Youths need recipes for book to help charity

Three Stouffville youngsters are looking for recipes for the book they want to assemble to benefit the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada.

Marina Dekker, 11, and sisters Taya, 8, and Halli, 6, came up with the idea themselves, mom Susan Dekker said.

The recipe book is now an official event of the Ontario chapter of the Children's Wish Foundation, which is dedicated to granting wishes of youngsters diagnosed with life-threatening illnesses. Since its beginning in 1983, the foundation has granted wishes of more than 10,000 Canadian children between the ages of three and 18.

The Dekker family is looking for recipes from residents of Whitchurch-Stouffville to be sent in by Feb. 15. Everything from appetizers to dessert is welcome, as well as recipes children can make by themselves with a little supervision.

Childrens recipes will form a special section of the recipe book, Ms Dekker said.

Donations towards the cost of printing or an offer to print for free would also be welcome.

The binding will be done by John and Susan Dekker and the children along with volunteers at a binding party, Ms Dekker said with a smile.

The family is planning to sell the books at school fairs and various locations throughout town and through word of mouth.

To send in recipes, call 905-640-8403 or e-mail to recipes@pathcom.com

Our Town

with Hannelore Volpe

Student teacher to instruct in Carribbean

Stouffville resident Claudia Petramala will teach health awareness at elementary schools in the Caribbean as part of teacher training.

The University of Toronto student is one of 15 health and physical education students heading to the islands for five weeks, from April 21 to May 28. Forty five students had applied to the program. The group is being accompanied by program advisor Professor Andy Anderson.

Ms Petramala is completing studies at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education.

The group is travelling to St. Vincent, Antigua and the British Virgin Islands to teach at lower-income schools. The World Health Organization initiative works in partnership with the Scotiabank Champions for Health Promoting Schools program and the University of Toronto.

"It's not enough for us to just go there, teach them for five weeks and then leave," Ms Petramala said. The Canadians want to bring a child-centred concept of learning that is flexible enough to help a variety of learning styles and abilities.

Ms Petramala will most likely teach Grade 5 to 8 students. The student teachers will be delivering programs and resources on health issues such as preventing sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS and proper nutrition.

Ms Petramala is appealing to Whitchurch-Stouffville residents for resources the group can leave at the schools. The student teachers are looking for sports equipment, such as soccer balls and baseballs, gloves, bats, hockey sticks and other items in good condition.

Children's books, resource books on health issues and monetary donations are also welcome. The money will be used to set up professional reference libraries for local teachers to continue the Scotiabank program.

To donate, call 905-640-3639 or e-mail to cpetramala@hotmail.com

Town to help replace rural mailboxes

Rural mailboxes ruined by snow clearing operations will be replaced by the town with temporary mailboxes as soon as feasible.

The standardized policy for mailboxes on municipal roads came into effect at last week's council meeting.

The owner of the mailbox will also receive a $50 towards the purchase of a new mailbox.

A town crew will remove the temporary mailbox and install new ones purchased by the residents along with the necessary post at a later date. Residents who buy a spiffier mailbox with a larger price tag are responsible for any cost over $50.

The Region of York offers $35 for each mailbox downed by snow clearing operations on its roads.

In 2003, 12 rural mailboxes on town roads were totalling during snow clearing operations, last year it was four, and "now we have one (a policy) already," town public works director Paul Whitehouse said.

Mailboxes aren't usually hit by snowplows, Mr. Whitehouse said, but they succumb to the pressure of snow pushed by plows.

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