







# *Living in Harmony: An Anthology*

*A Collection of Art and Writing in the Spirit of Living in Harmony*





## *Contents*

- 4 Message from Mayor Donald Atchison, City of Saskatoon
- 5 Message from the Commissioner of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission
- 6 Introduction
- 8 Dylan Hardy – Harmony
- 8 Victoria Dinh and Brittany Stevens – Untitled
- 10 Melanie A. Parsons – Untitled
- 12 Alex Todres – Living in Harmony
- 14 Dylan Hardy – As One
- 15 Jessica Stang – Friends
- 17 Mallory Dyck – Living in Harmony
- 17 Elleen Hesselberg – To Live in Harmony
- 18 Lindsey Li – My Vision of a Peaceful World
- 20 Zoe Foster – Different
- 21 Kweku Johnson – The Power of One
-  23 Ramona Complido – Living in Harmony
-  23 Candace Almightyvoice – Peace on Earth
-  24 Emlyn Winstanley – Harmony strikes a chord
-  25 Brittany Charpentier – Harmony Poem



## *Message from Mayor Donald Atchison, City of Saskatoon*

This has been a very exciting and memorable year for Saskatoon. We celebrated our city's centennial and our designation as a Cultural Capital of Canada with many activities and special events that recognized our diversity, our spirit, and the tremendous potential we have for the future.

Saskatoon is fortunate to have a multicultural society which contributes to the unique nature of our community. Even before the first settlers arrived in Saskatoon, the spirit of multicultural cooperation was evident when in 1882, John Lake asked Chief Whitecap for his assistance in determining a suitable location to start a new settlement in this area. From that early meeting of two leaders came the foundation of the communities of Saskatoon, Nutana, and Riversdale—which, 100 years ago, amalgamated to form the great City of Saskatoon.

In commemoration of this milestone in our history and to help recognize Saskatoon's rich cultural heritage, this anthology of literary and visual art was created. I invite you to explore what intercultural harmony means to you and experience the ideas of others through the writings and images within these pages.

Mayor Donald Atchison,  
City of Saskatoon  
December 2006



*Message from the Chief  
Commissioner of the Saskatchewan  
Human Rights Commission*

On behalf of the Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission, I would like to congratulate the City of Saskatoon for creating *Living in Harmony: An Anthology* and making it widely available to the public through its Web site. This collection showcases the talent of young Saskatoon artists and writers and reflects their commitment to principles of inclusion and mutual respect.

The vision of The Saskatchewan Human Rights Code is a society which values cultural diversity and recognizes the equality of all members of the human family. The City of Saskatoon has demonstrated its support for this vision by publishing, in its centennial year, an educational resource based on a belief in a thriving and harmonious community which is enriched by the contributions of many groups.

Sincerely,

Chief Commissioner Donna Scott, Q.C.  
Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission  
December 2006





## *Introduction*

March 21 has been declared the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination by the United Nations. The City of Saskatoon annually proclaims the entire month of March as Race Relations Month, and coordinates activities, and works with community organizations to encourage public awareness and education.

One of the activities coordinated by the City is the annual “Living in Harmony” contest to promote harmony in our culturally diverse community. The Literary Contest is open to elementary and high school students, and invites submissions of poems, stories, or essays that involve the theme “Living in Harmony.” The Art Contest has the same theme, and invites submissions of drawings or paintings from everyone in our community. There are three categories for the Art Contest submissions: elementary students, high school students, and general public.

Living in Harmony: An Anthology includes submissions from contest winners who have permitted the reproduction of their entries. This anthology will continue to grow as submissions are added from future contest winners.

*In the City of Saskatoon,  
March is designated  
Cultural Diversity and  
Race Relations Month.*

CULTURAL DIVERSITY & RACE RELATIONS MONTH  
2005



Catherine Cameron



CITY OF SASKATOON CULTURAL DIVERSITY & RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE ©



*Dylan Hardy*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2003, Student

## *Harmony*

Singing softly in the grass it seems that time will never pass. Colour wonder everywhere nothing like the field bare. Water blue and grass of green living in such harmony. How would it be I say to you if all things were green or blue? Look for beauty all around in the grass or on a cloud. Learn more from nature I exclaim and we'll never be the same.

