



Toronto Trek for Teens

May 10th, 2008

Teen Trek Launched in Toronto

This past Saturday, May 10th, 2008, downtown Toronto experienced the birth of a new kind of altruism: a charity event planned by teens to aid local teens in Covenant House.

Yonge-Dundas Square, the start location of an interesting challenge-packed trek, specifically designed for teens, kicked off the race at 10:30 a.m., continuing on to 3 p.m., with locations serving as check-points and judging areas for a race with a similar flair to the televised and highly popularized "Amazing Race."



Teams getting ready to set off at the starting line at Yonge-Dundas Square.

The race, along with the organization of the Comedy Festival and explosive Battle of the Bands, was designed and brought to the streets of Toronto by eight Toronto high school youths: Joseph McGrade, James Patrick Dempsey, Julia Varshavska, Aaron Crighton, Michael Bazzocchi, Kelden Formosa, Gabriel Rivela and Olesya Chornenka.

The team worked arduously for a full year, committing their time and best of efforts to seeing this dream and making of theirs morph into a living reality. The trek was created as a fundraising measure to spread awareness about teen homelessness and raise funds for Covenant House Toronto.

Over \$ 5, 000 worth of funds was raised by the Toronto Trek for Teens to aid Covenant House.



Team Hexwheel on May 10th with District

During the duration of the race, the Square Fair was alive with a Comedy Festival, vendors and a vibrant Artisan Market. After the end of the highly anticipated race, awards ceremonies began and the winning team received a gift certificate for the Eaton Centre.



The winning team is congratulated by Race Director Aaron Crighton.

At 4 p.m. a Battle of the Bands broke out in the core of downtown Toronto, bringing out some of the best raw teen talent. Participating bands included: Experiment Theory, Necromancy, Just Our Luck, The Effens, The Svens, Inertia's Course and Clockwork.

The winning band– The Svens, were awarded an opportunity to perform at the Rotary Club of Etobicoke Toronto Ribfest, which is being held from June 27th to July 1st, 2008.



The Svens at Yonge-Dundas Square.

A much appreciated "Thank You" goes out to our supportive partners and sponsors: Gold Sponsor *Rotary Club District 7070*, Gold Media Sponsor *Dose.ca*, Silver Sponsor *Active Green + Ross* and Bronze Sponsor *St. Michael's College School*.

The spirit of the Toronto Trek for Teens is expected to evolve into a new round of excitement and teen spirit this following year. Please visit www.teentrek.com for updates.

Article by Julia Varshavska

Interesting Fact: *Tubby, a large piggy bank was brought to the event thanks to Mark Selkirk and Active Green+ Ross, and was used as a donation box throughout the event to help Covenant House Toronto. Team Hexwheel is pictured with Tubby below.*

