

Introducing the premier edition of our PYVPN Notebook!

We are thrilled to launch this newsletter where all kinds of useful information and links will be at your fingertips and it will be helpful to our associates, partners, and community members. We will keep you informed about what's happening and you can share it!

This e-mail newsletter will automatically be sent to you on a quarterly basis. If you do not wish to receive it, please [click here to cancel](#) and your name will be removed from distribution.

PYVPN Notebook

January 2009

Volume 1, Issue 1

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Who are they?

PYVPN Reports:

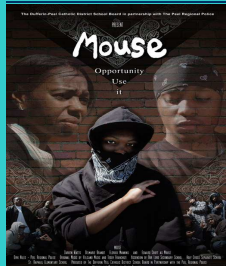
2006 Community Report

2008 Community Report

Roots of Youth Violence

Read the report at
[www.rootsofyouthviolence.on.ca](http://www.rootsof youthviolence.on.ca)

'Mouse' The Movie



PYVPN in 2008

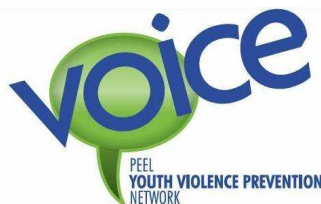
The past year was a year of growth and discovery for the Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network (PYVPN). This network is made up of various community members and agencies, school boards, regional municipal offices, and the cities of Brampton, Caledon and Mississauga; all of them having true interest in what happens to our youth and dedicated to finding ways of keeping them engaged in positive and healthy lifestyles. The little network is growing – so are our youth. With the right amount of support and nurturing, they could both be forces to be reckoned with.

In May 2008, PYVPN hosted their first forum, which proved to be a tremendous success. Later in the year, they featured a short video made by some participating youth. The DVD has a series of short clips highlighting some of the ways the network inspires and supports them. Throughout the year, PYVPN's four [working groups](#) have had a number of successes and are looking forward to building upon them in 2009. They worked tirelessly at ensuring the youth and their families have a voice in the community and in their schools.

The **Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network Steering Committee** has a pulse on the issues facing us and meets monthly to review and address the concerns of the community and network partners. Recognizing the need for support from our local governing bodies, police, and school boards, they continue represent the network in the larger scale of things, seeking the necessary resources to keep this amazing initiative going.

A new image for Peel's youth

We have a winner!



In December 2008, PYVPN named a lucky Mississauga youth the winner of an Apple iPod Touch, which was the prize sponsored by Quorum Strategic

See what the movie is about and order a copy

Upcoming Issues:

Look for updates and highlights of what's happening in Peel – we're taking note!

[Multi-cultural Calendar](#)

PYVPN Events

Working Group Highlights

Points of view – Are we listening?

Youth in Peel speak their minds – take note of what they are saying.

Are you on “the list”?

PYVPN keeps an ongoing inventory of all programs and agencies available to youth in Peel. If you know of any that we may have missed, please let us know.

Contact Us

Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network

PYVPN@peelregion.ca



Health Communications. The network was looking to create a new brand and image that reflected the youth and their spirit. We hosted several sessions with over 200 young people and for participating, their names were entered into a draw to win the iPod. Quorum has used that information to develop our new logo and website image. This month, Councillor Pat Saito presented the prize to the lucky winner from **The DAM Drop** in Centre, and the presentation will be featured in an upcoming issue of our newsletter.

Is Peel still safe? We say yes!

And we're not the only ones.....

Peel Region has always prided itself with some of the safest communities in Canada. 2008 set an unprecedented record for violent crimes in this area, and it has not gone unnoticed by our neighbouring metropolis and the media. Rapid growth in the area combined with an increase in street gang activity, have attributed to the rise in reported violent and weapon related crimes, and many other Canadian cities are now dealing with this very real challenge. Despite the rise in crime rate, Peel cities still top the list with 2006 census showing Caledon as the safest community in Canada, and independent studies have lead to Missississauga being recognized in December as the safest large city for the 9th consecutive year. Last October, Peel Regional Police met with Regional Council to address the issues and concerns and are taking the voices of the communities into consideration. As a result, they have developed a 5-point plan and as part of it, we can look forward to a summit on Community Safety in the Spring of 2009. Along with Safe City Mississauga and Brampton Safe City, PYVPN intends to be involved in the process of combatting the issue of crime in Peel through prevention and positive programs.

Recently, the Provincial Government released a report entitled The Roots Of Youth Violence. The Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network is pleased to see the recommendations put forth by this extensive report, mainly because they are supported by the network, and many of the PYVPN plans and initiatives are in line with those recommendations.

Partnering with Peel Regional Police

As we acknowledge the increase in gang activity in Peel, we also need to acknowledge the amazing work that our amazing police department is doing to combat this issue. Representatives from the Peel Regional Police – Intelligence Gangs Unit provided a wealth of information to PYVPN through a presentation on gangs. It was an educational and fascinating experience, as we learned so much about so many different aspects of gangs including trends, tatoos, signs and symbols, guns, tagging (vs graffitti which is an expression of art), and overall

behaviours. We also learned about GangNET, the unit's intelligence database. These specially trained police described some of the challenges they are facing and what steps they are taking. Major initiatives include:

S.T.E.P. – Strategic and Tactical Enforcement Program - comprised of 12 specially trained officers and mainly targets cases that involved firearms.

Y.I.M.P. – Youth Intervention Monitoring Program – targets younger age groups and focuses on prevention in schools.

Similar presentations are available to schools and agencies. If you are interested, please contact Robert.trujillo@peelpolice.on.ca or the Intelligence Gang Unit, Tel: 647-999-7686.

Mouse – the movie

Last November, the movie entitled 'Mouse' was released. Special collaboration between the Peel Regional Police and the Dufferin-Catholic School Board, lead to the development of this movie which shows how easy it is for a 10 year old boy to become involved in a gang and the impact it could have on him and his family. It was very well done and is a definite "must see".

PYVPN Working Groups



Community Development

Youth Services and Supports

Families

Education, Policy & Program

Each of the four working groups created a 3-year vision which will help develop a plan. Currently, some of the plans are taking shape as they embark on new programs, events, and supports. We will highlight some of their successes in an upcoming issue of this newsletter.

Dorothy Fetterly, the Community Development worker attached to the network, has been more of a 'Wiz' than a lost little girl in the land of Peel. This past year, Dorothy has attended workshops, media releases, community events, sat on various panels and committees, produced and filtered reports, and acts as the central communication piece for the network. She plays an active role in each working group and has an amazing talent that allows her pull everything together in a whirlwind.

Find out more.....