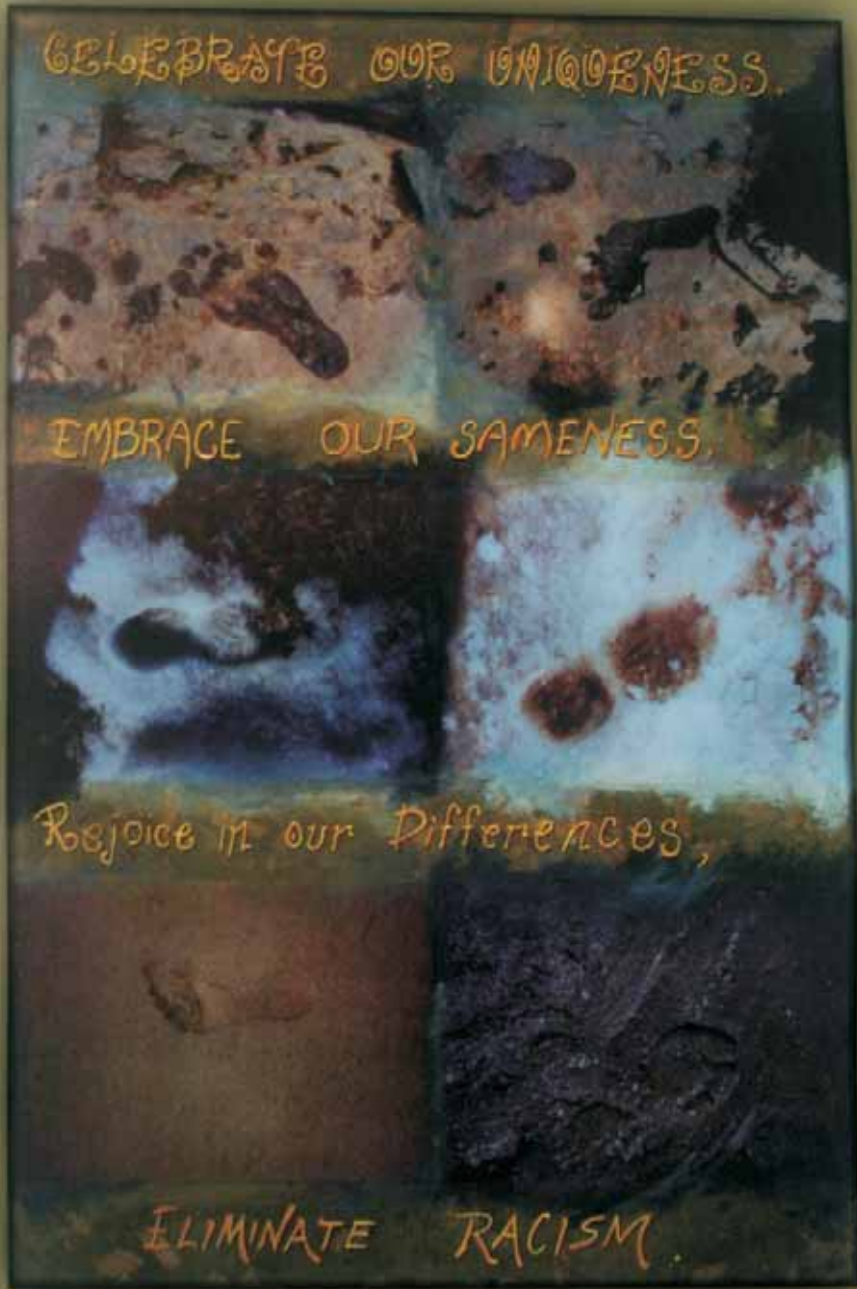
*Victoria Dinh and Brittany Stevens*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2001

## *Untitled*

Holding hands around the world,  
Every boy and every girl.  
Every culture, colour, race,  
Puts a smile on every face.  
Singing together with a sweet melody,  
Is it fantasy or reality?  
No more darkness or despair,  
Just flowers blooming everywhere.  
Children dancing happily,  
Boys and girls like you and me.  
Flags are waving in the air,  
Every heart is filled with care.  
This is how the world would be,  
If everyone was living in harmony.

LIVING IN HARMONY . . . .



CITY OF SASKATOON

RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE © 2003

ARTWORK BY MONIQUE MARTIN



*Melanie A. Parsons*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2001, Student

*Untitled*

I lost hope in my life.  
I lost hope in my own cause.  
I lost hope in some pride.  
I lost hope when I failed my test.  
I lost hope when she would never tell me that I did well.  
I lost hope when you did.  
I lost hope when we all did.  
I lost hope when no one came.  
I lost hope when they didn't care.  
I lost hope for this world today.

I spoke to my mother today, she told me that everything would be okay.

That's when I saw hope in my life again.

I was told last night that someone needed me.

That's when I remembered why I was here.

I heard a man say, "No matter what, love your people".

That's when I regained my pride.

I passed my test yesterday.

