

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

For Immediate Release

York Children's Water Festival honours VIPs

NEWMARKET – York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch and members of Regional Council today joined representatives of the Toronto Region and Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authorities at Bruce's Mill Conservation Authority to participate in the 7th Annual York Children's Water Festival (YCWF).

“The York Children's Water Festival is an excellent opportunity for young people to learn about water conservation,” said Chair Fisch. “Water is our most important resource, and if we are to protect it, it is imperative that we educate future generations.”



Photo: Markham Deputy Mayor Frank Scarpitti presents a plaque to Nigel Tang of Richmond Hill, winner of the York Children's Water Festival Poetry contest.
Photo available on request.

The week-long festival, running from May 16th-20th, will play host to over 5,000 Grade 4 and 5 students from York Region who will be exposed to dozens of interactive displays on water conservation. The hands-on learning environment has proven to be popular with the students, who learn to become water stewards. The event is staffed almost entirely by volunteers from various York Region departments, who lead groups of students through different water activities.

“The interactive nature of this festival makes it easy for kids to learn about our water supply and how to protect it,” said Markham Deputy Mayor Frank Scarpitti, Honourary Chair of the York Children's Water Festival. “Emphasizing conservation as a lifestyle will help ensure a clean, abundant source of water for York Region's future.”

The YCWF is free to participating students. Previously a paid event that relied on corporate sponsorship, the festival became part of York Region's award-winning *Water for Tomorrow* water conservation program in 2003. The week-long events are run by the Region's Transportation and Works and Health Services departments.

For more information about the York Children's Water Festival, please visit www.ycwf.com

For more information about the Water for Tomorrow program, please visit www.water4tomorrow.com

For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, the services we offer and links to our nine area municipalities, please visit our Web site at: www.york.ca

-30-

Media Contact: Michael Kemp, Corporate Communications, York Region
- (905) 830-4444 ext. 1232 or e-mail: michael.kemp@york.ca