

Two Stouffville students earn Millennium scholarships

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Excellence in academic and extracurricular work has led to two Whitchurch-Stouffville OAC students being awarded prestigious Millennium scholarships.

Carlos Paz-Soldan, who recently graduated from Brother Andre Catholic High School in Markham, is a national winner of the Canada Millennium scholarship Foundation Excellence Award.

He receives \$5,000 for his entrance year at Queen's University in

Kingston, where he is studying engineering. The award is renewable over the next three years for a possible total of \$20,000.

Lynda Baker is a local winner of the Excellence Award with a \$4,000 scholarship for her first year at Trinity Western University in British Columbia.

The Canada Millennium scholarship Foundation is a private, autonomous organization created by Parliament in 1998.

It has a \$2.5-billion endowment and a 10-year mandate to create opportu-

nities for Canadian students to pursue post-secondary studies and demonstrate excellence.

Mr. Paz-Soldan's love for the sciences is evident in the Dobsonian 10-inch F7 refracting telescope that he built last summer and set up in his yard on a wooden alt-azimuth mount he also constructed.

When a regionwide science fair was no longer organized for high school students, co-founded the York Region Science Fair last April with fellow Brother Andre student

Mike Cournoyea.

Mr. Paz-Soldan won the Brother Andre Alumni Award dedicated to life-long learning, the National Biology Competition 2003 and the Chem 13 2002 Award from the University of Waterloo.

Mr. Paz-Soldan achieved the highest mark out of all Brother Andre students and was in the top 5 per cent of all participants in the chemistry competition.

He received the Leonardo Da Vinci Award from the University of Toronto for attaining the

highest average (94.99 per cent) out of all the OAC students at Brother Andre and also won the University of Toronto Book Award.

He started school at St. Mark Catholic School in Stouffville before going on to the PACE program for gifted students at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Markham.

Lynda Baker's love of God, her involvement with her church and her high academic achievement led to her Millennium scholarship, which pays \$4,000 toward her first year at Trinity Western.

She has also received an academic entrance scholarship from the university and the Graeme Walker scholarship. At her high school, she achieved a 93-per cent average, played soccer and was in the school's band and choir.

At Trinity Western, Lynda will study human kinetics and worship studies. She's been a member of the Stouffville Pentecostal Church for most of her life, co-ordinating the Arise services there.

This meant leading the drama, worship and youth tech teams to put on the entirely youth-run service. Her years at the Pentecostal Church "have inspired me to love God and receive God's love," Ms. Baker said.

"It is where I became a Christian when I was four. She enjoys leading the musical and youth components of worship services.

Teaching a variety of sports and activities such as line dancing to youngsters kept her involved with the church's vacation Bible schools for five summers.

Ms. Baker came up with the concept of a Youth Unity Night for an inde-

pendent study unit at Uxbridge High.

Her idea was to gather several bands who would travel to various churches to help lead worship.

"In OAC, I had a passion for seeing all of the youth in Uxbridge come together," she said. This summer, several churches have asked her group to lead worship for their congregations.

She has a lot of options after graduation: becoming an occupational therapist or a dance teacher and being involved in some kind of music ministry.

Ms. Baker will be following her older sisters, Jennifer and Sandra, to the Trinity Western.

Both sisters travelled across Canada with a singing group, the Canadian Continentals. Sandra is the group's assistant director this summer.

"I have never moved outside my house before and now I am going to B.C.," Ms. Baker said, almost in disbelief.

She enjoys playing the guitar and composing music and "I love to dance," the 18-year-old said.

She has a lot of options after graduation: becoming an occupational therapist or a dance teacher and being involved in some kind of music ministry.



John and Eileen

Taking care of a loved one can be rewarding – but tiring.

Find out how home and community services can help.

When a loved one needs your attention all day every day, it can take a lot out of you, physically and emotionally. Maybe your loved one needs 24-hour care. Or maybe all you need is a break now and then.

Home and community care covers a broad range of services. They can be as simple as having a volunteer relieve you while you run errands (known as "caregiver relief"), or as comprehensive as a room in a long-term care facility.

Your local Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) can help you decide what options would work best for you and help you arrange for the services you need.

To find out more, call 1-877-234-4343 and ask for a free *Home and Community Care for Seniors* brochure. Or visit www.health.gov.on.ca and click on *Seniors' Care*.

Strawberry festival remains debt-free

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Stouffville's Strawberry Festival was able to cover its budget this year with some funds to spare, said festival committee chairperson Liz Fraser.

Numerous organizations and individuals provided sponsorship for the five-day event, which this year had a budget of around \$73,000.

The festival has managed to work within financial restraints over the past several years.

About 15 volunteers joined the dozen festival committee members to organize and oversee the Strawberry Festival.

It drew about 30,000 people, which was similar

to last year's attendance.

The event included many new events such as the lumberjack show, the birds of prey demonstration, the Beauty and the Beast show.

There was also vendors and entertainment after an ecumenical Sunday church service in the park and the tribute show on Saturday night.

Anyone who would like to volunteer for the 20th annual festival next year can mark 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20 at the Silver Jubilee Seniors Club on their calendars. That's the date of the Strawberry Festival Committee's annual general meeting.