That's when I knew that if I only tried, I could do anything.

I did good last night. A girl said that she was glad I was there for everyone.

That's when I decided that I couldn't give up on my team.

I was so happy to see you smile today.

That's when I knew that you had found yourself again, and I had faith in what you could do.

I walked into the room and saw that everyone was sitting at the table.

That's when I could tell things would work out if we all worked together.

I saw hope in our group's cause when a girl walked in needing help.

That's when I saw that we could do something for other's.

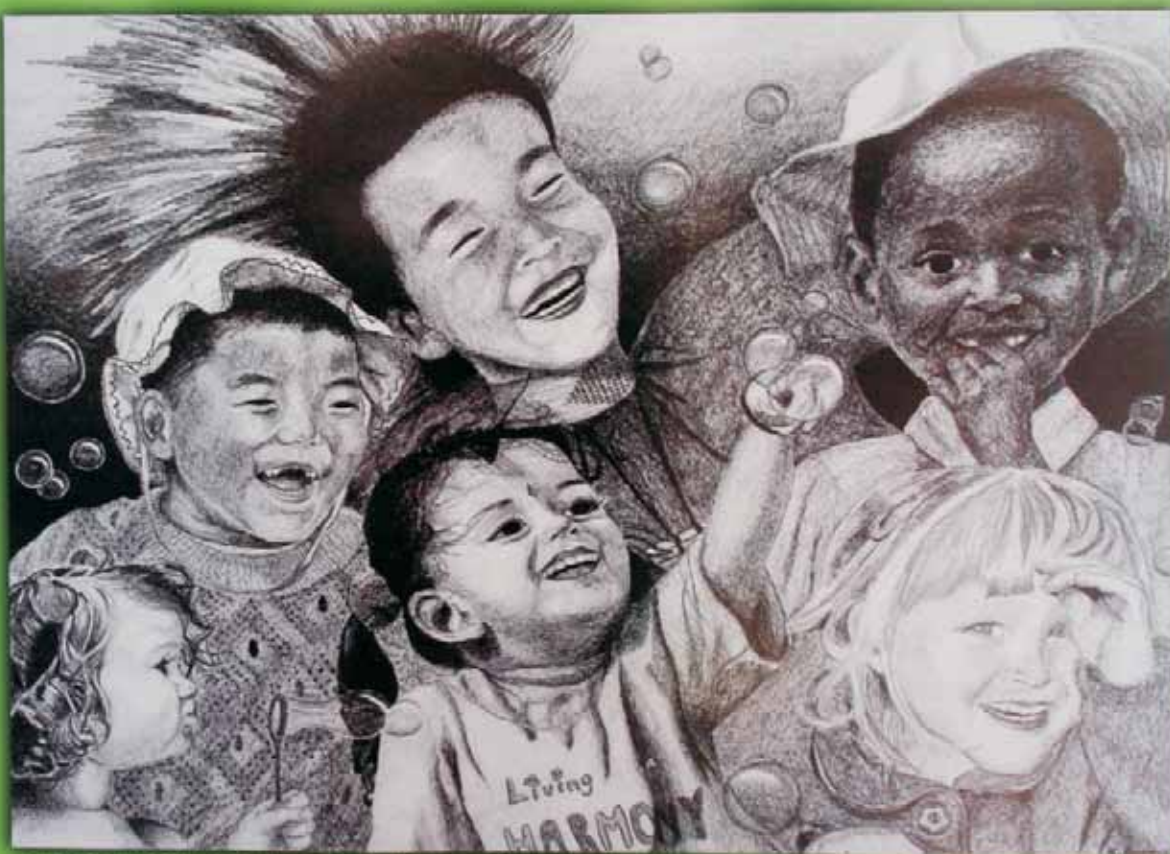
I was so happy last night when my friends told me they cared for me.

That's when my life got a lot better.

I saw a light when a group of people came together to fight racism.

That's when I knew that this world has hope after all.

