our environment, they will choose to become better environmental citizens. And we believe that most people are ready and willing to make those changes - they just need information and support.

Our Vision Statement:

Our vision is to move public attitudes and perceptions about environmental issues toward responsible personal action.

Our Core Purpose:

Our core purpose is to inspire personal accountability for the viability of the planet!

Our Mission Statement:

EcoSource is an innovative organization that empowers the community to become more environmentally responsible through creative public education.

EcoSource is a registered charity (Business Number 11924 5645 RR0001) and all donations to EcoSource are tax deductible!



My School



My Community



News

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About

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ACCESS: Allowing Children a Chance at Education Inc. is a non-profit organization focused on providing education opportunities to youth in developing countries, while raising awareness and inspiring youth locally.

As a student-run organization, ACCESS focuses on the importance of education. Education is a basic human right. Unfortunately, 120 million children are out of school around the world today. There are two UN Millennium Development Goals that relate directly to education, one of them being to “ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling”. This is the emphasis on education that ACCESS believes is crucial for a successful global future.

Browse the pages on the About menu on the right to learn more about ACCESS.
To learn about what we do, visit our [Initiatives](#) page.



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Your old or unwanted cell phones can support global education

September 30, 2011 | News

[Home](#) » [Blog](#) » [News](#) » Your old or unwanted cell phones can support global education

Old cell phones aren't garbage.

Give yours in to create change!



ACCESS is now offering the opportunity to support both education in developing countries and to protect the environment in a simple way. Schools, community centres and offices can contribute to this initiative by collecting used cell phones.

Cell phones contain over 8 hazardous materials including arsenic, and improper disposal pollutes our air, waste land soil. These unwanted cell phones can instead be refurbished or safely recycled – and ACCESS receives funds for every phone donated.

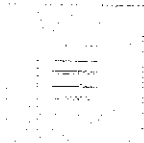
Cell Phone Drives consist of collecting old, damaged or no-longer needed cell phones from family, friends, students and co-workers. This provides the satisfaction of being both eco-friendly and contributing to the quality of children's lives in developing countries – all while getting rid of unused devices.

The average household has 3 cell phones collecting dust in drawers, boxes or closets! Any handset or PDA can be safely recycled through this program. There are no purchases required and ACCESS assists in getting started with this simple, earth-friendly initiative. ACCESS will accept working and broken devices (note that ACCESS receives a larger credit for phones that *are* useable).

ACCESS and the youth it benefits depend on motivated groups of youth or businesses willing to unite for the common cause. ACCESS invites you to consider hosting a Cell Phone Drive this fall – opening up your community to positive change.

For more details, please visit the Cell Phone Drive page on the ACCESS website at accesscharity.ca/takeaction/fundraising/cellphonedrive.

Recent Posts



Your old or unwanted cell phones can support global education
September 30, 2011



ACCESS announces passionate, diverse Board of Directors
September 19, 2011

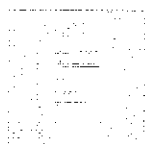


Educator Resources to bring social justice, global perspective into the classroom
September 7, 2011

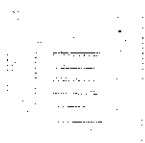
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We Want Change!
June 6, 2008



Your Experience in the Developing World
February 24, 2008



Earthquake in Haiti
January 13, 2010

Leave a Reply

Name *

Email *

June 25 7:00 pm

Mississippi Centre Library
1000 Hwy 90 East
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

\$5 Tickets

ARTS FOR CHANGE

Talent Show/Fundraiser

accesscharity.ca



MYAC



MYC

accesscharity.ca/artsforchange



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YOU ARE HERE: HOME > GET INVOLVED > IN YOUNG LEADERS COUNCIL

Young Leaders Council

The Young Leaders Council is a group of individuals aged 20-35 years old who are active and emerging leaders working together to promote the engagement of our generation within Peel Region. We empower Peel's emerging leaders to strengthen the community and inherit the future of United Way of Peel Region.

Our objectives are to :

- Impact: Encourage youth and young adults to support and advance the United Way of Peel Region's vision, mission and strategic directions.
- Empower: Promote and strengthen emerging youth and young adult leadership in Peel Region.
- Engage: Provide youth and young adults with opportunities to get involved in their community through spirited giving and civic engagement.

Leave a Legacy:

We understand the personal, social and professional rewards you are seeking. We have no doubt that there is a volunteer, awareness or donation opportunity that will inspire you to get involved.

Low Time Commitment

Donor

Show your commitment to building a caring, connected community by making a donation to the Community Fund.

General Member

Sign up to receive email updates on YLC activities.

Medium Time Commitment

Committee Member

There are several subcommittees that you can get involved with.

- YLC Ambassador Network: promote United Way to your colleagues (ages 20 to 35) as part of your employer's workplace campaign.
- Events: participate in the planning and execution of events, including social, fundraising and/or volunteer activities.
- Information: promote YLC activities through social media including Facebook, Twitter and Youtube.
- Skills Development Series: plan and execute a learning series for your peers.
- Youth Campaigns: promote Youth Campaigns to people under the age of 24 and spearhead the Youth Spirit Awards.
- Youth in Action Grants: plan, promote and review the Youth in Action Grants, a grant opportunity available for youth between the ages of 14 to 24 years to lead and implement community projects.

High Time Commitment

Executive Member

The Executive Members are elected by the YLC membership during the YLC General Meeting each June. Participation typically requires attendance and participation at monthly Executive meetings and leading and coordinating monthly committee meetings. Members should not miss more than three meetings per calendar year.

- Chair: The Chair provides leadership to the YLC Executive.
- Vice Chair: Supports the Chair in providing leadership to the Young Leaders Council Executive.
- Executive: Executive members of the YLC include the leaders of each of the YLC committees.
- Member-at-Large: Members-at-Large participate on the YLC Executive Committee by providing general support to YLC activities but do not lead a committee.

How to Get Involved

There are several different ways you can get involved with the Young Leaders Council.

Check out our photos on Flickr: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/youngleaderscouncil/>

Check us out on Facebook: Young Leaders Council – United Way of Peel Region


Contact Nicole Dupuis at 905-602-3622 or ndupuis@unitedwaypeel.org to join or find out more.

