This past summer aided by parents, community groups and volunteers, The Marcia Stiles Summer Camp was established in Ward 37. Between July to mid-August the camp operated out of St. Lawrence Catholic School on Lawrence Avenue East and Kennedy Road.

With a staff of 9 and volunteers, community support, the help of generous sponsors, and a budget of $27,000, 25 youth between the ages of 5 and 15 years old learned, played enjoyed the richness of our city and over a six-week period learned that they are Blessed, valued and have the support of so many of us. There was a waiting list of 30 children.

The Camp’s vision was also shaped by the involvement of parents who were quite clear that they were not looking for handouts for their children. They asked only for assistance and at every available occasion supported the Camp’s operations; went on trips with the kids and provided unrivalled emotional support. Each day the younger kids were dressed, given a lunch and brought to the camp. The older children walked to the camp and were keen not to be late.

At the end of the six-week period each youth also received a backpack filled with supplies that were generously supplied by Wal-mart at Warden and Eglinton. The feedback was great from both children and parents. One of who indicated that such an act made it easier for hers and other kids to go to school with the dignity they should have.

Prior to the start of the Camp in July 2008, it took those involved 5 weeks to plan and put it in place. The job was made easier because there was already an abundance of materials to be drawn from in studies, anecdotal information, the input of parents, teachers etc. The problems associated with youth are already well-known. Many youth in Gangs will tell you, (and no studies are needed for this), they need a sense of belonging, either they find it through stalwart programs like the Marcia Stiles Summer Camp, or they will find it through other means.

The children were taught conflict resolution, received assistance with Math and English, learned to cook light foods, were taught to sew and were supported by seniors’ groups in the neighbourhood. The children were taught many genres of dance and were given voice lessons by a classical teacher who travelled a total of three hours each time by TTC to get to the camp. The Toronto Police Service through the generous support of its members found a fond place in the hearts of the youth. Tennis Canada provided coaching lessons and with the Support of State Farm Tennis equipment was donated to the camp.

The summer camp will now be followed with a Homework Club that is set to start in October 2008. The Cam will be repeated in summer 2009 and in the spring my riding will host a leadership camp for older children and young adults.
OUR SPONSORS

The Marcia Stiles Summer Camp would like to thank the following Champions for their generous support:

Atlantic Packaging
Arz Fine Foods
Calabria Bakery
Costco
Focus on Youth
Domenic Fragale, Aldebrain
GNS Party Supplies
ICAN
Jackson Khallili, Ice Cream
...and Then Some
Jain Foundation
Anna Maria Lamantia, Focus on Youth
Co-op Program
Pam Lugonzo
McGregor Park
Montmartre Bakery (Midwest Rd.)
Ontario Tennis Association
Joan Ng
Oasis Juice Bar
PrintFast
Sean Boyd, Vice-Chair & CEO, and James Nasso, Chair, Agnico-Eagle Mines Ltd.
Superintendent Bob Qualtrough, Sergeant Dawson and Officers,
41 Division, Toronto Police Service
Dr. Hazel Stewart
State Farm Insurance
St. Lawrence Catholic School
St. Lawrence Catholic Church
Dr. Sheldon Taylor
Tennis Canada
Think Tank Toronto
Councillor Michael Thompson and staff
Tim Hortons (Lebovic and Eglinton)
John Del Grande, Trustee, Toronto Catholic District School Board
City of Toronto
Toronto Catholic District School Board
Toronto Parks
Toronto Public Library McGregor Park Branch
Victoria & Albert Pub (Steve and Bella)
Wal-Mart - Warden and Eglinton
Wexford Residence Inc.
Youth Assisting Youth

Our First Year Was a Great Success!

By Sophia Hyginus, Program Coordinator

The Marcia Stiles Summer Camp 2008 has aimed to foster well-rounded children and youth by developing, strengthening and supporting each one of its participants intellectually, physically and emotionally. It incorporated a thorough program which included academics, life skills, arts, sports and recreation, and character education.

