

## 'Sky's the Limit brings computers to First Nations youth'

### Sky's the Limit Youth Organization's annual event will raise funds to bring computers to First Nations youth

Wednesday, June 4th, 2008

**What:** Sky's the Limit (STL) holds their 5th annual fundraising event, "inspiring digital dreams". This year, STL has partnered up with notable social activist, Toronto Police Constable Ojo Tewogbade and the Anishinabek Police Department to raise funds to purchase refurbished computers for under-resourced youth residing in the Shawanga First Nation community.

STL visited the community in late April where they met with the band members, the Anishinabek Police Department and the community elders to address the barriers faced by their youth. This community has 175 residents living in 85 homes on their land, with another 500 members who reside in other areas in the GTA, across Ontario and Canada. Computer deliveries to the community are scheduled to commence in June 2008.

Isolation, lack of self-esteem and a lack of educational and recreational resources have led to high-risk behaviours such as alcohol and substance abuse and a higher incidence of suicide among their youth. More and more of the youth are striving to be educated and basic skills such as resume writing and how to present their assets in an interview are priorities. It is STL's hope that the donated computers will address the barriers the youth face by providing them with many of the tools necessary to succeed in their current studies, future education and potential career prospects.

The youth may use their computers to escape from boredom and potential negative behaviour by exploring more positive interests online and by exploring social networking tools that enable them to correspond with friends and classmates in neighboring communities and elsewhere. Youth may also investigate and research potential careers, trades, the arts, music, etc., and access tutorials and online resources that assist in learning. STL hopes to empower the youth and build their self-esteem through knowledge. Self-respect rises as young people learn more, learn how to help themselves, and build their skill sets. The youth may access anonymous online resources and support for dealing with loneliness, high-risk behaviour, etc.

**Activity:** The annual event will feature a silent auction with amazing items and entertainment by Toronto's finest.

Hosted by Will Strickland, UMAC's President, with music by Agile, the event will feature a special surprise musical guest and musical performances by Alana Bridgewater, who recently took Toronto by storm as the Killer Queen in the Mirvish Production of "We Will Rock You"; Dane Hartsell, who recently toured with Eva Avila (2007 Canadian Idol winner); Jermaine Richards, former Season 2 Canadian Idol finalist, and comedian Jay Martin, one of Canada's

fastest rising black comics. Guests will also have the opportunity to meet current and past computer recipients. Along with generous funding from Sapphire Technologies Canada Limited, all funds raised will be used to purchase computers for under-resourced youth at Shawanaga First Nations, around the GTA and Ottawa.

**When:** Wednesday, June 4th, 2008, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM,

**Tickets:** \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door

To purchase tickets visit [TicketBreak.com](http://TicketBreak.com) or contact the office of STL at 416.350.8888

**Where:** Revival Bar, 783 College St. Toronto, ON (at Shaw) (416) 535-7888,

[www.revivalbar.com](http://www.revivalbar.com)

**About Sky's the Limit Youth Organization:**

Sky's the Limit Youth Organization, founded in 2004 by Lara Tavares (2008 Flare Magazine Volunteer of the Year), is dedicated to addressing the widening digital divide in Canada by providing students with access to the tools and resources they need to pursue the infinite opportunities available to them online. Sky's the Limit provides refurbished computers to students from under-resourced communities. For more information, please visit

[www.stlonline.org](http://www.stlonline.org)

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