

Pickering's 2010 race relations forum showcased creative Durham students

Winning work on display at Pickering Civic Complex

PICKERING -- Winning students from across Durham Region showcased their creativity at the 2010 Race Relations Forum in Pickering on Wednesday night.

In September, the Pickering advisory committee on race relations and equity partnered with the Durham District School Board and the Durham Catholic District School Board to present a creative arts contest called In Your Words and Expressions.

The contest invited students from grades 2 through 12 throughout Durham to submit a written or creative arts piece based on the statement "My perfect world is ..."

A panel of judges, including Ajax-Pickering MP Mark Holland and Metroland Durham Region Media Group managing editor Mike Johnston for the written word, singer-songwriter Steve Holt for the music and local artist Sharon

Steinhaus of the PineRidge Arts Council for the art submissions, reviewed more than 150 entries and selected winners for each age category.

The winning students shared their entries at the forum on Wednesday, March 24 at the Pickering Civic Complex, One The Esplanade.

The event commemorated March 21, The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and included guest speaker Jean Augustine, Fairness Commissioner of Ontario.

The race relations committee, made up of municipal leaders, school board representatives, community cultural associations, community appointees and students, has worked closely over the years with many different groups and organizations, particularly youth, to promote racial and ethnic harmony.

The winning entries are showcased in the lobby of the Pickering Civic Complex and on the City's website until the end of March.

For more information and to read the winning submissions and see the winning arts pieces:

VISIT www.cityofpickering.com

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

Creative writing:

• Category One (Grade 2-5)
 First place: Isabella Brodeur, Grade 4, Frenchman's Bay Public School
 Second place: McKenzie Downes, Grade 4, Frenchman's Bay Public School
 Third place: Hannah Dossa, Grade 2, Westcreek Public School

• Category Two (Grade 6-8)
 First place: Reem Hussain, Grade 7 Altona Forest Public School
 Second place: Shannon Modl, Grade 7, St. Theresa Catholic School
 Third place: Celeste Bogle, Grade 8, Roland Michener Public School

Honourable mention: Emily Mead, Grade 8, Roland Michener Public School

• Category Three (Grade 9-12):
 First place: Sarah Pollard, Grade 9, Brock High School

Visual arts:

• Category One (Grade 2-5)
 First place: Dina Hejazi, Grade 5, Westcreek Pub-

lic School
 Second place: Rahul Koria, Grade 5, William Dunbar Public School
 Third place: Tara Hejazi, Grade 3, Westcreek Public School

Honourable mention: Nikita Bradshaw, Grade 3, Highbush Public School

• Category Two (Grade 6-8)
 First place: Apryl Landry, Grade 8, Sir Albert Love Catholic School

Second place: Rehmiya Malik, Grade 8, Highbush Public School
 Third place: Blaire Allison, Grade 6, Altona Forest Public School
 Honourable mention: Lindsey Macaulay, Grade 7, St. Theresa Catholic School

• Category Three (Grade 9-12):
 First place: Jessica Bryant, Grade 10, Cartwright High School

Song writing:

• Category Two (Grade 6-8)
 Honourable mention: Lauren Mohammed and Hala Elatawani, Grade 7, Roland Michener Public School