2010/11 Young Leaders Council

Executive Council

Co-Chair	Amanda Bordonaro
Raj Venkataraman	Jen Davis
Co-Chair	Henry Dang
Diane Saldanha	Mariam Hashmi
	Atif Mahmood
	Elizabeth Mendes
	Louroz Mercader
	Meghan Walters


Address: 90 Burnhamthorpe Road West, Suite 408 | PO Box 58| Mississauga, ON L5B 3C3 | Tel: 905-602-3650 | Fax: 905-602-3651 | Email: info@unitedwaypeel.org



East Mississauga Community Health Centre

A Branch of LAMP

2555 Dixie Road, Unit 7 | Mississauga L4Y 4C4 | Phone 905.602.4082 | Email mississauga@lampchc.org



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Welcome

The East Mississauga CHC, a branch of the Lakeshore Area Multiservice Project (LAMP), is a community based, charitable, organization that believes in creating greater access to health resources in the community. We provide family health care services and health promotion programs.

We provide services to everyone and we make increased efforts to make our services and programs available to isolated seniors, under-served racialized groups and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Queer communities.

News & Events

Accepting New Patien...
We are now accepting new patients! Please call us for eligibility at 905 602 772...
[Read More](#)

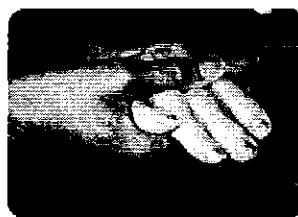
Employment Equity Pr...
Hosted at the East Mississauga CHC, the Health and Racism Working Group is excit...
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Funding Provided by Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care



Clinical Services



Health Promotion



Careers



Walkers reach out for peace

Leanna Smashnuk

May 14, 2010

The Reachout Committee will host its fifth annual Walk for Peace on June 5 at Lakefront Promenade Park. With a focus of empowering youth, the Reachout Committee is a non-profit, community-based organization that serves Mississauga, Toronto and Brampton. It works to build positive relationships between young people and the police and justice system.

The goal of the walk is to raise funds for Reachout's Youth Scholarship Awards, to be held July 3.

"We are looking forward to this challenge and achieving new personal goals while raising money for such a worthy scholarship," said Angela Thorpe, executive director of Reachout Committee Inc., Toronto. "We're hoping to make this walk-a-thon the best ever."

Games and a barbecue are scheduled after the walk, which begins at 1 p.m.

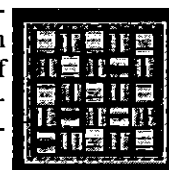
For more information, call 416-571-9337.

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Weaving Sacred Connections

Erin Mills United Church Women for Women 14th Annual Spring Retreat

Women of EMUC and their friends are invited to participate in a one-day retreat on Saturday June 4th with departure from EMUC at 8:30 am to travel to Five Oaks retreat centre (near Paris ON) and a return home by 6 pm. An hour's drive from EMUC, Five Oaks (www.fiveoaks.on.ca) is in a beautiful natural setting with 116 acres of Carolinian forest and the meeting of the Grand River and Whiteman's Creek. Walking trails, a beautifully designed labyrinth and benches are strategically located throughout the property offer plenty of opportunity for reflection and enjoyment of this sacred place.



At Five Oaks, we have arranged for our own space complete with kitchen, dining and living room for indoor relaxing. The retreat day will include:

a relaxed program with group discussions and friendly conversation, outdoor fun, hiking and walking the labyrinth, transportation to/from Five Oaks in carpools arranged by participants, delicious healthy lunch and snacks prepared by participants.

Please register for the retreat by Sunday May 29th by emailing Laura Macro at laura@mayfairlegacygroup.ca or by signing up at EMUC. Registration for the day is \$25. Make cheques payable to Erin Mills United Church - Women's 2011 Retreat and drop them off at the church office. You are registered when both are complete.

Bursary assistance is available - confidentially contact Kathy Toivanen at kathy@emuc.ca. For more information contact Laura at 905-593-9434.

Erin Mills Youth Centre

In May, the board and staff were extremely busy preparing for two major events- the May 11 Fundraiser, Fashion Fuzion and the first General Meeting on June 22.

The Fashion Fuzion evening was well received and 'sold out'! The evening blended East Asian and Western fashions, with entertainment, a bazaar and great food! Co-chairs Vivian Singh, Vice President of the board of EMYC and Monica Virmani made this event a huge success with their amazing fundraising and marketing skills. Many thanks to Monica for her generous financial support and to Debby Sturgeon for applying for the raffle license and for other vital administrative tasks! Thanks to all the talents and efforts of the EMYC staff and committed volunteers who helped implement the event (great team work) and to EMUC folk for supporting this event and other EMYC programs.

The first EMYC General Meeting will introduce members of the Board, approve bylaws, finances and reports from board and staff. Please call us at (905) 820-3577 for information/registration for attendance. Learn more about our programs and ideas for the future! We welcome and look forward to working with new board member Patricia Boyer who brings a wealth of experience in the Human Resources area.

Staff are busy with the final programs for this academic year. Programs have successfully attracted new youth participants. The Fundraiser for Japan on April 20 was a great event with youth preparing crafts, baking and canvassing for donations for a silent auction. The youth who organized the fundraiser attended Erin Mills Youth Centre and the Boys & Girls Club of Peel programs. The youth acted as hosts, provided entertainment and were very involved in all aspects of the event. The actual final total is not confirmed at this time, but the event raised approximately \$ 800.00! We are so proud of the youth-congratulations to all!

EMYC will be offering a Summer Camp this year at Garthwood Public School. If we receive funds to employ additional staff the camp will expand to an additional site at EMUC. Please look for our flyers in the future.

EMYC will provide new programs in the next few months including: an intergenerational cooking program with seniors and youth at Pathways in June, July and August and sports events for South Asian families later in the spring.

Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers from EMUC who have shared their expertise and time for our programs-board members and program volunteers. You have contributed a great deal to the development of EMYC. We hope that you will continue to work with us for the benefit of the youth of this neighbourhood. Please consider volunteering with EMYC in the areas of program and administration.

Marie Nuss, Interim Executive Director

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Links

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Calendar

November 2011

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
« Sep						

Events

1) Ice cream day

Being one of Orphan Run's first events in September, Ice Cream Day is a great way for people to learn more about this charity club from the very beginning of the school year. Baskin Robbins sponsors tubs of ice cream in a variety of delicious flavours and cones are sold to ice-cream-loving students all over campus. As with every event, all proceeds are donated to charity and this year we raised over \$300!

