

PROCLAMATION

International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

June 26, 2008

WHEREAS, the United Nations has proclaimed June 26th, 2008 as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Drugs destroy millions of lives every year with the most disturbing aspect of this problem the damage of drug abuse to our young people.

The "Say No to Drugs, Say Yes to Life" campaign of the Church of Scientology has worked for over 20 years to combat this problem in the Greater Toronto Area and York Region. The Drug-Free Marshals have been active for the past 15 years in promoting an anti-drug lifestyle and encouraging youth and adults to learn the harmful effects of drugs and challenge them to be drug-free.

The Drug-Free Marshals have distributed booklets called, 'The Truth About Drugs', with over 22,000 distributed by these youth since October 2006, thus informing and educating the people of Markham in York Region and the Greater Toronto Area of the dangers of drugs.

The 'Taste of Asia' Festival in Markham, supported by the Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham and the Association of Progressive Muslims of Canada, fosters inter-cultural friendship, harmony and diversity, and has also provided an opportunity for the Drug-Free Marshals to promote this international day of drug abuse awareness for the past 4 years.

The United Nations encourages all communities around the world to support drug education and awareness and the Town of Markham supports this initiative.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor Frank Scarpetti, on behalf of the Markham City Council, do hereby proclaim June 26, 2008 as "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking" in the Town of Markham. I encourage everyone to adopt the United Nation's motto, "Your life. Your Community. No Place for Drugs" and give their support to the Drug-Free Marshals for their valuable role in educating children and youth about the dangers of drugs, challenging them to remain drug-free and setting a good example for all children.

Mayor Frank Scarpetti

**United Nations' International Day
Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
Event 2008**

Tentative Program

Opening

Markham Towne Crier John Webster

Welcome

Melanie Dickson-Smith

O Canada

Rhona Shekter

Welcome and Proclamation

Mayor Frank Scarpetti, Town of Markham

DVD Presentation

Crusade for a Drug-Free World

Greetings from Elected Representatives

(2 – 3 minutes each)

Derek Lee MP Scarborough – Rouge River

Lui Temelkovski MP Oak Ridges – Markham

Alan Tonks MP York South – Weston

Hon. John McCallum MP Markham – Unionville

Michael Chan MPP Minister of Citizenship and Immigration

Keynote Speaker

Chief Armand La Barge, York Regional Police

Greetings from Community Leaders

Dr. Ken Ng, Federation of Chinese Canadians in Markham

Dr. Kathleen J. Kerr

Khalid Usman

Mobeen Khaja, APMC

Cassandra Paletta, Miss Teen Canada

Remarks

Madison Whitmore

Drug-Free Marshals Choir

Drug-Free Marshals Song

International Pledge to be Drug-Free

Led by Madison Whitmore

Closing Remarks

Melanie Dickson-Smith

Refreshments