

# **East York Strategy**

*Churches Cooperating to  
Reduce Crime and Create Good  
In Our Neighbourhood*

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## **The launch of the East York Strategy**

On Monday, May 8, over 120 people from the East York-Danforth community came together. It was a night where we started the process of coordinating our collective efforts in "being a village" to our children and youth. In attendance were our political leaders, police officers, and representatives from ten local schools, twelve social agencies, three Business Improvement Areas, and twenty churches. We all enjoyed a good meal and reflected together on what our community could be if we all do our part.

The East York Strategy is modeled after the successful "Etobicoke Strategy", and is a faith-led, community-and-police supported initiative dedicated to reducing crime and creating good. It is a pro-active movement to address areas of need in the children and youth of East York-Danforth. The Strategy works within the boundaries defined roughly along the old East York borders (Broadview to Woodbine-Main, Danforth to O'Connor). It is Christian churches from across the denominations voluntarily choosing to cooperate with each other, and the community, to give our children and youth the hope and help they need. It is the intent of cooperating East York Strategy churches to partner with, as best we can, others who share our goals -- the schools in our area, Police from 54 Division, social agencies, politicians, the business community, other faiths, and similar groups outside our boundaries.

The top three priorities deemed particularly important in the immediate future was decided to be  
**Recreation** (youth drop-ins, positive events, clubs of sports, music, drama, hobbies, etc.)  
**Education:** (*homework clubs, resume writing, conflict resolution, parenting seminars, etc.*), and  
**Mentoring:** providing positive role models and caring adults for at-risk children and youth.

Implementing these three priorities will be discussed at our Planning Session on May 24. Resulting from the Banquet, we have now about a dozen members of the Leadership Team and over 30 expected at the first Planning Session. Plans are also under way for our Outdoor Worship Service at East York Collegiate High School on Sunday, June 11 (6:30pm) -- everyone invited to attend.

All in all, the Banquet was a good start to a promising initiative.

Peace and Joy,  
Jim

Rev. Jim Parker, Chairperson of the East York Strategy