2) Water for hope

In the summer of 2010, over 20 million people were affected by the massive flood in Pakistan. Orphan Run was quick to respond and we hosted Water for Hope where students purchased a "water droplet" with their name on it. The water droplets were glued on a huge banner that hang outside the student centre and had a gigantic water jug drawn on it. The water droplets and jug represented the desperate need for clean water by millions of people in Pakistan. With this event, Orphan Run raised over \$700!

3) Orphan awareness day

This event is one of our most important since it allows students to learn more about our charity and what we do. Although there are a lot of fun games such as Tug-of-War between clubs on campus, it is also a very serious event. During Orphan Awareness Day, we have a lot of posters, facts, statistics, etc. where students can see how severe the lack of orphan help really is. Many people don't know that there are over 40 million orphans worldwide who desperately need our help. At Orphan Awareness Day, we lay out all the facts for you; it's up to you to decide if you want to do something about it!

4) Write a letter to an Orphan Day

This event was one of our most sentimental and emotional events to date. This year, SOS Children's Village gave us the profiles of 5 orphans from Palestine and Pakistan who currently reside in their shelters. Although we haven't yet heard from them, it was an eye-opener to learn more about these young children while reading their profiles. It was a great way to connect with the orphans we sponsored on a more personal level. We really hope we hear from them soon!

5) Toy drive

Many of us had toys we always played with when we were younger. Although we may not admit it now, I'm sure some of us still have very fond memories of playing with our dolls, cars, Pokémon cards, and many other toys. Unfortunately, there are many children who aren't lucky enough to afford toys. During the holiday break, Orphan Run had donation boxes in the Student Centre where students could donate used toys and clothes for children in adoption centres. This year, we chose to give our donations to the Children's Aid Society in Toronto.

7) Pie in the face Auction

One of our most fun events of the year, the Pie in the Face Auction is a great way to get back at your friends and professors! Students auction them off to be able to throw a whole plate filled with whipped cream at their faces. Sounds fun? Trust us, it is! Each year, students tell us which professors, UTM staff, siblings, or friends they want to pie in the face, and we ask them to do this noble cause to raise money for orphans worldwide. Last year, we raised over \$800!

Annual Orphan Run

For five years, Orphan Run has hosted the annual run which is our biggest event of the year. Each year, over a hundred people participate in running (or walking!) a 4km distance. Runners/walkers are sponsored by their friends and family to complete the run and once again, all money is donated to charity. Participants who finish the run the fastest receive a prize. Prizes are also given out to

Youth Beyond Barriers (YBB)

General Program Description:

The Youth Beyond Barriers Program provides support and resources to queer and trans youth in Peel. The YBB Program provides a support and social group, one-to-one support and a confidential telephone line, email and "Facebook" contact for youth, caregivers and professionals, offering information, support and relevant resources.

The youth group offers support and social opportunity as well as resources and mental health referral/information. The group aims to promote healthy living, healthy sexuality and queer & trans positive lifestyles & identities, through group and social activities, and community education and advocacy, where appropriate.

Additionally, the YBB program offers one-to-one support, consultation and referrals, including connection to the Gay-Straight Alliances in the Peel District School Board schools, to Peel PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and referral to queer positive counselling services.

The Youth Beyond Barriers Program also provides educational workshops and organizes community events to raise awareness regarding queer and trans issues and other forms of oppression.

Goals of the Program:

- That all youth, regardless of sexual orientation and/or gender identity be afforded equal access to service provision, including the freedom from harassment and discrimination due to sexual orientation and/or gender identity; and, that all youth reach an optimum level of comfort with regard to their identity, enabling them to achieve their full potential
- To offer support and resources for queer and trans youth, and build capacity among service providers in Peel to work positively and in a celebratory way with this community, through an anti-racist and anti-oppressive framework

Inclusionary Criteria:

- Living in the Region Of Peel
- Youth 12-19 (up to their 19th birthday)
- Queer and/or Trans Identified youth
- Youth in need of support
- YBB also provides services to: parents/caregivers, allies and professionals

Exclusionary Criteria:

- Youth who are actively suicidal, homicidal or in need of immediate crisis stabilization
- When the safety of the youth worker can not be ensured

Referral Sources:

- Self referrals by the adolescent or parent/caregiver in need
- Community agencies, including: Schools, Children's Mental Health Agencies, Crisis/distress Services, Community Health Centres, Public Health, Peel Children's Aid, Community Mental Health Services, Centralized Intake for Children and Youth Mental Health Services
- Internal referrals from other AYSP programs

Referral Process:

Community partners, youth and caregivers can contact the YBB Program directly by calling (905) 890-5222 or 1-800-762-8377 ext. 460 (toll free). The YBB Program can also be accessed by e-mail at youth@aysp.ca

Youth and caregivers can also make a self-referral by calling Centralized Intake for Children and Youth Mental Health Services at (905) 451-4655.

Centralized Intake Partner agencies and AYSP staff working with clients who meet eligibility requirements can make a referral to the YBB Program via the Internal Transfer Protocol.

The YBB Program Supervisor is available to answer any questions you may have regarding the referral process or program criteria.

MYLC Goals

Mississauga Youth Leadership Committee is a non-profit organization formed to help Canadian youths in acquiring important leadership qualities for inner improvement and in becoming active within the community by volunteering.

SHORT-TERM GOALS

Develop an Active Volunteer Base

We have a rough volunteer base developed but we haven't gotten a chance to make real use of it. This year we have many more events planned and we hope to get as many volunteers involved as we can to give them a chance to give back to their community. We believe it's important for us to have a volunteer database so we can get across to as many individuals that are willing to help out in any way possible.

Community Networking

As in past years, our objective this year is to build upon coordinated efforts with various organizations, including Professional, Social, and Relief organizations. We are working towards making and maintaining a stable relationship with these organizations since we can work together to plan better and bigger events for the youth of Mississauga.

Help Establish Leadership Based Student Organizations

Work with similar youth organizations within our community in Peel to assist them to establish a strong unified platform and gain leadership skills. This will enable us to work together on many large scale events and share resources to help one another succeed with our goals and endeavors (i.e. such as organizing community events for a good cause).

We want to plan more workshops that are directed towards training our committee on various aspects such as leadership skills and public speaking. We want to maximize the committee's learning experience

every year by giving them opportunities to better understand each other and to learn many of the important skills a leader should have. Small workshops will be planned by the executive committee and the board of directors by inviting speakers and trainers.