# LIVING IN HARMONY



CITY OF SASKATOON RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE

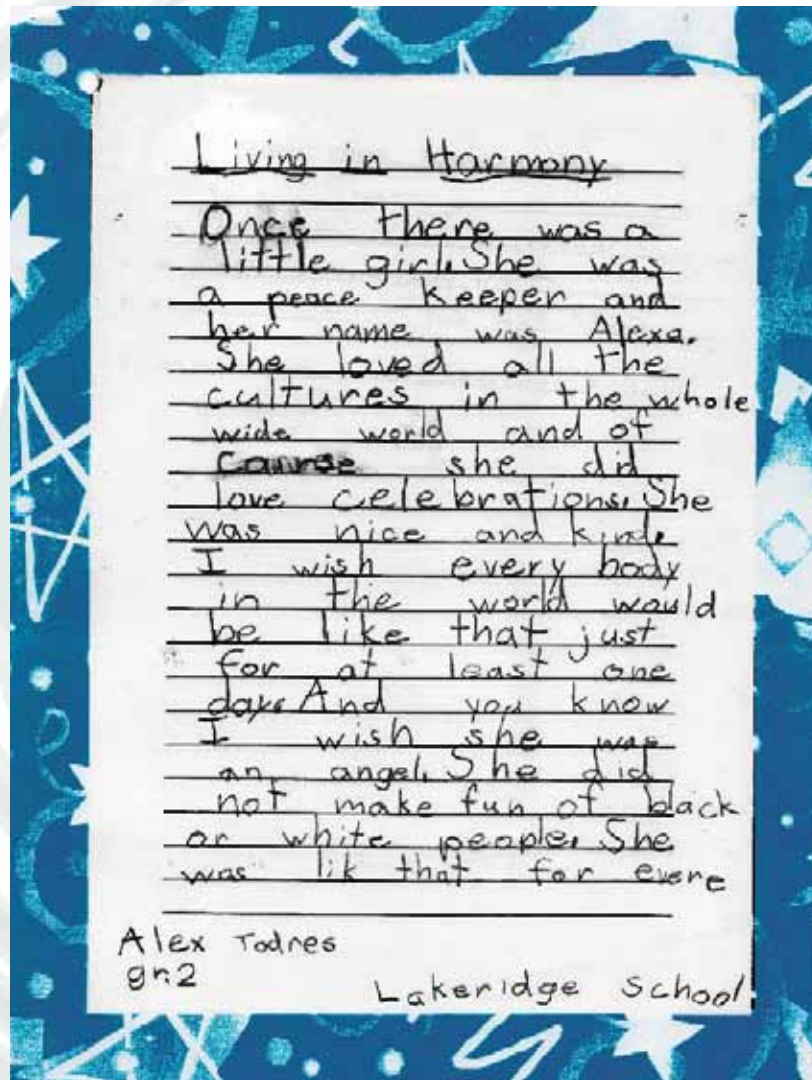
Illustration by [unreadable]

## Alex Todres

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2005,  
Grade 2 Student

# Living in Harmony

Once there was a little girl. She was a peace keeper and her name was Alexa. She loved all the cultures in the whole wide world and of course she did love celebrations. She was nice and kind. I wish everybody in the world would be like that just for at least one day. And you know I wish she was an angel. She did not make fun of black or white people. She was like that forever.







*Dylan Hardy*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2004, Student

## *As One*

New generation  
New attitudes  
Others have been, are, and will be but  
we can be different.

We can open our minds with thoughts and care. No longer judging  
like those who came before. Unbound by the ideas of old.  
Our fight for change can be won.  
Nothing is stronger than we can be.

stick by one another  
rise up as one.

And soon, we will be old  
but not forgotten.  
look back, remember with pride  
The change we made in our lives.

Together,  
we stand strong,  
for everyone.



*Jessica Stang*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2000, Student