The Academic program included Language and Mathematics in a structured classroom environment. The language curriculum encompassed reading, oral communication, and writing catered to the appropriate grade levels. To instill a love of reading, weekly visits to the McGregor Park library branch were arranged, whereby many participants received their first Toronto Public Library card this summer. To cultivate writing skills both creative and narrative, each day was concluded with journal writing. The mathematics curriculum had an instruction with a focus on number sense and numeration. Participants had the opportunity to practice and hone their numeracy skills in preparation for the upcoming school year.

The Life Skills program incorporated many facets including nutrition and see “Year 1,” page 2

“...This first year at camp was great. We worked on education, math, and language which I liked because they’re helping us learn more and to remember things before we go back to school. Also, what I like is we do lots of fun things like playing games like dodge ball, basketball and more stuff too. I hope this camp will open again next year.”
Ronnell Perry, Senior Division participant
healthy living, preparing healthy snacks and lunches, sewing projects, and career skills. Special visits from seniors at the Wexford Residence Inc. provided participants with one-on-one academic tutoring. Guest presentations included the Toronto Police Department - division 41 with presentations on bicycle safety, internet safety, bullying, the criminal justice system, police dog services, and the mounted unit. Also, a special presentation from Sean Boyd, CEO of Agnico Eagle Mines Ltd., a former student of St. Lawrence Catholic School who gave an inspirational talk on achieving your dreams.

The Arts program included dance, music and visual arts. The dance program encompassed various genres of dance forms including the history of such. An emphasis on physical fitness was incorporated during the warm ups and participants learned various dance choreographies for performance.

The music program centred on vocal instruction both solo and choir with the practice of several vocal pieces for performance. The visual arts program included arts and crafts and creative design using various media including paint and pastels.

The Sports and Recreation program encompassed sports such as basketball, soccer, tennis, ultimate frisbee, dodge ball and co-operative games including team building games. Emphasis was placed on active participation and the acquisition and improvement of skills. Recreational excursions with the added help of parent volunteers included swimming at the Mcgregor Pool, the Rogers Cup at the Rexall Centre hosted by Tennis Canada, 54 East Studios, the Ontario Science Centre, the Royal Ontario Museum and the Toronto Zoo.

The character education program included one-on-one mentoring sessions with counsellors and positive role models. Also, the M.S.S.C. values of respect, co-operation, fairness, honesty, responsibility and optimism were fostered with the Value of the week ceremony. Each week highlighted one of the six values and a participant was chosen from each of the 4 divisions who best cultivated that value.

Special treats for the M.S.S.C. participants included the Ice Cream and Then Some truck coming by for ice cream, a lunch at the Victoria & Albert pub, a BBQ hosted by ICAN, pizza lunches from Calabria Bakery, fresh fruit and snacks from Arz Fine Foods, and tennis equipment and lessons from State Farm Insurance and Tennis Canada.

The past six and a half weeks have been memorable to say the least. Congratulations to all the M.S.S.C. 2008 participants, counsellors and support staff for an amazing inaugural summer program! Everyone involved in this labour of love has gained some value from this experience!

**Need Help With Your Homework?**

For information about the new Marcia Stiles Homework Club which will run through the school year, please call 416.397.9274.

![Marcia Stiles with Councillor Michael Thompson](image)
A Message From
COUNCILLOR MICHAEL THOMPSON

By focusing on bringing children a high quality learning experience wrapped in activities and fun, the Marcia Stiles Summer Camp is a valuable addition to our community and its children.

I would like to thank the many supporters from the public and private sectors who offered their time and resources to this unique community-based program. They are true Champions for Scarborough and our children.

Congratulations to all of the children, staff and volunteers who made the first ever Marcia Stiles Summer Camp an energetic and successful experience! We look forward to another summer of learning and fun in 2009.

Best regards:

[Signature]

A POEM
by Hani Adlabi, Focus on Youth Co-op student, MSSC Counsellor

I wake up in the morning, memories bring me back
On my way to travel to Marcia Stiles Summer Camp
The curriculum is great, with the sports and education
Our field trips are amazing, to gain so much information
We stay healthy and fit, and the park was so fun
Although we all must agree, dodge ball was number one
The sports kept us laughing, our friends made us smile
Some of us coming in late, which was our own sense of style.

