



2009 Awards of Excellence

CanTYD's most awaited day is almost here! 2009 Awards of Excellence is fast approaching in November. As you know scholarships will be awarded to individuals in various areas of accomplishments. The purpose of this awards ceremony is to motivate and inspire youth by celebrating high school student's achievements. These scholarships range from academic and athletic excellence to community contributions. In addition, they recognize students who have overcome significant barriers.

Applications to apply for these scholarships have been posted on the CanTYD website. The applications consist of several sections that need to be filled and completed by August 31st, 2009

To receive the application and its requirements, please contact info@cantyd.org



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Youth Violence Needs To Be Stopped

Kristian Thanapalan's and Annushath Indrakanthan's death have caused grief and concern among the Tamil community. Not only Tamil youth had been killed, but also other non Tamil youths had been killed so far this month (Tevon Mitchell). This shows us that youth violence is an ongoing issue and seems to be an increasing concern.

Dorset Park's Action for Neighbourhood change and the City of Toronto's Crisis Response Team came together to hold the candle light vigil for Kristian's death. Kristian's Thanapalan's memorial was held on July 24th, 2009 6:30 to 9:00 at Glamorgan park. More than 200 people came out to support Kristian Thanapalan's family in their grief, as they asked for the violence to end. The memorial brought out many emotions but it also brought the community together and was a realization for many that the violence has to stop.

The vigil was composed of a walk through the area, followed by a candle light vigil at the park where Kristian was killed. It was evident that Kristian's death was a tragic loss for his family but they held strong to send out the united message that the violence must end.

Sadly, even before the vigil for the first victim of violence was held, another Tamil youth, Annushath Indrakanthan, 19, was killed earlier that week on Monday, sending a shock wave around the community. The loss of these two young lives was a wakeup call for the Toronto Tamil community, and a scary realization that youth violence is increasing within the community. The youth violence has to stop or else many more lives will be lost. The youth are the future, and I believe that without any action now to stop the youth violence the future may not be so bright for the youth in the Tamil Community.

- Jude Niroshan Antony Jeevanratnam

Summer Recreational Drop Ins

The drop-ins for basketball and soccer started in July. It is held on every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:00p.m. To 9:00p.m. It is held at David and Mary Thompson High school on Lawrence between Midland and Brimley. The Drop-ins are intended for youth to engage themselves in playing basketball and other team sports. The games sometimes get very competitive. The youth mainly play basketball. Only some of the youths play soccer.

So far we have had many youth coming to the drop-ins, around 12-15 people. We have had not only Tamil youth but many youth from different ethnic backgrounds have joined us at the drop-ins. The drop-ins also give Tamil youth an opportunity to meet new people from our community and different communities. The drop-ins continue until late August. It is a good chance for youth to develop their athletic skills and have a fun place to chill during the summer.



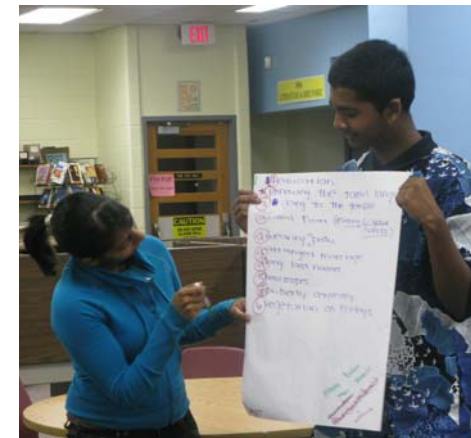
A Look Back....so Far

A flashback to review some of the 2009 CanTYD events

Youth Forums

This year CanTYD decided to try something new for their youth forums and it proved to be quite successful. There were three separate workshops on different topics. The first one, held in March, which was titled *Youth Expressions*, was focused on the struggles in Sri Lanka. A main topic discussed was the problems students faced with the administration at schools to raise their voices within their schools. The group of over 80 youth, with many of them being new faces, was split into three groups where there were able to have a more in depth discussion with a member of Toronto Public Health, Grassroots Youth Collaboration and City of Toronto. Due to the outstanding turn out at the first youth forum, we decided to hold another one which was a continuation of the first one labeled *Youth Expressions 2* youth were enlightened about the roots of the struggle in Sri Lanka that defines much of their history and identity. Sri Guggan Sri Skanda Rajah was the speaker and he provided great insight into the history and answered many of the questions the youth had.

Our third youth forum, which was held at Victoria Park Collegiate, thanks to TDSB school trustee Michael Coteau, Heritage Canada/Artreach Toronto and was intended to celebrate Canada Day, Diversity and Canadian Tamil Identity. The youth council members created and conducted their own workshops with the help of core volunteers. The event was called *Colour Me Canada*. The focus of this youth forum was to get an idea of what youth thought it meant to be called a Tamil Canadian. Many topics were discussed were Homosexuality, gender roles, and challenges of being a Tamil youth in this society. The youth were very receptive to the workshops because it was led by youth for the youth.



Annual General Meeting

June 17th, 2009

CanTYD held their Annual General Meeting on June 17, 2009. This particular event is crucial to the organization itself. It is the time that all staff, board members, volunteers and others gather together to be updated on the organizations progress throughout the year. It is also when they make decisions for electing new board members, motions and future plans.

Councilor Raymond Cho and school board trustee Shaun Chen attended the AGM and gave a spiel about the organization and ways to continue to be successful. In addition we also had board members of CanTYD speak about the organization and its advancement though out the year.

Following that, there were approvals of the past years meeting minutes, performances by our dance choreographer Anoshinie Mahundarajah and CanTYD's own Medai Konal group. Lastly, Jessica Chandrashekar, Sen Vettivelupillai, Thevananth Sivagnalingam were elected as the new three board members of CanTYD at this year's AGM.

This year CanTYD had a privilege of having Ken Jeffers, Manager of Parks, Recreation and Forestry at the City of Toronto, as the keynote speaker for the event. He spoke a lot about moving ahead through tough times, being a leader and a role model for the community as we face day to day obstacles in our lives. Though he only spoke for a few minutes he had left many individuals in the room inspired and with a new outlook on how to approach certain situations. Furthermore, this year's AGM was a great success and we are really excited to see what the new board has to offer to CanTYD.



CanTYD Board Members List

Thiva Paramasothy
Shanthy Logeswaran
Sri Sri-Skandarajah
Ravi Raveenthiran
Thevananth
Sivagnanalingam
Jessica Devi Chandrashekar
Sen Vettivelupillai

CanTYD Staff Members List

Maria Bernard
Program Coordinator

Kavita Bala
Selvy's Circle Coordinator

Sathees Mathivanan
Youth Outreach Worker

Nikila Vijayakanthan
Event Coordinator

Keerthana Kamalavasan
Volunteer Coordinator

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Upcoming Events

CanTYD Cup

CanTYD is holding its annual Basketball and Soccer tournament for High schools and University/Colleges. This year it will be held at David and Mary Thomson on August 9th, 2009. It is open to both males and females.

Spotlight

CanTYD gives youth the opportunity to showcase their talents in an event called *Spotlight*. Many students from all over Toronto come out to show off their abilities in the arts. The art components focused on are Dance, Drama, and Music. The show will be

Walkathon

A major charity event for CanTYD is its annual *Walkathon*. It consists of a walk around CanTYD, and is followed by a barbeque at CanTYD. This year walkathon will be held on September 12th, 2009

Awards of Excellence

CanTYD's most exciting night is fast approaching. This year's A of E will be held on November 1st, 2009 at the Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto. Applications are now available and the deadline for all applications is August 31st, 2009.

