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'Dark history' of Gardens discussed at York Region abuse program lunch

BY PATRICK CASEY
 Staff Writer

It wasn't odd that Richard Peddie would discuss the dark side of Maple Leaf Gardens as he addressed a York Region Abuse Program luncheon Wednesday afternoon in Unionville.

After all, as president and chief executive officer of Maple Leaf Sport & Entertainment Ltd., Peddie oversees the operations of the Air Canada Centre, the Toronto Raptors basketball club and the storied Toronto Maple Leafs hockey franchise.

And the Gardens — the shrine of Canadian hockey before the Leafs moved to the Air Canada Centre in

February — was the scene of some of the most despicable indecencies ever associated with a sports organization.

Following the revelations of Martin Kruze, both Gord Stuckless and John Paul Roby have been convicted of sexually abusing youths at the Gardens.

"On the Leafs' side, there is a very dark history at Maple Leaf Gardens that is still being played out," explained Peddie, the guest speaker at YRAP's fourth annual fundraising luncheon and silent auction at York Downs Golf & Country Club. "Every employee we now hire goes through a police check."

Proceeds from Wednesday's event will be used by YRAP to provide pro-

grams and services for survivors of childhood sexual abuse and abuse prevention education.

The group works in partnership with community agencies and service providers to offer essential abuse treatments.

A year ago, the group welcomed Jana Kennedy, wife of former NHL player Sheldon Kennedy, who was a victim of sexual abuse at the hands of his former junior hockey coach, Graham James.

Joining Peddie were high school students from Milliken Mills, Unionville and Newmarket, who provided a vignette from *Let's Talk*, one of the organization's abuse prevention plays.

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Kids Day Sun. June 13
 11am-5pm
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Musical Sing-a-Long,
 Wagon Rides with Anne & Mo',
 Kids' Crafts and Games,
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Grasscycling — it's easy...

1. Keep the blade sharp and set at 5 cm or 2 inches.
2. Cut once or twice a week before the grass is too long.
3. Water deeply only once a week to prevent excessive growth.
4. Cut only when dry to prevent clumping (but never in a drought).

Also-

- consider fitting a mulching blade to your mower
- think about buying a mulching lawn mower if you need a new one
- if you use a lawn service, ask them to grasscycle

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