



Background Focus on Youth Information

In the spring of 2008, Premier Dalton McGuinty came to Hill Park Secondary School in April to announce funds that to help young people in Hamilton enjoy camps, programs, employment and leadership opportunities for the summer.

Focus on Youth became the official name of the initiative and a committee was struck at Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to coordinate the initiative in time for summer.

Last summer, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, in collaboration with community agencies, implemented Focus on Youth in 20 school sites and employed 70 students. The summer programs reached close to 11,000 children and families.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board is pleased to once again deliver this quality program for the 2009 summer. The Ministry of Education has allotted funds within the Community Engagement Portfolio.

Similar programs will be taking place this summer in Toronto, Ottawa and Windsor. Funding has been provided by the Ministry of Education that will help non-profit groups deliver summer activities to keep young people safe and active.

Through Focus on Youth, HWDSB will assist in the reduction or elimination of fees for community organizations who want to provide new or expanded programs — such as basketball clinics, art classes and recreational camps — in school facilities.

The objective of Focus on Youth Hamilton is to enhance high quality summer program opportunities for children and youth in Hamilton by offering free use of school space for organized community-based programs and by providing employment opportunities and leadership activities for the youth of these communities.

The FOY program will promote learning through play, healthy lifestyle and positive self-image for children and youth of these communities.

Hundreds of youth will be hired for programs being run in schools. In addition, youth will start or expand leadership opportunities to learn and develop skills through youth discussion, outdoor education experiences and mentorships.