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Firefighters honoured by council

BY KATHLEEN GRIFFIN
Staff Writer

Four Markham firefighters and two dispatchers who worked together to save a Markham man's life in June were honoured by council last week.

Chief Don McClean told councillors the crew responded to a report of a male having difficulty breathing and while they were questioning him, the man collapsed.

"Working with the ambulance crew, they were able to resuscitate the person and he left hospital in good health," Chief McClean said.

Captain Paul Moser, firefighters Anthony Macoretta, Cam Almasy, Tom Murphy and dispatchers Lesley Chepak and Chantel Maltais received a lightening bolt pin, symbolizing a life saved.

"If you see firefighters wearing a lightening bolt you know they have brought back a life, that a person would be dead if they weren't there," said Chief McClean.

Milliken Lions help program

The Milliken Mills Lions Club presented a \$500 cheque to the Markham Fire Department for its Comfort Bear Program at council last week.

"Community support of this program is vital," said Chief Don McClean. "A comfort bear is given to any child involved in an emergency. The anxiety level comes right down, they have something to focus on, a friend to take their mind off what's happening."

Harding earns museum award

The Markham Museum's annual Ted Scaysbrook Memorial Award was handed to volunteer Elmer Harding at council.

Mr. Harding was honoured for his extensive work in the museum's gardens, planting a pumpkin patch and vegetable garden — from which children made soup from every day this summer, explained museum director Cathy Molloy.

Mr. Harding — who moved to Markham in 1985 after selling his farm at Steeles Avenue and Brimley Road — also volunteers in the heritage orchard and helps with the annual Applefest celebration.

"He's willing to help anyone at any time," Ms Molloy said.

"I grew up in a close community and we knew how to help our neighbours," Mr. Harding told councillors.

"Many things have changed in my lifetime, but I hope the old-fashioned values of helping friends and neighbours never goes away."

Arts section in Saturday's edition

Don't miss Saturday's Economist & Sun/Tribune when the 2nd annual Celebration of the Arts special section highlights each of the talented young artists, singers, songwriters, composers and performers who wowed an audience of nearly 700 last Sunday at the Hilton Suites in Markham and who earned bursaries to continue training.

Photographs, articles and lists of York Region's best artists will highlight the section.