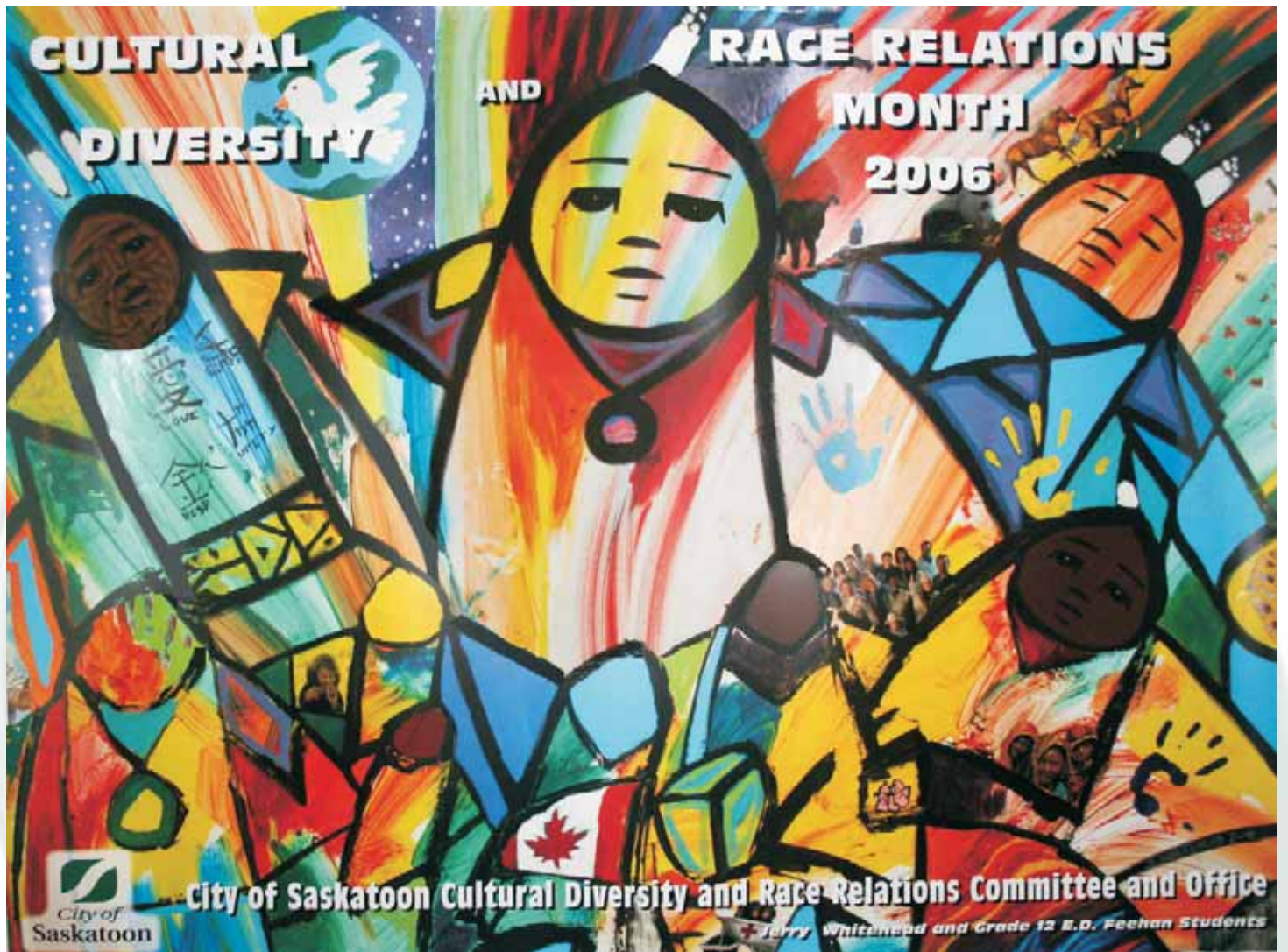
## *Friends*

I don't see the color of your skin,  
I see the person, who lies within,  
I don't see your race, gender or color,  
I still see the person, who lies within,  
I see the person you really are,  
I care if you came from afar,  
But I don't care if you look different,  
I care about you,

You who are my friend,  
You who will stick with me until the bitter end,  
You who doesn't mind my color, gender or race,  
You who doesn't look at my face,

I learned this from you,  
You who taught me that if one person hurts me it  
doesn't mean anyone else will,  
You taught me that everyone's beautiful,  
You taught me that we could live together and get  
along even if we look different,  
You taught me that if you're a girl or a guy you  
should have the same rights,  
You taught me what friends are for,

It doesn't matter what you look like I won't leave  
you knocking at my door,  
You're my friend and that's what friends are for,  
If you have different beliefs I'll respect them,  
If you like different things I'll respect that too,  
If you dress different I'll respect you,  
You don't have to be the same or look the same as  
everyone else,  
You can just be you and that's what makes you my  
very best friend.





*Mallory Dyck*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2004, Student

## *Living in Harmony*

Letting other people join in  
International  
Variety of people with different races  
If everyone takes part it can happen  
Needs to happen  
Great idea  
It should have happened years ago  
Not letting someone's race or religion decide if they're your friend or not  
Helping others and having fun  
Awesome idea  
Racism free  
Money shared equally  
Other people that you care about  
No war  
Yes it should happen.

*Elleen Hesselberg*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 1999, Member of the Community

## *To Live in Harmony*

When first we are born and barely can see  
What would it matter the colour we be  
When we needed comfort it was the touch  
Not the colour of the hand that mattered so much  
With a soothing voice so soft and sweet  
What would it matter the language we speak.  
We all started out this very same way  
And really it is a shame, I must say  
If we can't see beyond the colour of skin  
To the goodness that comes from within.

We are all cut from the very same cloth  
But still we come in quite a variety  
Some are big, small, short, tall, fat or thin  
Depending on what lies beneath the skin.  
So, though we may be as different as we can be  
Underneath we are still all the same  
We all need the freedom to live and to grow  
To have hopes and dreams as well you know  
Feel joy and sorrow, share laughter and tears  
Living in harmony for the rest of our years.