Break dancing, salsa, hip-hop and freestyle
Meanwhile Ms. Melissa taught us to be wild
And thank you Ms. Natalie for teaching us how to sing
To serve and protect, Toronto Police taught us everything
From bicycle safety to police dogs, to our own basketball game
Camp counsellors and students won, oh all the fame
The next day was a new day; the new day was a beginning
Outdoor sports like soccer, ultimate Frisbee and going swimming.

The launch of the M.S.S.C. was a success and even more
Thank you Dr. Taylor and Councillor Thompson for opening the door
Always felt love when one was sad and stuck
Ms. Sophia cheered us up with a surprise ice cream truck
Thank you Tennis Canada for the lessons at McGregor Park
And the library we love, that wasn’t too far apart
We always had loads of fun when we were painting arts and crafts
Hula hoops and skip ropes, cooperative games made us laugh
Writing journals everyday, working on reading language and math
Watching movies and eating freezies’, oh how we ate them so fast.

Our National Anthem was first both in English and French
Loved how the students never sat still on their bench
Thank you Ms. Nancy West for the life skills you have taught us
With sewing and nutrition and the healthy foods you brought us
54 East Studios, Victoria and Albert was something new to me
Made our camp feel so welcome, as in part of our community
We had trips to the Science Center, Rexall center, R.O.M. and Zoo
Thank you all at ICAN for an amazing BBQ.

Respect, Co-operation, Fairness, and Honesty
Responsibility and Optimism are all values of integrity
The experience here is amazing, especially due to staff
Ms. Zola and her primary’s who love to sit on their mats
Ms. Lilia-Anne’s junior students which all they do is laugh
Ms. Devon and her intermediate’s, oh what a bunch
The happiest smiles I’ve seen, as if it was time for lunch
Mr. Dan and the seniors, you guys are much more
If Ms. Sophia asked for me next year, the answer is for sure.

Thank you Ms. Melissa, Ms. Natalie, and Ms. Nancy West
For which dance, music and life skills was always the best
Thank you Councillor Michael Thompson for a camp like this
And of course Dr. Sheldon Taylor for this is a kid’s dream wish
Thank you for having me, the opportunity was great
Until next summer all we could do is wait
As far as we live this camp may be miles
Although I will thank you most Ms. Marcia Stiles.

P.S. Thank you all for making me feel so welcome and it was great meeting you all, for you are all now such great friends. Have a good one guys!
Participants

Primary Division
Emiley Beaton
Kelly Beaton
Samantha Bigris
Jasmine Duong
Justin Taylor McLavish
Milton Paul

Junior Division
Tamara Bigris
Samuel Bikwa
Carmen Duong
Nathan Gooding
Dyson Lingadasan
Newton Paul
Keyshawn Thomlinson

Intermediate Division
Aaron Beaton
Amber Bigris
Naphtali Gittens
Jennelle Gooding
Courtney McLavish
Aaliyah Robertson

Senior Division
Oracho Clarke
Daniel Graham
Ronald Perry
Ronnell Perry
Shugwone Rose
Kishon Thompson

Staff
Sophia Hyacinth – Program Coordinator
Devon Reid – Sports Coordinator
Intermediate Division
Courtney
Darren and Senior Division
Karl
Lidia
Hana
Melissa
Dance
Life Skills

Oversight

Guest presentation with 41 Division and its Mounted Unit.

Life skills with Ms Nancy West (from left) Amber Bigris, Ms West, Aaliyah Robertson, Mikiyas Habte, Ms Devon, Aaron Beaton.

Dance Class with Ms Melissa.

At 54 East Studios with the senior group (from left) Mr. Dan, Oracho Clarke, Ms Sophia, Ronald Perry, Daniel Graham and Ronell Perry.

Nesta (Wexford Residence inc.) with Samantha Bigris and Justin McLavish.