

Arts celebration kicks off

Make room for two more talented young performers and 18 visual artists as York Region's Celebration of the Arts begins.

The region and area municipalities have declared next week Celebration of the Arts Week as part of the York Region Newspaper Group's second annual gala in support of young artists.

A dozen young performers from across York Region — two more than last year — will each receive \$1,500 bursaries to help them in their career goals.

A number of recipients will also perform at the Oct. 20 invitation-only gala.

"This year's recipients, selected by an adjudication panel, range from a pair of ballroom dancers to a Chinese folkloric dancer to a rock band," said group marketing director Brenda Larson.

"On the visual arts side, more than 200 artists entered our adjudicated competition to display at the gala and we selected 18, again from a wide variety of media."

Celebration of the Arts was launched last year by newspaper group publisher Ian Proudfoot.

"Our vision statement says we'll strive to make a positive difference in our communities," Mr. Proudfoot said.

"The event began as a way to say thanks to our advertisers and to recognize the artistic talent that is so entrenched in York Region."

The region's business community has become a big supporter of the program and municipal leaders have also assisted.

Regional chairperson Bill Fisch topped up the bursary fund this year with a donation from his annual charity golf classic, Aurora's arts and culture fund donated \$500 and the Town of Markham funded various bursaries this year and last year.

Ms Larson said organizers are planning to expand the celebration into the region's schools this year.

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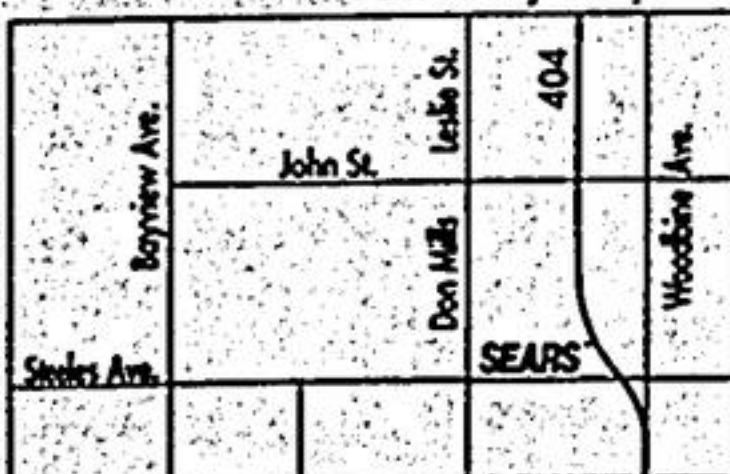
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