*Lindsey Li*

"Student Voice" Speech, February 27, 2006, Student

## *My Vision of a Peaceful World*

Many people dream of a world where there are no wars, hatred, crimes, or evil; no criticism, persecution, racism, prejudice, or discrimination. They dream of a world full of peace and people living in harmony. They hope for a better tomorrow, a new beginning; the creation of a time of acceptance, understanding, and friendship among all the people of our world forever.

I dream of these things, too. I see a world where every stranger quickly becomes a good friend. I see people full of patience and love. I see children – all of the children in the world, at school, being educated so that when they are older they can pass their knowledge onto others, and the knowledge will keep building up, so that in the End, all that is good and right will be in the minds of everyone. In the playground, and everywhere else, there are no fights, verbal putdowns, no bullying, and the children play happily.

I see a world where everyone has a warm, cozy home in which to live. No one can be seen living on the street. The words poverty and homelessness are never heard. Everyone lives a life of prosperity, but no one is empowered by what riches and luxuries they own, because they are satisfied living simply.

There are no arguments, because there are no problems on which to quarrel. No one will experience terror. At any time of the day, anyone

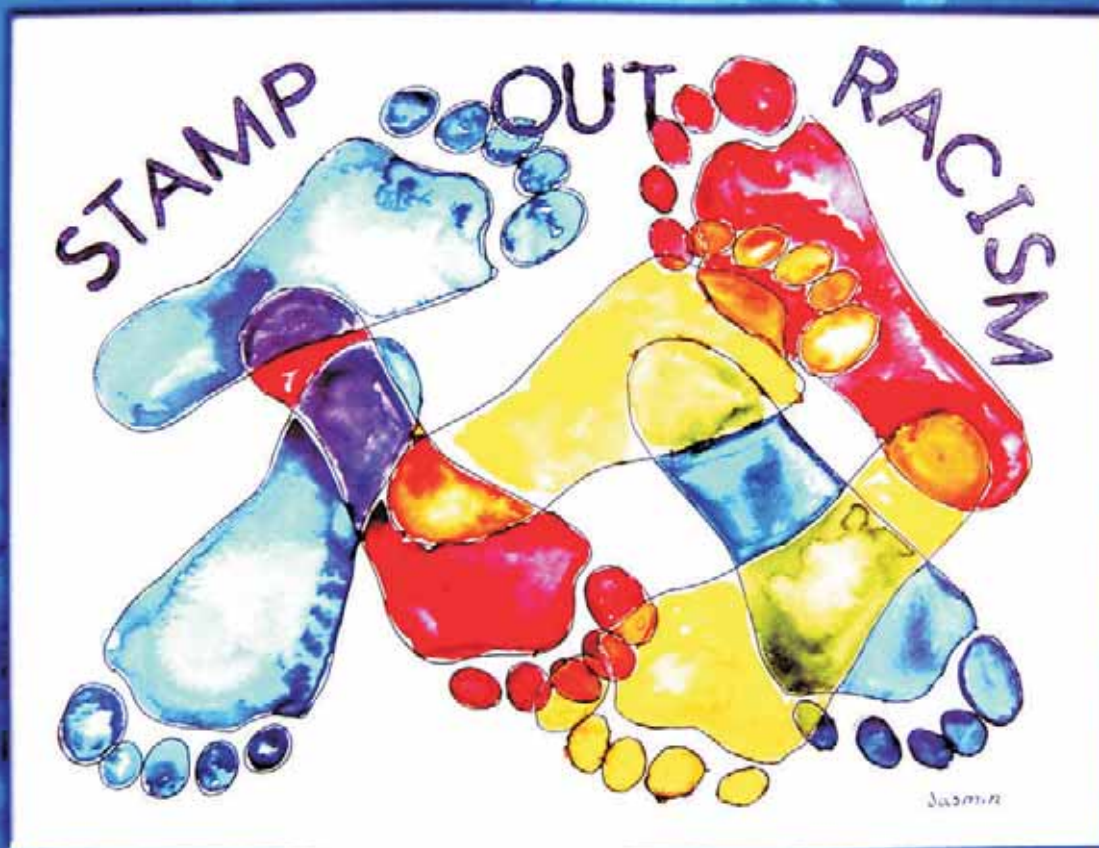
can be anywhere, alone, and not feel afraid, or threatened. No one will experience pain, or sorrow; anger or sadness, see or hear about tragedies, or recall painful memories.

