

reduce collisions, injury and death in toronto

A social forum designed to make Toronto streets safer for all road users through education and awareness. Road safety is everyone's responsibility.

Monday, June 1, 2009

Dreams Take Flight Buses will have a Presidential Style Police Escort from Orlando Airport to the Magic Kingdome for their 20th

Dreams Take Flight Celebrates 20 Magical Years ~ 20,000th Child On Board Air Canada Flight to Walt Disney World ~

TORONTO, ONT. -- On June 4, 2009, 'Dreams Take Flight' celebrates its 20th anniversary with a day-long magical journey from Toronto to the Magic Kingdom at the Walt Disney World Resort in Florida.

The day begins well before sunrise, when children arrive at approximately 5am to a fully decorated Air Canada hangar (see details below) and will be greeted by;

Singer/Song Writer July Black
WWE™ Superstars Mickie James & Tiffany
Former WWE™ Superstar Trish Stratus
NHL great Doug Gilmour
Walter Gretzky
Deputy Chief Jane Dick, Toronto Police Service
Original 'Loonette the Clown' Alyson Court
Hypnotist and entertainer 'Danny ZZZZ'
Entertainer Wayne Malton
The Coppertones
Disney VoluntEARs...

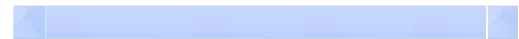
Once on board, children are treated to a warm breakfast, followed by in-flight entertainment and games of toilet paper races in the aisle, pillow fights and more.

"Today is all about the kids," says Bill Sanderson, President, Dreams Take Flight (Toronto). "Walt Disney World is the place where dreams come true and where magical memories of the day will be remembered a lifetime. There are a lot of wonderful people

School returns on Tuesday September 8. When is the best time to teach children road/bus safety?

Now while there is les...	9 (69%)
On the first day of sch...	0 (0%)
When there is an even...	4 (30%)

Votes so far: 13
Poll closed



***** NEW INITIATIVE *****

Traffic Talk with a Traffic Cop

Got a question that you want an answer to regarding traffic laws, traffic safety or do's and don't's?

Here's your forum!

Send me an email and I will get back to you. The best questions or ones that I think the general public could benefit from knowing the answer to will be published on the blog.

Don't worry, I will never reveal your email address.

Just click on the address below.

tsvcommunicationsoffice@torontopolice.on.ca

Twitter Updates

Sheppard Ave closed west of Yonge St. Pedestrian struck collision. TSV en route. PC Smith attending for media. Update to follow. **19 minutes ago**

@[bizaaron](#) It's also a lot less to type. But I always get asked what it means when I do it. **about an hour ago**

PD FGX in bound at Jameson blocking left lane. Delays back to Humber. **about 2 hours ago**

Traffic Enforcement will be looking for violators today in 31 Division. The rest of the TPS will be looking everywhere else. **about 3 hours ago**

that we have to thank for this, that make this day possible and to those we are truly grateful."

Upon arrival into Orlando, approximately 450 children and group leaders immediately board 15 waiting coaches that will be police escorted from the Orlando International Airport to Walt Disney World by approximately 30 motorcycled officers from the Toronto Police Services Winged Wheels and the Orange County Sheriff's Office.

The day's mission is to meet Disney characters, watch the parades and experience popular Disney attractions such as Splash Mountain, Big Thunder Mountain Railroad, It's a Small World, Jungle Cruise and Pirates of the Caribbean.

"This year, Disney Parks asks 'What Will You Celebrate?', as we take all of life's special moments and occasions and then make them more magical than ever before," explains Marlie Morrison, Director, Marketing and Sales, Disney Parks (Canada). So, we're thrilled that Dreams Take Flight is celebrating their 20th anniversary at Walt Disney World this year."

After an unforgettable day, the children find themselves back home in Toronto where they are showered with more gifts donated by local and national sponsors.

The Year of 20,000 Dreams!
"The 20th Year, with a Gift so Precious & Dear!"

*Note: Video b-roll of the day will be made available upon request

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0 comments:

post a comment

Toronto's newest recruits learning how to direct traffic in south Etobicoke. Use caution, lights will be out while officers direct. **about 3 hours ago**

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Urban Traffic

From a traffic safety viewpoint, Toronto is an amazing city. Where else in Canada do you see streetcars, subways, light rapid transit, buses, cars, trucks, people, bicycles, scooters, motorcycles...etc, etc, etc.

Just getting around can be a challenge on people who share our roads to stay focused and alert with thousands of potential distractions appearing with every other foot of travel.

All of this orchestrated mayhem is called the, "Urban Traffic Environment". Roads with speeds that vary from 30 k to 90 k within feet of each other, schools beside highways with parks divided by high speed roads all co-exist in forming a road user experience that demands focus, awareness

Dreams Take Flight for eight local children

Posted: June 2009

WELLAND — For one day, children were able to live the dream without the pressures of life, their own personal struggles or finances in the way.