LONG TERM GOALS

Expanding the committee with more members and events

This year is the first year we will be organizing other major events aside from the MYLC annual conference and it will be a learning experience for not only the past members but for those of us who are new to MYLC. Once we have successfully planned and executed these events we will look into expanding the committee and possibly making sub-committees for each major event we plan. We will also look forward to planning other events which will hopefully be beneficial to all youth in our community.

Networking with University MSAs

This year our main target was to successfully network with high school MSAs and plan events involving as many high schools around the Peel region, however, in the years to come we hope to expand and network with University MSAs across the province and to work closely with organizations such as GTA-MSA.

Permanent meeting space

We are working towards a permanent meeting space for this year where we can meet to have meetings, small workshops or discussions. Having a permanent meeting space is very important as it will be very convenient for our committee members to know where all our meetings will take place and for the executive committee since they will not have to worry about availability of rooms and finding a convenient location for everyone.

MYLC newsletter

With our planned events and various initiatives we need to inform the general youth and get them involved. With a MYLC newsletter we can inform a large number of individuals about our cause and the young Muslim brothers and sisters that are involved and making a difference within the community. We can encourage people to write articles about various issues, have a news bulletin, and much more.



VOLUNTEERING PEEL

lending a helping hand

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[| Christmas Breakfasts- December 10th |](#)

[| Christmas Breakfasts- December 18th |](#)

[| Rogers TV World Record - Friday |](#)

[| Rogers TV World Record - Saturday |](#)

[| Rogers TV World Record - Sunday |](#)

[| Rogers TV World Record - Monday |](#)

[| Charles Sauriol Environmental Dinner for the Living City |](#)

[| Credit Valley Conservation Tree Planting, October 22, 2011 |](#)

[| Credit Valley Conservation Tree Planting, October 29, 2011 |](#)

[| 5 K Run Walk and Roll Marathon |](#)

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Youth Taking Action

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We, the youth can make a substantial difference in the lives of children around the world. Bound by this commitment, Youth Taking Action aims at instilling social awareness amongst our peers and providing them with opportunities to convert small actions into large impacts.

Take Action

- ➔ Save a Dollar a Month!
- ➔ Share Your Birthday!

Result

- ➔ Save a Child from Going Blind
- ➔ Give the gift of health

The Best Part

- ➔ Earn Points to bid for talks with celebrities

Rewards

Take action and earn PhiCoins™! Redeem these to talk to celebrities or other gifts!

Youth Impact!

Check out the difference we have been making.

Youth Address!

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Opinion Poll

Is the money to rebuild Iraq being spent wisely?

- Should Spend Less
- Spending Amount Right
- Should Spend More
- Unsure

\$1 = MillionDollarSmile

Canadian Office
5054 Intrepid Dr Mississauga ON

Vote



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Powered by MIDAS

Young activists heading north

Mohena Singh
July 20, 2010

Two Mississauga teens who wanted to learn more about climate change are on their way to the Arctic.

Fatin Chowdhury and Moe Qureshi were winners of the annual Brita Eco-Challenge, a competition that asked environmentally active youths to submit either an essay or a short video about themselves and how they are taking a leadership role in the community to help protect the environment.

Both teens say they are excited and eager to explore the Arctic, learn about Inuit culture and fight climate change. The expedition takes place from Aug. 4-20.

Qureshi, a 17-year-old senior at Streetsville Secondary School, won his trip by writing about his role as an environmental activist in the community.

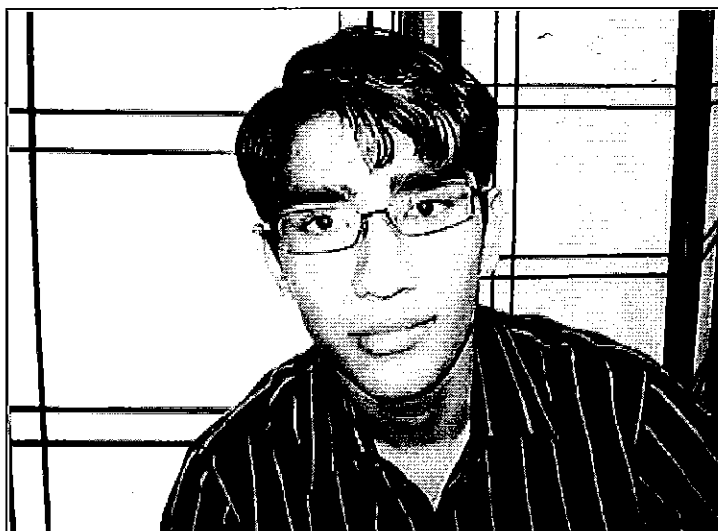
Chowdhury, a Glenforest Secondary School graduate who plans to study environmental engineering at the University of Waterloo, was selected for the expedition after he submitted a four-minute video about his environmental concerns at his high school.

"I'm a global citizen and raising awareness for our environment is very important," said Chowdhury, 17, who adds that he's eager to see the icebergs and polar bears.

Qureshi says he's excited about the prospect of seeing nature's beauty in the north.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the inspiring landscapes of the Arctic and learning about climate-change's effects firsthand," he said. "I'm grateful for ... this once-in-a-lifetime journey."

Chowdhury, who organizes local events where young people work to protect the environment, says he's "looking forward to gaining more knowledge about myself and the environment to bring back to my community and really make a difference."



Environmentalist. Moe Qureshi, 17, will travel to the Arctic in August to learn about Inuit culture and fight climate change. *Photo submitted*

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Teen encourages others to get active

Julia Le
July 5, 2011

A Malton teen is being rewarded for encouraging his school community to be active. Attinderpal Toor, 17, is among 12 teens from across Canada who've been selected to become Sogo Active Ambassadors. Sogo Active is a national youth physical activity program created by Coca-Cola, in collaboration with ParticipACTION, to encourage sports participation in Canada among youth aged 13 to 19.

Each teen was chosen to be an ambassador as part of a competition they held last year from August to November. They were asked to present innovative ideas to promote encourage youth to become more active.

Each earned a \$5,000 scholarship, a \$500 grant to promote physical activity in the community, head-to-toe gear from Adidas, a Live Positively Award from Coca-Cola and a spotlight on the Sogo Active website (SogoActive.com).

