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VAUGHAN CELEBRATES PEACE TREE DAY

June 5, 2007

VAUGHAN, ON –Vaughan students and their families joined Members of Council to celebrate Peace Tree Day at Concord/Thornhill Regional Park on Friday. Inspired by the award-winning film *The Peace Tree*, the annual event brings young people of every culture and faith together to promote peace and diversity.

“Vaughan is a city that celebrates multiculturalism,” said Mayor Linda Jackson. “With so many different cultures and faiths represented in our community, Peace Tree Day provides an important opportunity to explore our rich heritage and better appreciate how fortunate we are to live in a vibrant, diverse society. This special day inspires us to take positive action and send a message of peace and cooperation to the world.”

The Cities of Vaughan and Toronto announced the creation of Peace Tree Day in 2006. This year, York Region, the City of Windsor, the York Region District School Board, York Regional Police, and the York Region Catholic District School Board marked the day for the first time. Celebrations also were held at locations across southern Ontario.

Held on June 1, Peace Tree Day encourages children to take pride in their heritage and to share it with others, while learning about different cultures and traditions. Students draw on their own cultural backgrounds to create forms of art and help raise funds to assist underprivileged children throughout the world.

“Peace Tree Day, and the message of the movie, inspires young people to understand that sharing each other’s cultures can only enrich their lives and encourages peace and harmony throughout the world,” said Ward 4 Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, who chairs the Peace Tree Day Committee and first initiated bringing this event to Vaughan. “I am encouraged by the participation of so many schools this year, and it is my sincere hope that this celebration will bring more awareness and respect to our multicultural and multi-faith community.”

Students at several Vaughan schools created their own Peace Tree and submitted photographs and a written statement of what peace means to them. One Peace Tree from a school in each of the City’s five wards was chosen to be featured on a Peace Tree poster representing the City of Vaughan. Other activities included a screening of the movie, learning about foods from different cultures, and origami demonstrations. For more information, visit www.peacetreeday.com.

*“For The
Community”*

City of Vaughan
The City Above Toronto

City of Vaughan

C/o Sandra Yeung Racco
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive,
Vaughan, Ontario

L6A 1T1

Tel 905.832.2281

Fax 905.832.8587

**Sandra.Racco
@vaughan.ca**