

Firefighters to sign calendars for cancer research

Food isn't be the only thing Kelsey's customers will be eyeing Jan. 15. The restaurant, at Markham Road and 14th Avenue, plays host to a fundraiser for breast cancer research.

The event features firefighters from the 2005 York Regional Firefighters calendar.

Autographed copies of the calendar will be sold, with proceeds going to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. For more information, contact Kelsey's at 905-470-6700.

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Stouffville man to observe Palestinian election process

BY JOAN RANSBERRY
Staff Writer

A Stouffville man is in the West Bank to observe an election Sunday to choose a successor to Palestinian president Yasser Arafat, who died in November.

Michael Kennedy, 46, arrived in Ramallah Dec. 15 with 40 other observers from the European Union, Norway and Switzerland. He will remain until Jan. 29.

Mr. Kennedy is one of four long-term observers and 16 short-term observers from Canada.

His role is to report all aspects of the electoral process, including meeting with government officials, election officials and media, as well as co-ordinating operations of observers in the Bethlehem area.

A professional engineer, Mr. Kennedy is a manager of logistics and planning for Elections Ontario and a field liaison officer with Elections Canada. He's responsible for 13 federal elec-



MICHAEL KENNEDY: Stouffville man to report on all aspects of Palestinian election.

toral districts in the Toronto area, including Oak Ridges-Markham.

Mr. Kennedy was the returning officer in Oak Ridges in 1997 and 2000. He's on a leave of absence to work on international missions; his last foreign placement was in Indonesia in 1999 for the East Timor inde-

pendence referendum.

The Bethlehem area has a voting population of about 85,000. The district is broken into 173 polls in 72 locations.

"I am especially privileged to be part of Canada's commitment to the election process and have been warmly welcomed by the Palestinian people since my arrival," Mr. Kennedy said.

"The Palestinian people are very supportive of the European Union observation mission. They look, hopefully, towards a future of peace and establishment of a sovereign state."

Mr. Kennedy is a strong supporter of the democratic process, noting, "I am very proud of Canada's long tradition of supporting democratic processes around the world."

Canada has sent citizens with electoral experience in support of the recent Ukraine election and is helping Iraqis living here who want to vote in their homeland election at the end of January.

Horse trots downtown

It was Mystic by a nose in downtown Stouffville last week.

Motorists and pedestrians were shocked when Mystic, a seven-year-old standardbred race horse, escaped from his handler on York-Durham Line and went on a three-kilometre run through town Dec. 28.

The horse and its sulky were brought to a halt when a passer-

by gave the "whoa" order at Sandiford Drive and Main Street near Tim Hortons.

Two members of Whitchurch-Stouffville's public works department were close by and helped out. His handler caught up with the horse minutes later.

"They (town employees) were able to help corral the horse and calm him down," public works operations manager Denis Char-

trand said.

Eyewitnesses said the horse pounded through the downtown core missing vehicles and pedestrians on the way.

Mystic is boarded on a property on the York-Durham Line. "He came away with a few scrapes, but otherwise, he's fine," property spokesperson Debbie Cook said. "I understand he went on quite a tour."

— Joan Ransberry

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