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#### Dufferin-Peel C.D.S.B. Trustees

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Brampton Wards 1, 3 & 4

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Brampton Wards 2, 5 & 6

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Brampton Wards 7-10

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Mississauga Wards 1 & 3

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Mississauga Wards 6 & 11

Bruno Iannicca  
Mississauga Ward 7

Esther O'Toole  
Mississauga Wards 9 & 10

### Ontario Education Services Corporation Accessibility Project

The Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) wrote to the Director of Education in early February regarding the draft exemplar for an Accessibility Policy for Customer Service. The policy exemplar has been developed by OESC to be used by school boards for reference as we develop our own policy for Accessibility Standards for Customer Service as required by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. All school boards must be compliant beginning January 2010. The ACCESS Dufferin-Peel Committee working in collaboration with the Freedom of Information/By-Laws/Policy Officer has assumed responsibility for developing this policy. An update report on the status of the policy, procedures and training will be presented to Executive Council by the end of September 2009. For more information regarding the expectations pertaining to Accessibility Standards for Customer Services, visit [www.accesson.ca/compliance](http://www.accesson.ca/compliance).

### ONLINE Communities

Ability Online is an extraordinary and absolutely free Internet community. Here, young people with disabilities and illnesses connect with all kinds of possibilities that address their needs as curious, growing citizens of the planet. They meet and chat with other people who face similar challenges in a virtual world that transcends boundaries and barriers. They make friends, get tips from mentors, and freely participate in an atmosphere of collaboration, companionship and support. And this community also provides many benefits to parents, family members and others who want to make a difference in enabling and enriching the lives of those they know and love. For more information, visit [www.ablelink.org](http://www.ablelink.org)

### UPDATE: Scent Sensitivity Awareness Campaign

Dufferin-Peel's Scent Sensitivity Awareness Campaign Working Group has been working over the last few months on researching and developing Supervisor Worksheets and online resources, including Scent Free Alternatives and Household Tip Sheets. The working group is planning an official roll-out of the 'We Share the Air' campaign for September 2009.

## NewsWATCH

### Suit seeks funding for disabled kids in private religious schools

Toronto Star – May 5/09

*Eight families are taking the Ontario government to court over claims that the province is discriminating against disabled children who attend private religious schools.*

<http://www.thestar.com/article/629613>

### Children and Mental Health: Finding help early is critical

Toronto Star – May 2/09

*This story features a four-year old diagnosed with a social anxiety disorder and addresses the importance of spotting and treating mental health disorders in kids and how doing so may greatly improve their chances for recovery.*

<http://www.thestar.com/article/626089>

## Upcoming Events

### May 26 - Dufferin-Peel's Diversity Workshop Series: I Can't Hear You: Students with Hearing Disabilities, Their Needs and Accommodations

*(Catherine Luetke, Bev Kist, and Carlyne Edwards)*

Three teachers/consultants who work extensively with students with hearing loss talk about their experiences with their work. They are thinking of bringing in students as well so that you can hear a student's perspective! Time: 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Location: Catholic Education Centre, 40 Matheson Boulevard West, Mississauga, Room 301. To register and for more information, contact Wendy Larm, Equity & Diversity Officer at 905-890-0708 ext. 24405 or email [wendy.larm@dpcdsb.org](mailto:wendy.larm@dpcdsb.org).

### May 29 - Spring Fling

On May 29, Philip Pocock Catholic Secondary School, in conjunction with the Special Education and Support Services Department, will host Spring Fling – a dance for P.I.P. students, ERWs and Teachers from our Mississauga secondary schools. The focus of the dance is 'Friendship'. Prior to the dance, the students at their individual schools will be baking, designing name tags and rehearsing dances. Each student will be given a 'Face and Placebook'. The dance is always an eagerly anticipated occasion for the students to greet old friends and meet new ones. As the students visit with the other schools, their friendship books will 'stamped' much like a passport, and students can follow up with friends who share their interests. For more information, contact Leslie Hutchison at 905-890-0708 ext. 24527 or email [leslie.hutchison@dpcdsb.org](mailto:leslie.hutchison@dpcdsb.org).

**For more information about ACCESS Dufferin-Peel, contact Wendy Larm, Accessibility Coordinator at 905-890-0708 ext. 24405 or visit [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org).**