

October 1, 2010
For Immediate Release

Tomorrow Starts Today **Green Power – Grow a Tree**

The <Green Power – Grow a Tree> event, hosted by Across U-hub, was successfully completed last Saturday. Under the leadership of two environmental officials from the City of Toronto, 50 young people participated to plant 200 trees in the Asian-predominated neighbourhood in Scarborough.

<Green Power – Grow a Tree> is the 4th event under the environmental campaign, initiated in April, by Across U-hub, titled <Tomorrow Starts Today>. The ultimate goal of the <Tomorrow Starts Today> campaign is to alert the youth to be sensible in protecting the environment. The future of the environment starts with the protection of today. Tree-planting not only provides the youths with an opportunity to exercise their bodies and to beautify the environment, but also allow them to appreciate the difficult and long process for a tree to grow to its maturity. Furthermore, it reminds them that, in their daily lives, one should be mindful to the usage of natural resources. From another point of view, tree-planting provides an opportunity for active outdoor activities with the benefits of being closer to the nature and being away from the concrete jungle and the addictive internet.

Several sources have estimated that it takes 300 trees to offset the carbon dioxide produced by cars, factories, households etc. on a per-capita basis in the metropolitan area. Although the trees planted during the event may not be enough, it ignited youths' passion for the environment and the urge to protect it. The tree preservation at the event's planting site, L'Amoreaux Park, is a good example. L'Amoreaux Park is a stormwater park. It has a pond to store stormwater in order to control flooding, as well, provide a place for aquatic habitats. Trees were planted along the pond to help preserve the soil and reduce erosion. Preserving the soil, making an effort to sequester some carbon dioxide, and youths engaging in their local community—the tree-planting activity carried out under the autumn breeze on the warm sunny day was quite successful. The organizers felt that activities of this kind are very suitable for both parents and youths to participate together in, thus encourage families to join in the action.

Before the end of the tree-planting activity, all participating members left with an achievable goal for protecting the environment that might require some changes in their daily habits, such as: minimizing the energy usage and eliminating wastage of the nature resources. Some of the goals written were taking shorter showers, turning off electronic devices after use, bringing their own water bottles when going out, etc. At the end of the day, the youth wrote down their goal on a piece of puzzle, and when put together they form the logo of <Tomorrow Starts Today>, symbolizing their commitments together today help form a greener tomorrow.

The 5th event under <Tomorrow Starts Today> is titled <Green Food Fest> which will be held on December 18, 2010. The event will focus on green eating habits and cooking methods. For inquiry and registration, please contact Across U-hub at 905-944-1944 or visit www.acrossuhub.com.

Across U-hub Overview

Together we help nurture our youth:

- *to become a bridge across cultures by taking roots in Canada while developing a global perspective*
- *to become servant leaders for communities by helping them grow holistically*

Work:

We adopt creative, interactive and multi-disciplinary approaches:

- *to nurture our youths' holistic growth*
- *to cultivate their servant leadership skills*
- *to promote peer support and mentorship*
- *to foster their sense of community and to encourage active participation in cultural and civic activities*