I see a world that is full of its people who are strong and confident in themselves and others; encouraging and thoughtful. Everywhere, there are sincere smiles and harmonious laughter. Every person has a warm heart, and is willing to share, contentedly. Within each and every person there is gentleness, dignity, honor and strength of will. Everyone is entitled to freedom and human rights. There is no one of higher rank above all the rest.

I dream of a world where no one is afraid to admit that they love someone else. I dream of a world where no one is afraid to admit what they believe in. I dream of a world full of compassion, honesty, and optimism. The decisions, choices, beliefs, and opinions of others are respected by all.

I dream that someday, all the people in the world, no matter what gender, creed, colour, culture or religion will step onto the ship of love, hope, truth, faith, and unity. Together, they will sail into the sunset, awaiting the celebration of a new beginning – the creation of a world full of peace and harmony, living forever – as the beautiful morning sun rises, and the peace bell on the highest tower of justice rings.

# LIVING IN HARMONY



CITY OF SASKATOON RACE RELATIONS COMMITTEE ©2002

ARTWORK BY JASMIN MARTIN-THOMAS



*Zoe Foster*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2000, Student

## *Different*

My poem is about nationalism  
But most people call it racism

Please do come and listen in  
Now it is time for it to begin

Just because their skin is red  
It doesn't mean you need to dread

If their skin happens to be black  
There is no need to attack

If they are the color yellow  
It doesn't mean they aren't mellow

If their skin is really white  
There is no need to start a fight

Because they happen to be rich  
It doesn't mean "throw me in a ditch"

If they do seem poor  
It doesn't mean "kick me out the door"

If they seem so young or old  
It doesn't mean you treat 'em like mold

Just because they are a teen  
It doesn't mean you have to be mean

If a different language they do speak  
It doesn't mean that they're a freak

Remember it is not your choice  
The pitch of another persons voice

Just because they eat different food  
Doesn't mean you have to be rude

If they are ugly, blond, thin or fat  
Please do not treat them like a rat

And if they do love to flirt  
You don't need to treat them like the dirt

Please do not on people spit  
Or go and have a "hissy fit"

I beg you not to label  
Others who are at life's table

Now please do not smother  
Those of a different color

And remember:  
If we were all just the same  
Life on earth would be real lame



*Kweku Johnson*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 1999, Student

## *The Power of One*

It takes one melody from a bird  
to awaken mother earth

It takes one caring smile  
to spark the flame of hope

It takes one laugh  
to defeat life's gloom, sadness and sorrow

It takes one life  
to shape the future

It takes one person  
to hurt a single race and nation

It takes one word  
to take away another's self worth

It takes one heart  
to see who is really under the skin

It takes one idea  
to transform old beliefs and stereotypes

It takes one step  
to start this new journey

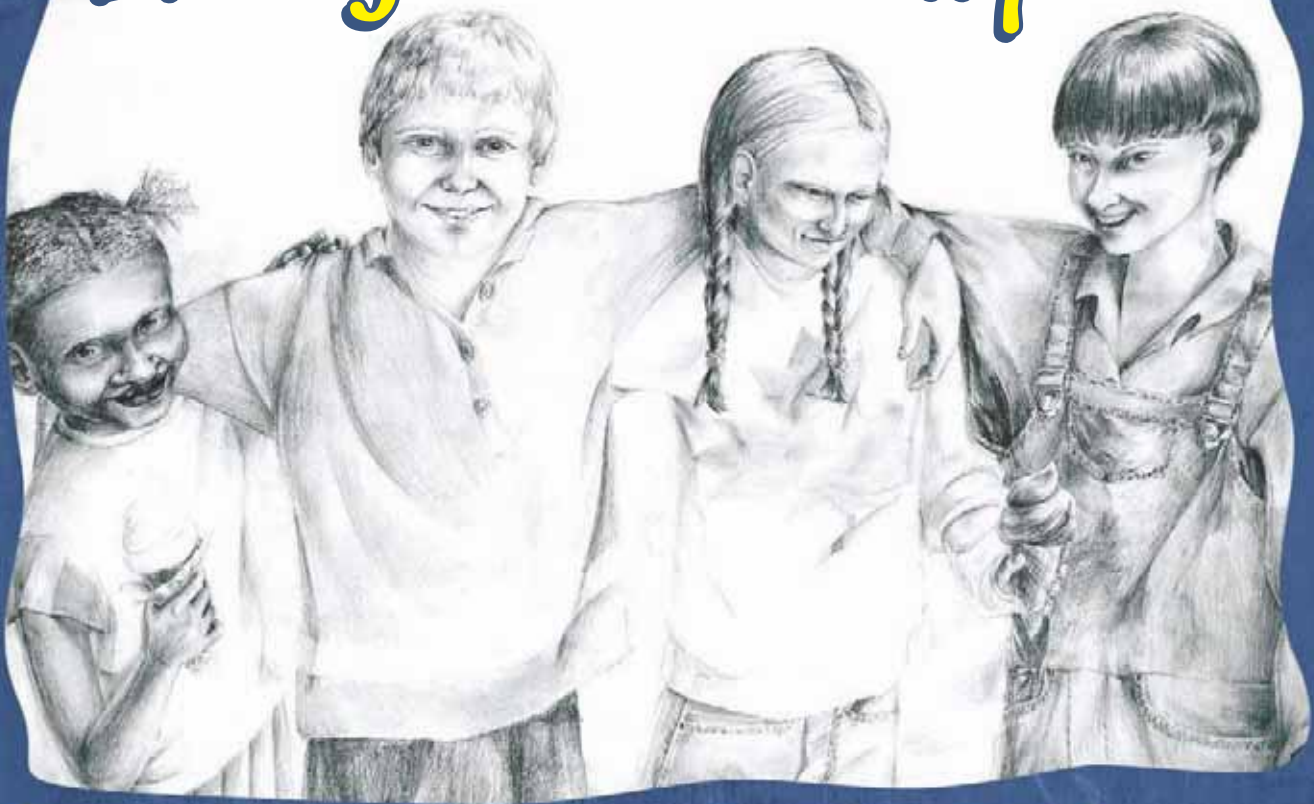
It takes one voice  
to usher in the ideas of tolerance

