Chamber honours top businesses of year

BUSINESS PROFILES

Helene Johnson and Evelyn Siebert

One of Canada's largest and most successful manufacturers of branded generic pharmaceuticals got its start in a garage.

Novopharm has won the 1998 Business of the Year award sponsored by the Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce.

When Novopharm vice-president Evelyn Siebert accepted the award on behalf of the Main Street West company, she told the audience that that this international corporation started in president Leslie Dan's garage. Dan's mandate was to produce high quality, moderately priced pharmaceuticals for the Canadian market. The year was 1965. Today, Novopharm employs 3,000 people world-wide, including a staff of more than 235 devoted to research and development.

Here in Stouffville, 160 employees are manufacturing and packaging pharmaceuticals as well as over-the-counter products. In addition, Novopharm's Regulatory Affairs department and New Product Testing labs are based in Stouffville.

As part of his philosophy of giving, in 1985 Dan founded the Canadian Medicine Aid Program (CAN-MAP). It's an organization which provides life-saving medicines and other aid to the sick in the Third World. Since 1990, Novopharm has donated more than $15 million in drugs and aid to Third World countries.

On the homefront, Novopharm has been generous to the community by supporting many local events, including the Strawberry Festival and York Region Seniors Games. Novopharm sponsors a number of amateur sports teams. The company provides parking during the Kinsmen Club Santa Claus parade. As well, Novopharm is a strong supporter of the Chamber of Commerce.

Wade named entrepreneur

Michael Wade is a man of ideas.

The winner of the 1998 Business Entrepreneur of the Year has accomplished a great deal over the past 16 years in Whitchurch-Stouffville.

One of his ideas resulted in the Maples of Ballantrae Lodge and Golf Club. Considered to be one of the finest and most popular golf courses in Central Ontario, it's located on Highway 48. Those attending the awards' ceremony were told that the Maples of Ballantrae has created 70 full time and seasonable employment opportunities over the past 10 years. As well, the addition of the lodge in 1986 has helped draw tourists into the Stouffville area.

Another of Wade's ideas resulted in the Bristol Pond and Island Lake subdivisions. Another was the Gormley Industrial Park. Wade also moved the Bogart town school building to the local museum ground. In 1987, Wade got another idea. He'd expand his golf operations. He built and operated the Pines of Georgina Golf Club in Pefferlaw. Last year, Wade built a golf course in the Ottawa area.

WADE

Wade said he was very moved to be the recipient of such a prestigious award. Attending the ceremony were members of his family and his friends. Here in Stouffville, Wade has supported many community organizations, including the local chamber of commerce. While very busy, he still found the time and interest to serve on the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum Board. As well, the Maples of Ballantrae has hosted fund raising events for various community groups.

Burdon's corporate citizen

BURDON

The 1998 Corporate Citizen of the Year will soon be found in the creek.

Peter Burdon, owner of Stouffville Chrysler, cares about this community. As an example of Burdon's goodwill, he's volunteered his company to spring clean Duffin's Creek which runs into Stouffville.

Stouffville Chrysler began operations in Sept. 1995. Since then, the sales volume of the company has exceeded the expectations of Chrysler Canada by 100 per cent. Burdon and his wife Nita are committed to the success of the company and promote the dealership not only in the media but in many activities related to the social fabric of the town, the Chamber of Commerce and many other volunteer efforts. Burdon has supported community sports teams and is always willing to donate to fund raising events. As well, he's an active member of the local Rotary Club. In the past year, Burdon was chairman of the Stouffer Vision Fund and currently serves on the Stouffville Downtown Revitalization Committee as the representative of the local chamber.

Sue Sherban, ward 6 councillor now has her own website for constituents.

Councillor goes on-line

JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Reporter

A Stouffville councillor has her very web site on the Internet.

Ward 6 Councillor Sue Sherban's web site contains a newsletter outlining the happenings in the south end of town. As well, the councillor's web site includes the current council agenda.

Residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville, especially those from Ward 6, are invited to leave messages. Sherban will respond.

At the present time, the site includes information about property assessment and taxation changes, about the revitalization of Main Street and about this summer's Strawberry Festival. Sherban is the first on local council to offer an Internet service.

"I have access to the Internet," said Serban. "I'm offering this as yet another way to get information to the public. I hope people will use it. And, I welcome all comments."

Sherban's Internet address is: http://www.netcom.ca/~ssherby/stouffville.html.

Police ask for additional $6 million from region

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paid for policing last year.

"The problem I have is that a city the size of Aurora is moving into York Region every year," Scott said. "You need to service these people, you need to take action before problems occur." Scott said providing a police presence is an expensive proposition - it takes eight officers to fill one position 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. And each officer needs training and equipment.

Scott pointed to specific problems York police face, such as the 30 kilometres of borders it shares with Toronto along Steeles Avenue. "Big-city" crime flows from one side to the other, but York Regional Police have far fewer resources than Toronto to deal with it. Although the $6 million represents a 12 per cent increase in the police budget, about two-thirds of it relates to a salary increase and 30 new officers already approved by regional council last year.

Police association president Paul Bailey said the proposed budget is "generally positive", but he pointed out it only represents a 4-to 5-per cent increase this year.

"We figured we'd need about a 10-to 15-per cent increase to get back up to speed," Bailey said. "We're pleased there will be an increase in the budget, but I thought there should have been more." With this budget, York taxpayers are beginning to pay for problems highlighted in a critical provincial audit of the force released last June, as the police board implements its 65 recommendations.

Police board chairperson Eldred King said the force has acted on about 40 per cent of the recommendations. But many of the most expensive items still remain.

King estimates it will cost at least $10 million to implement all of the audit's recommendations.

Audit-related expenses in this year's budget include:

- additional cell phones, pagers and lap-top computers for detectives.
- new computer equipment, including new mobile units for cruisers.
- new vans for the tactical response unit.
- additional training programs, including a staff-sergeant and two constables for the training branch.

King said improving the force's training branch at the new Vaughan station is a key component of force's future.

"That is the area that is going to lead us to the next step," he said. "This will help us make sure we have the most professional people in the right places."

The police association has complained that a lack of training for York Region officers was hurting morale on the force.

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