

**Play Works honours the City of Pickering
as a Youth Friendly Community at Queen's Park!**

Pickering, ON, October 22, 2009, City of Pickering receives distinguished recognition as a Youth Friendly Community!

The City of Pickering will receive distinguished recognition as a Youth Friendly Community by Play Works, The Ontario Partnership for Active Youth. Pickering Mayor David Ryan, City of Pickering staff responsible for youth programs and PAC4Teens Youth Council members (Pickering Activity Council 4 Teens) will be in attendance on October 27, 2009 at Queen's Park in Toronto to receive this notable recognition.



Youth Friendly Communities Program began in 2005 and invites communities to meet 16 youth friendly criteria. The City of Pickering was among the first municipalities to be recognized with this designation in 2005 and is proud to be honoured again in 2010.

Photo on Left: PAC 4 Teen members pose in front of the City of Pickering's Youth Friendly Sign displayed on Kingston Road.



forPICKERINGTEENS

The City of Pickering has been a leader in youth service delivery for many years and often mentors other communities. The City of Pickering offers FREE Teen programs and events year round for Pickering teens ages 13-19 years. These FREE teen services are promoted with the slogan "FREE Teen Stuff". In 2009, the City of Pickering received an Award of Excellence from Parks and Recreation Ontario for marketing and outreach.

FREE teen programs are offered every weeknight at a variety of locations in Pickering and include Basketball, Games Room, Ice Hockey Shinny, Girls Only, Guys Only and Breakdancing. The City of Pickering also offers FREE Teen events generally once a month that include Teen Art Show, Pickering Stars, Band Nights, and Skateboard Competitions. The City of Pickering has over 1,400 Pickering ID Card Holders (required to get into a City of Pickering FREE Teen program or event). Over 4,500 teen participate in programs and events annually and there are 1,400 teen friends on our FREE Teen Stuff Facebook account!

Pickering Council and Senior Management have made a serious investment in Pickering Youth. Through their ongoing support, Pickering has the staff, facilities and material resources required to provide these important teen services. In Pickering, teens have a safe, welcoming place to be with friends, make new friends, and have fun. The City's FREE Teen Stuff initiative, along with the wonderful teen programs offered by our community partners like the Pickering Soccer Club, Pickering Tennis Club, Devi Mandir, Pickering Public Library, 856 Pickering Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron, YMCA and the Youth Centre make Pickering an amazing place for teens!

The importance of accessible, low cost, barrier free Teen programs is evident in the very participants that attend year after year. Tylor Coore (pictured right) has been coming to the City of Pickering's Free basketball program since he was 13 years old. Now, at age 17, Tylor can tell you that these programs have been an important part of his life.



"It's nice to have a place to play basketball indoors. It's enjoyable and I get to work on my basketball skills."

Tylor Coore, 17 years old

City of Pickering Free Teen Stuff Participant

The City of Pickering has just released their Fall FREE TEEN STUFF line up featuring new schedules, new locations, new programs and newly decorated youth rooms!

MONDAY

The Hideout (Games Room) & Outdoor Basketball

Petticoat Creek C.C.

6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Basketball

St. Mary Catholic S.S.

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

TUESDAY

Guys Night (13 – 16 yrs)

The Den @ The Rec Complex

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Basketball

Pine Ridge S.S.

7:00 pm to 10:00 pm



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

WEDNESDAY

Shinny Hockey

Don Beer Arena – Ice Pad 1
3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Girls Only (13 – 16 yrs)

The Den @ The Rec Complex
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

The Hideout (Games Room) & Outdoor Basketball

Petticoat Creek C.C.
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

THURSDAY

The Basement, Basketball & Break Dancing

East Shore C.C.
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Girls Only (13 – 19 yrs)

Petticoat Creek C.C.
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm

FRIDAY

Basketball

St. Mary Catholic S.S
7:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Come check out our NEW teen lounge located in The Hideout, at Petticoat Creek Community center. Come relax on our new furniture, read magazines, watch some TV and play some Wii.





NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

City of Pickering invites all Pickering teens, ages 13-19 years, to come out to the City's FREE Teen Programs and Events. Get your FREE Pickering ID Card. Sign up for one at a program or event – parent signature required. For more information call 905.420.6588 or visit us on Facebook at FreeTeen Stuff.

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As the gateway city to the east GTA, Pickering (population 94,000) is strategically located where Toronto, York and Durham Regions meet. Pickering is an affluent community that is steeped in history, natural beauty and small town charm with all the amenities and services that a big city has to offer. The City of Pickering is considered a municipal leader in fiscal management, service delivery, sustainability and the environment; and offers a wealth of sports, leisure and recreation opportunities to its residents. Pickering has been recognized by Profit magazine as one of the ten best cities in Canada for growth companies and received the 2008 FCM-CH2M Hill Sustainable Community Planning Award.

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