



AAARD

Advancing Access
to Affordable
Recreation in
Durham

AAARD Charter Signing Event

On June 4, 2014 the Advancing Access to Affordable Recreation in Durham Committee gathered to host a charter signing event at Durham Region headquarters.

The ceremony was led by the committee's chair, Sarah Klein. Information on the committee's goals and research as well as impact statements from those currently engaging in subsidized recreation were shared with those in attendance to highlight

the importance of affordable recreation for all Durham residents and the positive effects of participation. The event was a culmination of the joint efforts of Durham Municipalities, School Boards and local not for profit organizations to create a document that outlines the committee's key objectives to further and improve access to recreation. The charter describes the basic rights and collective responsibilities of all agencies to work to ensure equitable access for all residents regardless of their status and backgrounds. The Charter reflects the committee's belief that all Durham region residents should have access to participation, equity, active living, access to nature/the outdoors, enriching experiences, engagement and a welcoming and inclusive community. There was a representative in attendance from each of the supporting agencies and municipalities at the event to sign the charter to indicate their commitment to evaluating their own practices when it comes to access to recreation for their clients. The committee has based their recommendations and best practices on consultations with the community and research. All of the committee's findings can be found in the AAARD report on the Town of Whitby's website www.whitby.ca/subsidy.



After The Bell- After School Programming

After the Bell is a school-based program offered by the Boys and Girls Club of Durham in partnership with the DDSB and Town of Ajax and funded in part by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. The program takes place within the school environment and the program begins immediately following the dismissal bell and remains open until 6:00 p.m. This program is the same model used by the Boys and Girls Club in 20 locations across the Region of Durham. The Boys and Girls Club is a High Five Accredited organization through Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO) and regularly conducts Quest evaluations for quality assurance.

Recently, the After the Bell Program was evaluated by Taylor Newberry and the results were quite favourable.

Key Findings

- 80% of participants indicated they are almost always able to say no when asked to do something they think is wrong or dangerous.
- 93% of participants indicated that most of the time, they like themselves.
- 92% of participants indicated that if someone hit or pushed them for no reason, they would tell an adult what happened (52%), try to talk to the person and work out the problems (20%) or walk away (20%), as opposed to hitting them or pushing them back.
- 84% of participants who completed the online survey indicated that they like to learn as much as they can at school.
- 100% of participants indicated that it is important to eat healthy snacks and meals and to be physically active.
- 86% of participants indicated that when they want to leave their house, they have lots of places in their neighbourhood that they could visit.

The more a child participates in After the Bell, the more positive their perceptions are about themselves and their neighbourhood and the more that child believed:

- They were good at doing lots of things.
- They had special hobbies, skills and talents.
- Their neighbourhood is pretty great.
- It is important to be physically active.

This evaluation demonstrates that After the Bell after school program is fostering the type of environments necessary to support child wellbeing in key areas. For example, findings highlight that After the Bell offers role modeling, as well as respectful, enriching, and engaging programming that intentionally responds to the needs of children and the community. In turn, children in the After the Bell program report positive social and emotional wellbeing, pro-social behaviour, engagement in learning, physical health, and school and community connectedness. This is a particularly valuable finding as it suggests that increased exposure to After the Bell and other after school programs strengthens outcomes over time.



Boys & Girls Club
of Durham

Organizations who are involved with AAARD

- Abilities Centre
- Boys and Girls Club of Durham
- Brock Community Health Centre
- Canadian Tire Jumpstart
- City of Oshawa
- City of Pickering
- Community Development Council Durham
- Durham District School Board
- Durham Catholic District School Board
- Girls Inc. Durham
- Grandview Children's Centre
- Municipality of Clarington
- Region of Durham –Social Services
- Region of Durham- Health Department
- Their Opportunity
- Town of Ajax
- Town of Whitby
- Township of Brock
- Township of Scugog
- Township of Uxbridge
- Tucker Reid & Associates
- YMCA- Oshawa

For more information on AAARD:

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