

Regional Roundup

Spring 2015

Congratulations to all the regional committees who organized Law Day activities throughout the province! It has been really great hearing about all the fun and innovative ways everyone has found to commemorate the signing of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* into law. Here is a small sampling of the justice education projects that happened over the last couple of months. Thanks very much to everyone who shared their stories with us! And if you've got plans for any other projects in your area, please let us know so we can spread the word!



Peel Region Stages The Trial of the Cat in the Hat

The villainous feline of Dr. Suess fame was finally called to account for his mischief in a special Law Day event this year.

The Trial of Cat in the Hat took place at McHugh Public School in Brampton on Friday, April 17, for two performances by the Peel OJEN Committee.

About 450 elementary students from Ridgeview and McHugh Public Schools attended and were charged with the task of deciding the fate of the cat.

The cast, comprised of a legal professionals from all areas of the profession, brought the story to life and gave the students a memorable lesson in law.

This event was the initiative of Mr. Justice Phil Clay. Kudos to him and his talented cast! Special thanks to the Hamilton Committee for developing the Cat in the Hat Mock Trial!

Justice Phil Clay- Judge Small

David Alli – Mr. Wrong (defence counsel)

Kavita Bhagat – The Cat

Jennifer Gold – Ms. Right (plaintiff's counsel)

Sanaz Golestani – Thing 2

Nainesh Kotak – Jim

Alison Mackay-Sally

Archana Medhekar – Thing 1

Ritika Narang- The Fish

Jeannie Theoharis- Mother

Lina Trichilo– Suzie court clerk

Aamjiwnaang Law Day Court House Tour

On Tuesday, April 14th, eleven high school students from Alexander, St. Clair and Scits were bused to the Sarnia Court House for the annual Aamjiwnaang Law Day Court House Tour. Joining them were two Aamjiwnaang Band Councillors, our Secondary School Native Education Worker, two Aamjiwnaang Education Committee members, and a community member of Aamjiwnaang. Students enjoyed rotating around the courtroom sitting where the judge, Crown attorney, defence council, defendants, and witnesses would sit during a trial in the Ontario Court of Justice. Justice of the Peace Helen Gale supplied a gown for the students to wear while sitting on the bench. They also had the opportunity to meet with the Honourable Justice Desotti of the Superior

Court of Justice, Her Honour Justice D. Austin, Her Worship Gale and His Worship M. Rogers of the Ontario Court of Justice, who explained their roles in the court and the path that had led them to their professions.

First Nations justice professionals were invited to speak to the students about their parts they played within the justice system. Speakers included: Ms. Abby Avery – Assistant Crown Attorney, a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Mr. Matt Stone - Lawyer, a member of Aamjiwnaang First Nation

Mr. Robin Maness - Substance Abuse and Alternative Justice Worker, from Aamjiwnaang

Ms. Sharon Archer - Sarnia Gladue Caseworker, a member of Aamjiwnaang

Mr. Jeff Plain - Community Legal Assistance Sarnia, a member of Aamjiwnaang

Ms. Joan Bressette – Native Court Worker, a member of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation,

Ms. Melissa Monague – Probation Officer, a member of Kettle and Stony Point

Officer Bressette with Anishinabek Police, a member of Kettle Point.

Students, guests and everyone who helped plan the Tour received commemorative hoodies provided by The Aamjiwnaang Education Department.

Special thanks to the Sarnia Courthouse team for working with Aamjiwnaang Education Committee and making the annual Law Day Courthouse Tour a tremendous success and to retired Justice of the Peace. Joanne Rogers for coordinating everything



Law Day at the Scarborough Courthouse

Grade 11 students enrolled in the workplace streamed program got an extraordinary opportunity to learn about some of the careers available in the justice system when they visited the Scarborough Courthouse for a special Law Day Career Day event on April 16th. The event took its direction from the mock trial, *R. v Lee*, about a youth charged with shoplifting. The session opened with Crown attorney and defense council demonstrating an examination and cross-examination of a witness. Following the demonstration, a variety of court staff and justice professionals introduced themselves to the students and explained how they would come into contact with the accused person in the scenario, or be involved in the proceedings, if the trial had taken place in the Scarborough Courthouse.

Students also observed court in session and toured a special court room used for video conferencing for child witness testimony. The day wrapped up with a quiz and prizes for the students.



Hamilton OJEN Committee Holds a Law Day Twitter Moot

For Law Day 2015, the students of Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board participated in the inaugural Twitter Moot of the Hamilton Justice Education Network. Intended to be a fun, lighthearted debate of legal issues, the activity proved to be popular with students and teachers alike.

The question posed was, "Does screening a student's person, belongings or electronic devices while at school or at a school function violate the student's legal rights."

Using the hashtag, #hld2015, a lively debate continued throughout the day with students making strong cases both for and against.

The winning tweet for the Law Day Twitter Moot was:

"@yourHJEN It's not if you find incriminating evidence, it is about how the search was conducted. #HowFarDoWeLeTthemGo #HLD2015"

The prize for the winning team was lunch with Justice Milanetti!

To check out the entire Twitter Moot, go to:

https://storify.com/HWDSB_SHSM/hamilton-justice-education-network-twitter-moot.



Glendale SS Twitter team

OBA-OJEN Law Day Secondary School Mock Trial Partnership

The first year of the OJEN-OBA Law Day Secondary School Mock Trial program has wrapped up and the verdict is – it was a tremendous success!

Eighty seven schools from every region of the province participated, a 42% increase over last year. In Ontario East, participation expanded to 10 schools from 2 last year. 750 students took part in the LDSSMT tournaments and an additional 112 participated in affiliated tournaments for a total of 842 students.

The response from teachers has been generally positive. They appreciated the fact that more students had the opportunity to perform their mock trials in a court house setting and that more students could be acknowledged for their accomplishments. Whereas in previous years, when the primary focus of the preliminary rounds was to select the teams to advance to the finals, the new system recognized second and third placed teams and gave awards to individual students for top advocate and best witness.

Teachers also preferred the points-based scoring system used this year and the detailed feedback given by the judges.

Although in many cases, teams that had previously participated in OBA tournaments won the regional competitions, several new teams came in second or third or placed highly. Having each team guaranteed a lawyer coach this year played a big part in leveling the playing field and allowing all students to achieve their potential.



Toronto Law Day Symposium



Grade 11 and 12 students from TDSB and TDCSB celebrated Law Week at the annual Law Day Symposium held at Central Technical High School on April 13th organized by the Toronto Committee. Here, students meet with Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice, Annemarie Bonkalo and Justice Gloria Epstein from the Court of Appeal for Ontario. Approximately 300 students took part in a full day of presentations and seminars from legal professionals sharing expertise in a wide range of legal topics.