



SPOTLIGHT

Participant Kudos

- I was on the bus recently when Yazan Manna, a *Youth LIVE* participant gave up his seat to a lady and her child, when no one else (male or female) would even make eye contact. I was standing at the back of the bus and saw him do this and then stand the remainder of the way to Dartmouth. I was really impressed with him doing that. Chivalry and good manners are not often seen these days. Dee M., HRM employee
- Mrs. Harnish called to express her gratitude to *Youth LIVE* participant Robert Thomas for giving up his seat on the Herring Cove bus to her and her 2-month-old baby. She commented on what "a nice young gentleman" Robert was and wanted him to know that she really appreciated his gesture.

Both participants were given recognition cards for their considerate actions.



CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS

The following are departing comments given by participants in their exit interviews:

What did you like about the program?

- Got a lot of experience. I really like going on trucks. It made me feel important. Travis M.



- Most of the team leaders are down to earth. The environment is easy to adapt to. It is the best first job a person could have. Robert H.
- I liked that it teaches a lot of transferrable skills. We were always asked, not ordered, to do tasks. And we were given a lot of opportunities to be leaders. Paul H.
- Learning new skills. All the different people you meet. Everyone is just trying to straighten their life out and get on track. Brittany B.
- The people I met. The experience I got. It really made me ready for the work force. - Eric L.



DUPI DUTY

A white pick-up truck pulls up to the curb. The driver, a *Youth LIVE* Team Leader and three *Youth LIVE* participants get out of the vehicle. They stand beside the truck and survey the property. "Definitely a DUPI," one of them says. The others nod their heads in agreement.

DUPI, short for Dangerous or Unsightly Premises Improvement, is part of *Youth LIVE's* leading-edge by-law violation remedy initiative. Property owners found to be in violation of HRM legislation respecting Dangerous or Unsightly Properties (DUPI), Curbside Solid Waste (CSW) or Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal (SSIR) are given a specific period of time to bring their properties into compliance. If they don't, the HRM will step in and get the job done. Remedies requiring expertise or special equipment are contracted to a local company. Simple remedies such as debris removal, grass cutting and boarding up vacant buildings are usually done by *Youth LIVE*.

Working on a DUPI, CSW or SSIR crew, *Youth LIVE* participants learn a variety of transferrable skills such as property maintenance, safe use of equipment, and dealing with irate or emotional individuals.



Just as important is the first hand lesson in civic responsibility and the importance of being a good neighbour. At the end of a long day and a couple of trips to the dump,

the participants are tired but proud of the contribution they made to the community.

"I bet the neighbours are glad we got rid of that mess," one participant comments.

"Yeah. When I have my own place, I'll take better care of it than that," says another.

Not bad for a day's work.

PERFORMANCE SNAPSHOT

Operational Stats

From **January 1 to June 30, 2008** Youth LIVE has:

- diverted **2.6 million beverage containers** from the landfill



- diverted **101,280 kilograms of paper and cardboard** from the landfill

- delivered, removed or repaired **2037 organic green carts**

- performed **134 by-law remedies**

DID YOU KNOW?

Youth Advocate Program

This past June, the HRM launched the Youth Advocate Program, a gang prevention program for youth aged 9-14. The program will operate in the following six pilot project neighbourhoods:

- Dartmouth North
- Dartmouth East
- Woodside/Gaston Road
- Spryfield
- Bayers Road and Fairview
- Uniacke Square and surrounding areas

Anyone can refer a youth to the program but participation in the program by a youth or the youth's family is voluntary. To refer a youth, pick up a referral form at the Youth Advocate Program Office in the Bloomfield Centre or download one online at www.halifax.ca/YouthAdvocateProgram/YAPform.html. For more information on the program call the program office at 490-4309 or email youthadvocateprogram@halifax.ca.

Youth LIVE

490-5589 or ylrecruit@halifax.ca

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