Eight children participated in the Dreams Take Flight project, sponsored by Club Richelieu and Mapleview Charities, that allowed them to visit Disney World in Florida and meet some celebrities. The program is also heavily supported by Air Canada and the company's staff.

On Wednesday, the children and their chaperons headed to Toronto where they stayed overnight. The next morning, children were at the airport by 5 a.m. to meet sports celebrities and television and radio personalities. They were greeted by Walter Gretzky, Argos cheerleaders, Danny Zzzz, Michelle Cruise and Julie Black, to name but some. Then at 7 a.m., the children were off to Disney World where they spent the majority of the day.

"We had something special this year," said Club Richelieu member Rheel Demers, a chaperon on the trip. "There was a police escort from the airport to Disney World, all the traffic was stopped at all the intersections. It was really impressive going to Disney."

The police escort was in honour and celebration of the Dreams Take Flight 20th anniversary, so a little something extra was planned for the event.

"It's phenomenal, in terms of the organization, it's very fine tuned," Demers said. "And with Dreams Take Flight, there is no discrimination in the type of children selected, they could be sick children, disabled or underprivileged, anything in that sense. It's to take them away from their home and to let them live a dream without the pressures of life."

Demers said most of the children were in awe, in shock, but very excited about the opportunity. When participating in all the activities, there was a magical Disney twinkle in their eyes.

"They were overwhelmed," he said. "They felt special and that's the feeling we want them to have, to feel special. And it's so memorable for them. The kids were very appreciative, they thanked everyone."

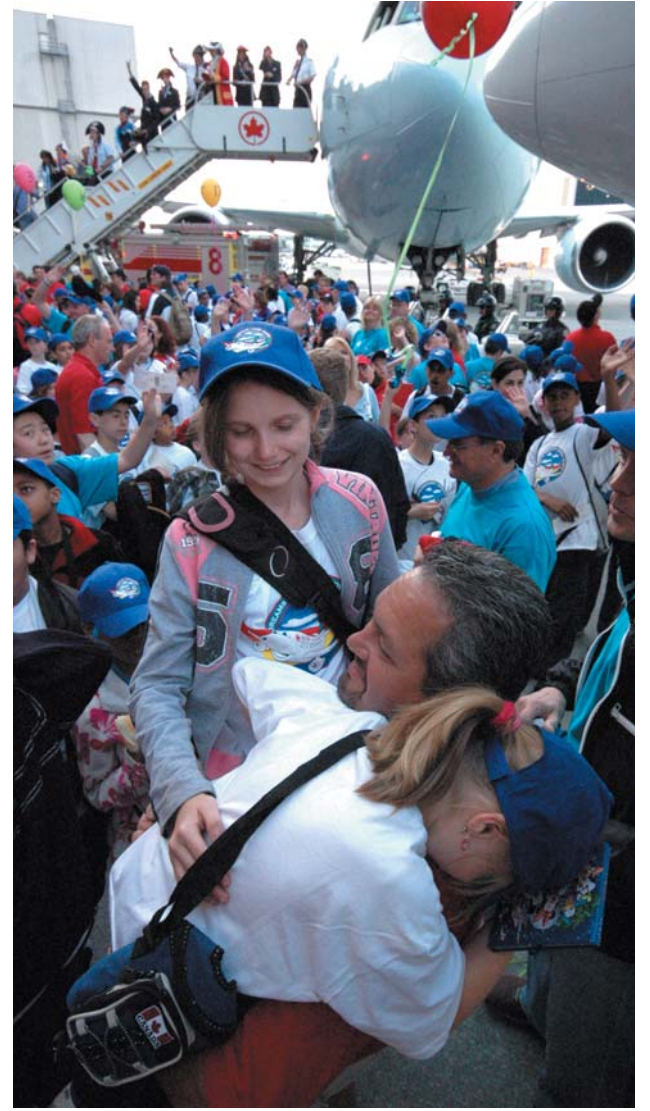
Every year, Club Richelieu member Marcel Turpin works with local schools to find deserving children. He has been co-ordinating the local Dreams Take Flight project for 20 years. In the past, due to funding shortfalls, Club Richelieu had to halve the number of children selected for the project, but has now moved back up to eight. Richelieu and Mapleview Charities split the costs of the trips, said Demers. The money is generated through various fundraisers.

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DREAMS TAKE FLIGHT

“18 Years of Laughter and Cheers”



Toronto Pearson played host on May 9 to the annual “Dreams Take Flight” program, the 18th consecutive year that this event has taken place.

Dreams Take Flight is a charitable organization that offers special needs children the opportunity to experience what just about every child hopes for in their lifetime: an all-expense paid one day trip to Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

This year, 275 special needs children, along with their parents/guardians, boarded one of two aircraft donated for the day by Air Canada. Landing fees for the flights returning to Toronto Pearson were waived by the GTAA.

Children arrived at Toronto Pearson by bus in the early morning hours greeted by the 45 energetic volunteer Air Canada flight crew members who worked diligently to decorate the aircraft’s hangar prior to the passengers’ arrival.