Toor, who recently graduated from Lincoln Alexander Secondary School and will be attending Sheridan College for Police

Foundations, heard about the competition when representatives from Coca-Cola and ParticipACTION visited his leadership class last year. Inspired, he hosted physical challenges at his high school every Friday in October. He said chose fun activities that would get people moving, including mock versions of reality television game shows Survivor and Fear Factor, a giant obstacle course in the gym and a scavenger hunt.

"I wanted to do something new and different rather than traditional physical activities," he said.

Toor adds it was rewarding to see student participation increase each week, growing from 50 students the first week to 120 at the end. He said students with special needs at his school were also able to participate in modified versions of the activities.

An Active Healthy Kids Canada 2011 Report Card on Physical Activity for Children and Youth reported that only seven per cent of children and youth meet the new Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines of 60 minutes of vigorous-to-moderate-intensity physical activity per day.

Toor said he looks forward to living up to the Sogo Active challenge and hopes to encourage others to share his love of sports and activities. Toor was on the cross country and wrestling teams and worked out regularly at the community centre during high school, and said he loves "pushing myself to the limit."

jle@mississauga.net



P-SOGO ambassadors 2.JPG. Malton resident Attinderpal Toor is among 12 teens from across Canada who've become Sogo Active Ambassadors. Their role is to empower youth to challenge themselves and their friends to become more active. Exercising at Queens Park in Toronto with Toor are, from left, ambassadors Ursula MacDonald, Bonnie Huang and Amish Patel. *Keep fit*

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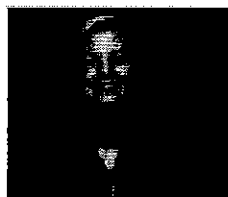


[Sogo Active](#) [About Sogo Active](#) / [Sogo Active Ambassadors](#)

Sogo Active Ambassadors

Meet the 12 Sogo Active Ambassadors whose challenges were the most creative and had the most impact. Please join us in congratulating them on their prizes including:

- \$5,000 from Coca-Cola to be used towards their post-secondary education
- A \$500 Sogo Active Grant from ParticipACTION to promote physical activity in your community.
- Head-to-toe gear from adidas.
- A Live Positively Award from Coca-Cola
- Glory on SogoActive.com



Name: **Kathryn**
 Province: **British Columbia**
 Challenge: **Night Moves Challenge**

My challenge is all about having fun and bringing back the way games used to be played - outside and in the forest. I put a modern spin on old favourites that have been played for years - like Capture the Chair (similar to Capture the Flag), Sardines, Kick the Can and Mission Impossible.



Name: **Kya**
 Province: **British Columbia**
 Challenge: **Hiking and Nature Loving Challenge**

My challenge was simple: go hiking! We'd head to beautiful Salt Spring Island every Saturday, rain or shine, and head up to Mount Erskine! Every fitness level was more than welcome. Hiking is a great way to get active, feel good and enjoy the beauty of nature.



Name: **Kenneth**
 Province: **British Columbia**
 Challenge: **Planning 10 Van Techies Go Green and Clean While Being Active**

Every week, we would walk around the school grounds to pick up garbage and recycling while taking in fresh outdoor air. Most of the day, we sit in the computer lab staring at monitors, so it was a nice change to be outside and do something good for the environment and the complexes around our school.



Name: **Sophia**
 Province: **British Columbia**
 Challenge: **Beat That!**

My challenge allowed people of all ages to get involved. The goal was to walk backwards on a treadmill or play Wii Sports with the hand that you don't usually use. So if you're right-handed, use your left hand, and if you're left-handed, use your right hand. Doing it for 30 minutes was both challenging and tons of fun!



Name: **Emily**
 Province: **British Columbia**
 Challenge: **Walk to School for a Month**

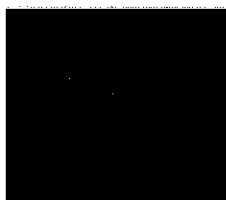
Walking to school is a great way to fit some exercise into your daily life and it helps save the planet, too. Kids everywhere should walk to school more often. And who knows, you might end up making new friends along the way. :)



Name: **Ursula**
 Province: **Ontario**
 Challenge: **Just Dance - Gonna Be Okay - Just Dance!**

My challenge involved turning your mp3 player up and just dancing! It doesn't matter what time it is, what song it is, if you're dancing by yourself in your bedroom or if you're jumping around with friends. Crank up the music and get active for just three songs a day.

Name: **Attinderpal**
 Province: **Ontario**



Challenge: Lincoln Survivor 2010 - Strive to Survive

mock initiation where contestants had to do a bunch of silly activities, it was all good fun and entertaining for everyone. The top contestants even won prizes!

I created a Survivor-themed challenge in my school. From a giant obstacle course in the gym to a scavenger hunt throughout the entire school, a Fear Factor challenge and a



Name: Amish

Province: Ontario

Challenge: CSS Royal Tournament of Ping Pong!

Every Friday for four weeks, we had a table tennis tournament for singles, doubles and mixed teams. It was always really fun for players of all levels! We set up different divisions to accommodate for different abilities. Also, prizes were given out to the winners.



Name: Bonnie

Province: Ontario

Challenge: Balloon Volleyball

Balloon volleyball is just like regular volleyball, but with balloons! It's easy for anyone to participate and the only equipment you need is a balloon. You can play anywhere, anytime and with any number of people. Best of all, it can be played while watching TV, listening to music or even having a conversation.



Name: Sophia

Province: Ontario

Challenge: High School Lunch Time Sports

We got together with friends and scrimmaged in the gym during lunch. We played basketball, floor hockey, volleyball, indoor soccer and even dodge ball. It's an easy way to get active while hanging out with friends. Plus, it's the perfect chance to practice playing these games so that we were ready to try out for the school teams.



Name: Patricia

Province: New Brunswick

Challenge: Success Begins with Fitness!

Every week I organized different activities, including dodge ball, relay races, soccer-baseball and badminton. We started with stretches to get loose and then got moving. It was a fun way to meet friends and to play easy games that anyone could enjoy.

Name: Karine

Province: Quebec



Ban teen smoking

Melissa Woroshyl, Mississauga
March 30, 2010

Dear Editor:

I am a Grade 10 student who is currently attending Cawthra Park Secondary School. I'm writing to you concerning the laws that involve teens and tobacco.

Many think teen smoking is a thing of the past. As a teen, I can tell you that it is not.

