



# NewsBrief

FALL 2008, VOL 10 NO 3

## ProAction grants \$90,000 to For KICKS



*ProAction's Director of Development & Operations, Virginia DiRoma and Toronto Grants Committee member Susan Lewis present Sgt. Steve Hicks with his grant of over \$90,000 for the For KICKS program helping youth in Jane & Finch.*

ProAction Cops & Kids is thrilled to announce a major grant for a successful, long-standing program, For KICKS. ProAction's \$90,000 will go toward funding the many components of this extensive initiative out of 31 Division.

Over the years, For KICKS has grown from putting on soccer clinics to truly having an activity of interest for all youth, including: hockey, camping, wrestling, bicycle safety, baseball, music, theatre, computers and leadership training.

The wide scope of the program allows for many youth to get involved, roughly 2000 kids throughout the year. Aside from the entertainment and learning aspects of For KICKS programs, the youth also benefit from working closely with officers. Led by Sgt. Steve Hicks of 31 Division, approximately 100 officers work with these programs on a regular basis and as they are ongoing, police and youth have the chance to understand each other and create a strong, lasting relationship.

Sgt. Hicks is an example to his fellow police officers for his dedication to youth programming in Toronto. ProAction Cops & Kids is proud to be a part of the For KICKS program.

## ProAction announces launch of new Hamilton Chapter

ProAction is proud to announce the launch of their newest chapter in Hamilton. The Hamilton Police Service puts a strong emphasis on its officers being involved in community programming, creating an opportunity to connect many police officers with Hamilton youth.

ProAction has already funded a program in Hamilton, the Journey program, which saw 20 cops and 20 Aboriginal youth paired up for a canoe ride down the Grand River from Paris to Brantford. The trip provided a challenging, character-building experience for youth, as well as the chance for them to get to know a police officer outside of their traditional role.

ProAction Cops & Kids looks forward to working with the Hamilton Police Service to create positive relationships between police officers and youth for years to come.



*Hamilton Police Officers bond with youth during "The Journey," a challenging canoe ride down the Grand River.*

### OUR MISSION

We believe that establishing a positive relationship between cops and kids at risk will strengthen our community today and for the future. By funding programs that bring local cops and kids together, we help create an environment that promotes mutual understanding and respect.

# Toronto Opera Program

The Toronto Opera Program (TOP) offered 50 Toronto youth the chance to do something completely different this summer – create, write and perform an original opera. The youth teamed up with P.C. Sharleen LaValley of the Community Mobilization Unit, Auxiliary Officer Mark Gray and the Canadian Opera Company to learn teamwork, self-expression, critical thinking and creative skills.

At the end of each week-long camp, parents and community members were invited to a performance of the operas, which dealt with important issues facing today's youth, such as drugs, gangs and domestic violence.

A strong bond was formed between the officers and youth following the end of this program, with many of the participants in tears after their performance, the final activity of camp.



*TPS Auxiliary Officer Mark Gray congratulates a fellow youth performer, following their opera performance.*

## **ProAction Youth Leadership Award Winner**

ProAction is proud to present the 2007 Youth Leadership Award to Andrew Rodrigues of 51 Division's Toronto Oxmen Football Club. As part of his award, Andrew attended Olympia Sports Camp north of Huntsville for 3 weeks. Although the camp was tough at first, Andrew truly valued the experience and came away with many new friends.

Being part of the Toronto Oxmen affected Andrew in many ways. Andrew has come out of his shell, has acquired some much-needed self-confidence and leadership skills and has greatly improved his physical fitness – losing over 60 pounds throughout last season. Andrew has also created strong bonds with the coaching staff, especially P.C. Jay Domingo.

Congratulations Andrew – Keep up the good work!

## **Hydro Block Junior Officers – Penpals**

ProAction is proud to fund the Hydro Block Junior Officers – Penpals program out of 52 Division. Youth from the Hydro Block area, which is located between Chinatown and the downtown core to the east, face a variety of social problems such as gangs, drugs and violence.

This program sees P.C. Dale Corra and other 52 Division officers teaching the participating youth about the almost forgotten art of letter-writing. The officers believe that in today's world of ever-evolving technology, developing good writing and grammar skills will give the youth much needed confidence in themselves.

The youth write to penpals in the Philippines. In addition to teaching the youth writing skills, the police officers also talk to the kids about the country and culture of their penpals. Although the Toronto youth are at risk and live in economically challenged neighbourhoods, the youth will gradually begin to appreciate and understand the conditions their penpals live in and how those situations differ from what they know at home.

P.C. Corra hopes that the program will promote respect, responsibility and positive team interaction within the youths' community at home, as well as to fellow youth around the world.



Toronto Chief of Police William Blair congratulates Golf Committee Chairs Larry Taylor & Roy Hryn on another great ProAction tournament.

## ProAction Golf Tournament Report

This year's ProAction Cops & Kids 12th Annual Golf Tournament was another roaring success. The golfers enjoyed the beautiful weather and scenery at Owen Sound's outstanding Cobble Beach Golf Links, followed by a fantastic dinner and auction. ProAction is pleased to announce that this year's event netted over \$155,000 for Toronto police programs for youth. ProAction would like to thank all of our sponsors, without whom the day would not have been possible.

To receive information on 2009's ProAction Cops & Kids Golf Tournament, please contact Event Coordinator Meredith Hopper at 416-222-7011 or [meredith@copsandkids.ca](mailto:meredith@copsandkids.ca).



P.C. Sharleen LaValley keeps the golfers in line on the course, handing out tickets for various offences such as unlicensed driver, assaulting the course and speeding.

## Upcoming ProAction Cops & Kids Events

### ProAction Presents Jersey Boys

We're thrilled to announce that the ProAction Presents Jersey Boys event on Thursday October 23 is SOLD OUT! Those lucky enough to have purchased tickets will enjoy dinner at the Jersey Boys Bistro at the Toronto Centre for the Arts before the show. See you there!

### Elite Police Training Day

Tickets are available now for ProAction's Elite Police Training Day at Emergency Task Force Headquarters on Wednesday November 5, 2008. Participants will experience training for a day with Toronto's toughest cops. An experience not to be missed!

### ProAction Police Appreciation Night

We are pleased to invite Toronto Police officers who have run ProAction-funded programs to the Palais Royale on Monday November 17, 2008, to celebrate the great year we've had of fantastic police programs for youth. Drinks & snacks will be served and there will be many fun activities to participate in.

Invitations will be provided to Toronto police officers who have run ProAction-funded programs in the past year.

Event Details:  
 Monday November 17, 2008  
 5:00 – 7:00 PM  
 Palais Royale – 1601 Lakeshore Blvd. W, Toronto  
*Please note: This is a ticketed event.*

For more information on ProAction events, please contact Meredith Hopper, Event Coordinator, at 416-222-7011 or [meredith@copsandkids.ca](mailto:meredith@copsandkids.ca)

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### ProAction Cops & Kids

40 College Street,  
 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 Toronto, ON  
 M5G 2J3

Tel: (416) 222-7011  
 Fax: (416) 222-0310  
[www.copsandkids.ca](http://www.copsandkids.ca)



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## ProAction Cops & Kids

40 College Street, 6th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5G 2J3

Tel: (416) 222-7011  
Fax: (416) 222-0310

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