

Thursday, March 20, 2008

For Immediate Release

York Region students learn how to *Party in the Right Spirit* *Students from 18 local schools participate in annual safer prom workshop*

NEWMARKET – The Regional Municipality of York Community and Health Services department will host the 9th annual *Party in the Right Spirit* interactive workshop on Wednesday, March 26th. This event will inform, educate and help high school students and school staff advisors plan a safer prom or graduation. This year, 18 schools will participate in the event.

Prom-related concerns including impairment, substance use, legal liabilities, sexual assault, relationship issues and violence will be addressed. Through a series of workshops, the event identifies strategies to avoid or manage potential problems.

When: Wednesday, March 26th
Feature display 10 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
How will you be picked up from the party?
Students will see first-hand the inside of a limousine, police car, ambulance, hearse and RIDE van

Where: Elgin West Community Centre
11099 Bathurst Street, Town of Richmond Hill

Who:

- Grade 12 students and staff advisors from 18 participating high schools
- Ontario Public Health Association
- York Region Community and Health Services (Public Health and Emergency Medical Services)
- York Regional Police
- Women's Support Network of York Region

Background:

Most proms are school-sponsored, supervised events where the serving and possession of alcohol is strictly prohibited: However, alcohol and other substances may be available at pre and post-prom parties. The *Party in the Right Spirit* workshop is being offered to equip high school prom/graduation planning committees with techniques to raise student awareness about making responsible, informed decisions at these parties.

For more information about safer graduation planning or any other health-related topic, please contact York Region *Health Connection* at 1-800-361-5653.

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

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Attachment: List of *Party in the Right Spirit* participating schools

Party in the Right Spirit Participating Schools

(Listed in alphabetical order)

School Name
Aurora High School
Cardinal Carter Catholic High School
Father Michael McGivney Secondary School
Holy Trinity School
Huron Heights Secondary School
Langstaff Secondary School
Markham District High School
Markville Secondary School
Milliken Mills High School
Newmarket High School
Pickering College
St. Augustine Catholic High School
St. Elizabeth Catholic High School
St. Jean de Brebeuf
Stouffville District High School
Toronto District Christian High School
Unionville High School
Vaughan Secondary School