I have been doing computer to research on any current law that prohibits teens from possessing tobacco.

I was extremely shocked and disappointed to discover that there is no such law in Ontario, or in Canada.

According to the Smoke-Free Ontario Act, it is illegal to provide tobacco to youth under 19, but it is not illegal for them to smoke.

How is this rational?

If the government wants to prevent teen smoking, why not simply ban it?

If we, as Ontarians, want to ensure a healthier future, tobacco control efforts need to be focused more directly on our youth.

Wouldn't it be incredible for tobacco-related illnesses to be a thing of the past? I think so.

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Youth step up

Dave Toycen, President and CEO, World Vision Canada
May 27, 2010

Dear Editor:

Since January, the world has witnessed a multitude of natural disasters that have affected many lives, mostly those living in poverty. Hundreds of thousands, if not millions, have been pushed deeper into poverty as a result. Children and mothers are often the most vulnerable and in need of support in these difficult circumstances.

At times such as these, Canadians respond with compassion.

Last month, young people from Mississauga donated their time and appetites in support of World Vision's youth action campaign, the 30 Hour Famine. Students and community groups throughout Mississauga helped to raise funds in support of the eradication of poverty and injustice.

To date, youth from Mississauga have raised \$426,861. These funds will be help others around the globe. On behalf of World Vision and those we serve, I want to express my sincere appreciation and thanks.

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Letter of the week

July 3, 2009

Dear Editor:

Re: Summer job opportunities for at-risk youth.

As much as I find it enlightening that 190 disadvantaged youths in Peel will now have more opportunities to get a summer job thanks to the Ontario government, I, your average student, find it unfair.

Although I do believe disadvantaged youths should receive more support from governing bodies, I don't believe it should be in the form of more job opportunities. Don't get me wrong, I think the program is a wonderful idea to build initiative, but its limitations to help only at-risk teens is the issue.

I believe all students should be given equal chances at applying for jobs; one's background or history should not be a limiting factor for one to receive special treatment. What the government is doing is simply placing restrictions on non-disadvantaged youths and jeopardizing their odds of getting hired. Average students are in need of jobs, too, to gain skills and valuable work experience while earning some spending money. Isn't this what every student wishes for? Why should some receive more help while I have to work to create and build my own network?

The government is biased if it thinks non-disadvantaged youths have more opportunities. We find jobs based on our own skills; it shouldn't matter if you're advantaged or not.

The bottom line is, it really doesn't matter where you stand in society because as long as you have the ability/talent, you should have no problem finding a summer job. The government doesn't have to invest \$21 million of taxpayers' money in some Youth Opportunities Strategy programs when there are endless job opportunities flooding the web. All you need to do is take the time to search for them.

Linda Xu

Mississauga

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A great ride

George Douzenis, Thomas Peterson, Craig Turner, Glenforest Secondary School
June 15, 2010

Dear Editor:

Recently, a large group of students from Glenforest Secondary School, Rick Hanson Secondary School and Mississauga Secondary School rode to City Hall, accompanied by keen staff members and some by a police escort.

The idea of biking to City Hall was started last year by Glenforest Secondary School.

This year, the executive director of Smart Commute, Glenn Gumulka, requested that we extend an invitation to other Peel schools in order to increase participation and raise awareness of the growing interest in alternative forms of transportation, especially amongst our youth.

This brought about the idea of The Bike To City Hall Challenge.

Glenforest challenged schools in the south of Mississauga to join them in riding to City Hall.

As well as raising awareness of green alternatives, this initiative is also a great way to bridge the gap between students and Peel Regional Police, as students don't always see them in a positive light.

Furthermore, the ride was a great way for the students to see that local politicians really do understand them and care about their interests.

The sight of the kids rolling up in front of Mayor Hazel McCallion was truly impressive.

In fact, the mayor commented that, next year, she would like to see double the number of kids involved.

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Peel Planet Day a success

Julla Le

September 19, 2011

More than 400 students turned out on Saturday to make the second annual Peel Planet Day a success.

The event, held at Brampton's Clairville Conversation Area and organized by student-run non-profit organization Volunteering Peel, brought out supporters in droves to pick up garbage and plant trees and bushes.

Clarkson resident Gary Nickerson, who started the initiative to promote awareness about the environment, says the students also participated in workshops about maintaining a sustainable and clean environment.

The students were from Volunteering Peel and Port Credit-based Peel Environmental Youth Alliance.

jle@mississauga.net



P-Peel Planet Day 1.jpg. Volunteers turned out in droves to participate in Peel Planet Day at Clairville Conservation Area in Brampton last Saturday. Supplied

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Voices unite for Habitat

J.P. Antonacci
February 7, 2010

Cawthra Park Secondary School's chamber choir stole the show at last night's Festival of Friends, a multi-choir benefit concert at Meadowvale's Eden United Church in support of Habitat for Humanity.

The arts school singers opened with *Rytmus*, a percussive joyride by composer Ivan Hrusovsky, before silencing the crowd with a spellbinding performance of Samuel Barber's haunting *Agnus Dei*.

As an encore, the singers delivered a goofy a cappella version of the overture to Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.

"There's something really connected about singing in a choir, because you get to share the experience of making music," said Patricia Auchterlonie, a Grade 12 soprano at Cawthra Park.

"Some of the music we do is unbelievably beautiful and singing something like that with a group of people, especially this group, the kind of dedication put into it makes it worthwhile. There's such a community."

Making connections within the choral music community while doing some good is what drives David Ambrose, artistic director of the Mississauga Festival Choir, to organize and host the annual Festival of Friends.

"It's great to watch other groups and hear other styles of music. We're educating ourselves, and we're educating the audience as well," said Ambrose.

"We are, at heart, a lot of people who just love to sing and love to get together. We are definitely a community-based choir, and so therefore we really wanted to be able to give back."

Though MFC, which last year celebrated its 25th anniversary, is un-auditioned – meaning anyone can join, no matter their singing ability – you wouldn't have guessed it from the choir's spirited and spot-on performance. The children of the Mississauga Festival Youth Choir pulled off a challenging South African selection with aplomb, and the audience was treated to a sneak preview of the new MFC chamber choir, which will give its premiere concert March 27.

For the final act, all the singers squeezed onto the risers to form a 200-voice 'supergroup' which that day had practiced together for the first time. The massed choir dazzled the crowd with *O Fortuna* from Carl Orff's powerful *Carmina Burana* and a heartfelt rendition of the choral standard *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

"Wasn't that amazing?" raved concertgoer Susan Wood, who last year volunteered at Habitat Mississauga's first home build, in Streetsville. "What a gift to the community."