It takes one race  
the human race, to move towards the future

It takes only one.

Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Month, March 2007

# Living in Harmony



City of Saskatoon, Cultural Diversity and Race Relations Committee and Office

Artwork by Rachel Couture



*Ramona Complido*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2007, Student

*Living in Harmony*

Wouldn't that be great?  
Everyone getting along  
Just love no hate

No wars, no fights, no judging by their color  
Black or white, there's no difference from each other  
We have different traditions and do things different ways  
How we do things may be different, but it doesn't mean  
We shouldn't be treated the same way

So stop calling people by their color  
No need to make fun of each other  
We're all the same but unique at the same time  
Now don't go being racist because to me it's a crime

*Candace Almightyvoice*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2007, Student

*Peace on Earth*

Peace on Earth  
Is all we want,  
But something is in the way.  
No war, No hate,  
Just peace on Earth  
Is what we want today.  
No pain, No suffering,  
Just peace on Earth  
From here to there to everywhere  
Peace on Earth we need right now,  
Nothing more.



*Emlyn Winstanley*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2007, Student

## *Harmony strikes a chord*

In music, harmony is two or more notes coming together to make a bigger, more beautiful sound. In our community, harmony is two or more cultures coming together to make something more spectacular.

In music, it's the difference between all the notes that make it such a wonderful chord. In our community, we are all different; eating different things, doing different things and believing in different things. When all of those different cultures come together, like different notes, they make a spectacular creation.

Harmony is what allows us to be who we are, to believe in what we believe and to love what we love without worrying about being judged. It is the freedom to not be afraid of being picked on for the way you dress, speak, your customs or your culture. We do not have to hide the fact that we are each different and unique, because that is the way we were made.

Harmony encourages you to have pride in who you are and where you come from. It encourages you to grow into the best person you can become, because you are not being pressured to be someone you are not. Because people are open about their cultures, you can learn about other cultures, because they will tell you about them. Harmony helps you learn.

An ancient Roman proverb says: *"Harmony makes small things grow, lack of it makes great things decay."*

Harmony in a community encourages people to love and respect not only themselves and people like them, but others in the community. In a harmonious community; people say hello to each other, they call each other "just because" and they all come together as one big family.

Harmony means peace. If we have harmony in our work places and in our schools, there will be no judgment, bullying or discrimination. A community that lives in harmony will be a better place.

If we all come together as different people, with different beliefs, customs and ideas, it will make our community a more peaceful & fun environment, but more importantly it will set an example for other communities to do the same.

Harmony is better when it is DIFFERENT people coming together.

Can you imagine a piano with 88 keys all with the same sound??



*Brittany Charpentier*

Living in Harmony Literary Award Winner, 2007, Student

## *Harmony Poem*

*H*appiness, peace and love,

*A*re all a special part of harmony.

*R*emember to think like the one above,

*M*aking others' feelings your priority.

*O*thers need your acceptance, understanding, patience and love,

*N*ever judgement, hatred or negativity.

*Y*ou'll find with these simple things, that there will be a beautiful world like heaven above.