The morning was filled with activities including an on-stage performance by illusionist Danny Zzzz, musical talents and a high-flying Peter Pan. In addition, children were afforded the chance to interact with a number of celebrities such as Global TV’s Susan Hay, YTV’s Sugar Baybee, WWE Superstars Carlito and Mickie James, Argonaut great John Williams, ex-NHL Referee Ron Hoggarth and Walter Gretzky who also joined the troupe on-board.

Prior to the plane’s departure, the president of Dreams Take Flight, Mary Wolfe, was presented with an award to commemorate her commitment and dedication to the charitable efforts.

Streamers and music lit up the hangar as the time finally came for children to board their flight.

Upon their arrival in Orlando, children were greeted with a fleet of 15 busses bound for Disney World. Over a 10-hour period, children were escorted by their group leaders to as many rides and attractions as possible throughout their visit.

The weary travellers arrived back in Toronto in the early morning hours of the following day. Although most, if not all of them, were exhausted from the trip, the smiles on their faces told the story of the great experience they had just enjoyed.

Dreams Take Flight was developed in 1989 through the combined vision of four Toronto-based Air Canada Customer Service representatives: Kathy Duchak, Bob Kent, Chris Dale and Kent Angus. The original plan had been to charter a bus filled with disadvantaged children to Canada’s Wonderland for the day, however, the plan seemed to lack ambition and so the group explored the possibility of chartering an aircraft to Walt Disney World. At the time, the organization was known as Dream Come True, but was later renamed Dreams Take Flight in 1998. Dream Come True was only ever intended to be a one-time affair, but since its inaugural unveiling on April 18, 1990, it has become an annual event.

The first flight flew 68 children and 32 adults on a DC-9 aircraft which was paid for by means of bake sales, raffles and deli lunches served to fellow employees for a year. Today, more than 500 organizations from Buffalo, New York and across

Ontario provide the necessary funding to operate this event.

Since its inaugural flight, this remarkable program has put smiles on the faces of more than 14,400 children with no end in sight as organizers have already begun planning for next year’s installment.

Our formula to get you an extra 15 minutes.

Use Web Check-in, Mobile Check-in or our automated Check-in kiosks and you’ll be able to choose what to do with the 15 minutes you saved by avoiding those check-in lines.

Find your freedom online at aircanada.com/checkin



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The Times

They Are A Changing



Let the Music Play

Pen Centre shoppers are often captivated by the flamenco guitar style of Enriquez Lopez. His popularity is evident by the hundreds of copies of his CD called Gypsy he sells. Be sure to pick one up the next time he is here. They are only \$15 and the music will add an international flair to your music collection.

Here is a summary of information that offers a snapshot of important data that could have an impact on our retail businesses. Pen Centre's specialty retail sales volume for January 2006 was up 1.3% over the same period in 2005. When including the out parcel stores and large format users the Centre's property sales totals were up 4.3% over the previous year.

Pen Centre Gift Certificate sales for January 2006 were \$70,645 up 3.7% over January 2005's figure of \$68,095.

In other retail news, Sears Holdings Corp. is pressing its pursuit of Sears Canada Inc. The company is offering \$16.86 Canadian for all of the outstanding shares of the Canadian-based retailer, even though the stock is trading in the \$18 Canadian range. The organization already owns roughly 53.8% of the outstanding common shares of the chain.

Statistics from the Canadian Tourism Commission indicate that 4.6% fewer Americans travelled to Canada in 2005 compared to the previous year. Automobile traffic was down 6.7%, the commission said. The decline was acutely felt in Ontario, a province visited by roughly 33% fewer U.S. citizens over the last five years.

In St. Catharines-Niagara market information, St. Catharines City Councillors have changed their minds about a commercial development on the north side of Fourth Avenue, so First Pro Garden City Shopping Centres will be allowed to build smaller specialty stores and offices there.

Housing starts in St. Catharines-Niagara in January 2006 declined 35% from the previous January. According to CMHC, the reason is more choice in the existing home market.

Port Dalhousie Vitalization Corp. filed an application with the city of St. Catharines for the new version of its \$70 million project that calls for the rebirth of Port's commercial district with a 17-storey condo building, 70-room hotel and 415-seat theatre and centre courtyard.

St. Catharines-Niagara unemployment rate edged up to 7.1% from 7.0% in January 2006.

Dreams Take Flight At The Pen Centre



With the help of hypnotist and magician Danny ZZZZ (left), Kobbler Jay the Eccentric Juggler and YTV's Sugar (right), more special needs children will be onboard two Air Canada 767 aircraft on May 10th for the largest trip of its kind in Canada to Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Dreams Take Flight is a non-profit organization made up of volunteers from the Air Canada family in Canada and the United States. They organize



the trip of a lifetime for physically, mentally, or socially challenged children. The destination - Disney World, Florida or Disneyland, California - for a day. Air Canada donates the aircraft and the employees do the rest. The adventure is funded through the efforts of corporate and private sponsors and donations. Dreams Take Flight has fulfilled some 13,000 dreams, thanks to the volunteers, the communities they serve and the valued efforts of the media and partners like the Pen Centre.