

February 19, 2007

York Region high school students get a first-hand lesson in the law during annual mock trials competition

Chief Justice of Ontario Hon. Roy McMurtry to impart wisdom on aspiring legal eagles

NEWMARKET – Secondary school students from across York Region will have the opportunity to take what they've learned in the classroom and apply it in a real courtroom setting in front of an actual Ontario judge during the annual York Region Secondary School Mock Trials competition.



The Hon. Roy McMurtry,
Chief Justice of Ontario

More than 250 students representing 24 secondary schools from across York Region will converge at York Region's Administrative Centre Council Chambers for the competition opening ceremonies **Monday, February 19th at 2 p.m.**

During the opening ceremonies, students will have the unique opportunity to experience a special joint sitting of the Superior and Ontario Courts of Justice and will hear directly from The Hon. Roy McMurtry, Chief Justice of Ontario; The Hon. Heather Smith, Chief Justice of the Superior Court of Justice and The Hon. Brian W. Lennox, Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice.

"I am pleased that The Regional Municipality of York is again hosting and taking part in this event," said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. "Legal education and outreach to our high school students is vital for preparing future generations of leaders in law, enforcement and political decision making."

Students will cross the street to the provincial court house, located at 50 Eagle Street West, to begin the formal competition following the opening ceremonies.

During the mock trials, students will gain valuable insights into the inner-workings of the criminal justice system as well as future career options in law and law enforcement. There will be numerous information booths set up prior to the competition for students, including from Seneca College, York University's Osgoode Law School and York Regional Police Services.

Each student team was paired with either a Defence or Crown Attorney coach in preparation for the competition. For most teams and student participants, the Mock Trials competition is an extracurricular activity pursued outside of normal class room hours.

****Please note that both the opening ceremonies and the competition at the courthouse are open to the media and TV cameras.**

WHEN: Monday, February 19th, 2 p.m.

WHERE: Council Chambers, York Region Administrative Centre, 17250 Yonge St., Newmarket

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For more information on The Regional Municipality of York, please visit www.york.ca

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