Five Habitat homes are slated to go up in Mississauga by 2015.



In Tune. Alex Petkovski, from the Cawthra Park Secondary School's Chamber Choir, sings last night at Eden United Church during its Festival of Friends choir concert. The evening also included performances from the Etobicoke Centennial Choir and Mississauga Festival Choir with all proceeds donated to Habitat for Humanity. Photo by Steven Der-Garabedian

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It was lights out

Debbie Bruce
March 27, 2010

The lights at City Hall were dimmed in honour of Earth Hour tonight by a group of very enlightened students.

The Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA) hosted the City of Mississauga's very first Earth Hour event that included refreshments, entertainment and high hopes for a brighter future.

"Earth Hour is important because it really helps raise awareness about environmental issues in a way that is visually powerful and simple to understand," said Darius Chia of PEYA. "It also serves as a reminder to do our part in helping lessen our impact on the environment."

Chia, along with fellow PEYA member Simone Hacikyan, acted as emcee at the event, introducing the various youth-oriented entertainment groups such as break dancers Ground Illusionz and poetry readers Poetry Slam.

When Earth Hour — 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. — approached, city councillors Sue McFadden, George Carlson and Carolyn Parrish looked on as Mayor Hazel McCallion symbolically flicked off a huge cardboard light switch, submerging the Great Hall into darkness. The 500 flashlights donated by Enersource lit up the room as people waved and cheered in the shadows.

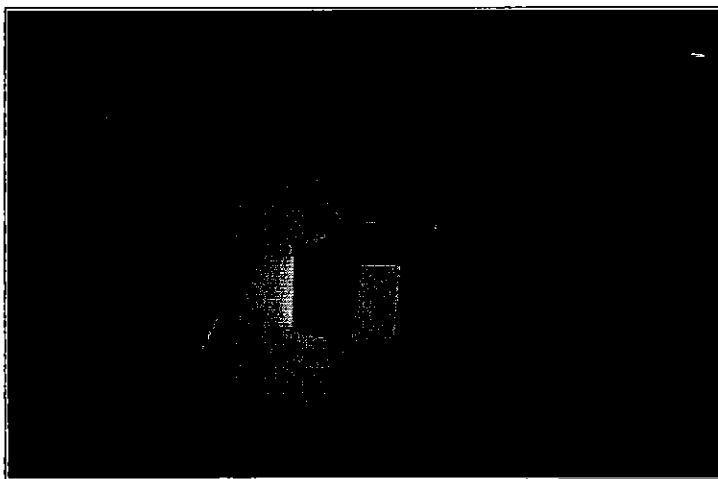
"Remember this happening all over parts of the world today," McCallion said. "It is simple, what we ask people to do, we just have to make sure we all participate."

Mississauga residents and businesses were asked to turn off all non-essential lights and electrical appliances during Earth Hour. Simple practises like this resulted in a nine per cent reduction in energy during last year's Earth Hour.

The all-girl band Gypsy Lizards took to the stage next and performed an acoustic jam in the darkened hall, followed by the popular country star Marshall Dane. Free refreshments were donated by Tim Hortons.

"I came here tonight because I care about the environment and want to show that we support Canada taking action against climate change," said Father Michael Goetz Secondary School student Magdalena Dabbour. "I think it's great that the city is finally celebrating Earth Hour because last year I had to do it at home with my family. Hopefully next year will be even bigger and better."

Earth Hour is organized by WWF and is celebrated globally by hundreds of millions of people.



In the dark here. Mayor Hazel McCallion uses a ceremonial cardboard light switch to turn out the lights at City Hall tonight for Earth Hour. *Photo by Claudio Cugliari*

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Young activist leads march

Torstar Network
July 2, 2011

Leanne Iskander didn't think it was fair. When she and her friends at St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga were denied a gay-straight alliance, she fought back. Now, she's taken her battle province-wide, pushing for such groups in all Catholic high schools in Ontario.

For her efforts, she's been called a "leader of her generation," inspirational, remarkable. She's been named honorary dyke in today's Dyke March in Toronto and will be leading the group she helped found, the Ontario Catholic Students for GSAs, in Sunday's Pride parade. She was also recently named LGBTQ youth of the year by Pride Toronto. (LGBTQ is a term that includes lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered and queer, or those who are questioning their sexuality.)

"To see somebody her age taking up the mantle of advocacy in schools -- she's really a beacon for this generation of students and queers," said Chad Simon of Pride Toronto, calling her actions "just remarkable."

For Iskander, 16, this is the first Pride parade she's ever marched in, though she has attended in the past. She's taken on a very public role since coming out to her friends in Grade 10 - which she says wasn't too difficult given others had already.

But there have been private challenges as well. While the first person she told was her mom, to this day, she and her father haven't spoken of it.

"My mom was shocked at first, but then she got used to it," says Iskander. She believes her mother has told her father.

"My dad's family is kind of conservative, from the Middle East and religious," she said. "He doesn't really talk about it."

At school, she said the failed request for the gay-straight alliance was unexpected, given such groups had been recommended by the Ontario government and thriving in the province's public high schools.

"It was hurtful," she said. "I really wasn't expecting it to be denied."

While Catholic boards now allow anti-homophobia groups, gay-straight alliances are still banned in name. Iskander thinks the GSA name is important. "When they first suggested a general equity group, I didn't think it would work out, it's not focused. It's so general and the names doesn't say what it is."

Her school now has a group called "open arms," - "that's not good enough," she added. "What it does is pretty close to what a GSA does, so we're good with that. But they should have let us have the name. Grade 9s coming into the school look at the (club) list and don't know what it is."

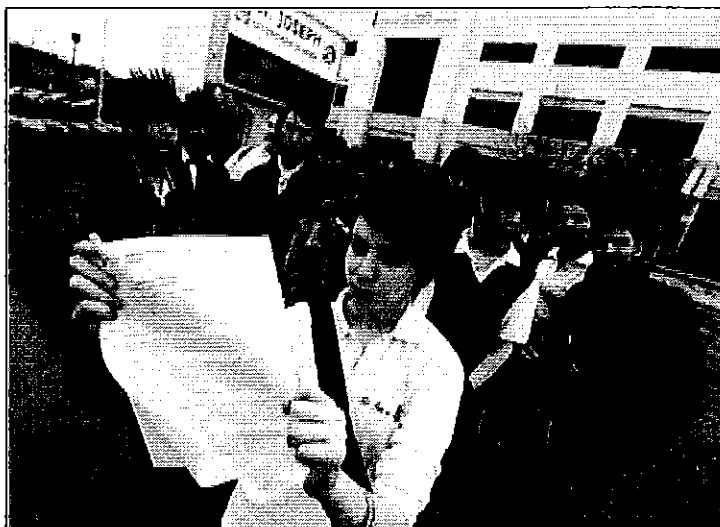
Iskander feels that the curriculum in Catholic high schools also needs to be more inclusive, especially of the contributions of gays and lesbians.

"There's no mention of social justice activities - I took American history and there was no mention even of Stonewall (the 1969 riots in New York that are considered a turning point for gay rights)."

That's not good enough, she said.

For now, Iskander said the focus is on getting GSAs in Catholic high schools, and she said she has more than 100 students marching with her on Sunday.

"I think the students are definitely ready for it," she added. "I'm surprised how supportive a majority of students are. I don't know how long they can keep denying us this."



Honoured. Leanne Iskander (centre) has been named honorary dyke in today's Dyke March in Toronto. *File photo*

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Mississauga Summit 2011
www.eventbrite.com

The Big Ideas Are Ready Welcome to Mississauga Summit, 2011 In 2007 the Mississauga Summit was formed, creating a forum for engaged residents to brainstorm a better future for the city. Throughout 2009/ 2010 priorities were identified and over 150 volunteers worked diligently on addressing ...

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Peel Children and Youth Initiative

Have you registered for our General Meeting Day on October 4th? Find out more here: <http://www.pcyi.org/>

www.pcyi.org
www.pcyi.org

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Peel Children and Youth Initiative

We're gearing up to launch our new website at www.pcyi.org. Stay tuned!

www.pcyi.org
www.pcyi.org

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RECENT ACTIVITY

- Peel Children and Youth Initiative edited their Phone, Mission and Email.
- Peel Children and Youth Initiative edited their Website and About.
- Peel Children and Youth Initiative joined Facebook. · Like · Comment

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**NATIOANAL YOUTH ARTS WEEK IN MISSISSAUGA
MAY 1 – 7, 2012**

IDEAS MEETING

A meeting inviting potential stakeholders and partners to generate discussion and ideas, and offer feedback and support is set for Thursday, November 24, 2-4 pm.

Classroom 3 – 2nd Floor
Mississauga Central Library
301 Burnhamthorpe Road West

DRAFT PROPOSAL BY CULTURE DIVISION – ARTS AND CULTURE PROGRAMS (Oct. 28.2011)
Contact: Paola Poletto paola.poletto@mississauga.ca

National Youth Arts Week was recently launched by the Arts Network www.artsnetwork.ca at the Creative Communities for Children and Youth Symposium, and will be taking place next May 1-7, 2012. You can see the page holder at www.youthartsweek.ca – there isn't much info there yet. However, in 2007 a proclamation was made for a National Youth Week for the May 1-7 dates each year: <http://youthinrecreation.org/national-youth-week>. The National Youth Arts Week is an extension of this initiative.

Culture Division is seeking youth and partner organizations to present unique events for National Youth Arts Week in Mississauga. These dates fall around the same dates as the nationally successful, annual Jane's Walk (May 5, 6) www.janeswalk.net and Music Monday (May 7) musicmakesus.ca/musicmonday for which Culture Division would like to help further facilitate the engagement of our young citizens. In the spirit of National Youth Arts Week, we would like to bring together a series of youth led programs with the collaboration of various partners for the May 1-7 dates.

PROPOSED PROGRAM ROUTE

Together with Heritage Mississauga, we have identified a route that cuts across the city, providing a diverse view of cultures, lifestyles and urban densities. The route travels along Dundas, Burnhamthorpe, Mississauga and Lakeshore Roads and up Winston Churchill Boulevard, passing many key nodes including the Hurontario and Dundas intersection, Mississauga Celebration Square, Riverwood Park, University of Toronto Mississauga campus and the Lakeshore. We would like to focus some activities along this route with our invited partners. This route marks a heritage celebration, as it was used in 1837 by William Lyon Mackenzie to escape the failed Rebellion that took place 175 years ago. Mackenzie's flight from authorities took him through historic Mississauga following a rebel uprising, and the Rebellion of 1837 has become a famed part of Canada's history.*

*The Rebellion of 1837 is part of the Grade 7 teaching curriculum.

SOME PROPOSED PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- **4 Jane's Walks led by or engaging young people**
 - Scheduled in Mississauga for Saturday, May 5 (times defined by organizers)
 - Mentored by 4 unique partner organizations (TBD)
 - ie. Art Gallery of Mississauga will offer a walk by artist-writer-and modern day flaneur Shawn Micallef from Square One to Celebration Square (TBC)
 - ie. Heritage Mississauga will mentor a walking tour exploring the history of the route (ie. offered with simultaneous translation in other language) (TBC)
 - Staged along the route to harness the uniqueness of the neighbourhoods and the people who live there

- **4 Music Monday presentations**
 - Scheduled for Monday, May 7, 1 pm
 - Organized by 4 unique partner organizations (TBD)
 - Staged along the route to harness the uniqueness of the neighbourhood and the people who live there
 - Amphitheatre at Mississauga Celebration Square is booked as a possible site... of many – could be in a school, place of worship, café', etc.

- **4 defining projects that will bring the “rebellion” route to life and offer cohesiveness to our initiative (TBC)**
 - Heritage Mississauga offers a full route bus tour (date TBD)
 - Together with local middle schools, Culture Division will develop a treasure hunt exploring the history and present context of the route (for people ages 11-13) (coordinated by Amisa Hassan – Jane's Walk Internship student from University of Toronto) (date TBD)
 - Together with a local youth group, develop a geostash race along the route exploring the history and present context of the city (for people ages 14 – 25) (date TBD)
 - Develop a “youth art” poster campaign in the transit shelters along the route to celebrate local youth creativity – art selections for poster will be juried and a shortlist will appear in a select number of shelters along the route and treated as the program guide for National Youth Arts Week in Mississauga (pending sponsorship/available funding) for the month of April 7 - May 7, accompanied by an online presence of all program components.