

Women take centre stage

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Writer

Courage. Tenacity. Leadership. Understanding.

These are just a few of the outstanding qualities for which 40 women across York Region were honoured at the fifth annual In Celebration of Women awards Friday evening at a gala at Le Parc in Thornhill.

The awards honour extraordinary women of all ages who make an impact on the community.

"These women don't get an award for doing their job. These are people who go far beyond their job," said Diane

Humeniuk, founder of the ceremony.

The event began after Ms Humeniuk, a longtime area politician, noticed a significant gap in recognizing women's achievements in the community.

"I felt there was a void. People don't pause and reflect and say thank you to people who do incredible things. We all need someone to say thanks once in a while," Ms Humeniuk said.

The focus of the awards are two-pronged, Ms Humeniuk said, adding organizers also want to advocate awareness about the frequency of breast cancer and make women aware of Ontario's breast screening program.

This year's woman of the year award recipient is Dr. Roz Roach.

Ms Roach, a registered graduate nurse, is the first black woman to build a shelter for battered women and children in Canada.

Dr. Roach, a Markham resident, has worked with numerous non-profit organizations, including acting as director of the Elizabeth Fry society.

Tackling issues of sexual abuse, she also served as a member of the task force for sexual abuse of patients by doctors at the The College of Physicians and Surgeons and co-authored the task force's final report of sexual abuse of patients by doctors.

AWARD WINNERS

Emergency and Protective Services awards

Cpl. Lyne Baril
Sergeant Linda Doggett
Detective Sergeant Denise LaBarge
Dr. Barbara Anschuetz

Youth achievement awards

Michelle Khan
Christina Rose
Pat McIntosh and Janice Luttrell
Belinda Stronach MP
Laci Helsel

Stouffville award recipients:

Cathy Chouinard
Mary Deveaux

Markham

Ileen Pat Howell
Rita Nayar

Newmarket

Judy Craig
Diane Mitchell
Helen Boujos
Anne Ponzio
Tracee Chambers
Christine Way Skinner
Deborah Kennedy
Jennie Thompson
Dr. Laura Foster
Denise Tunney
Mary Anna Beer
Dr. Karen Tanaka

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for this kind of behaviour.*



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Believe it or not, your kid can die from kissing. Or sharing a bottle, a straw, even a smoke or lipstick. It's called meningitis C and sharing saliva spreads it. Basically, bacteria infect the bloodstream and the lining of the brain and spinal cord. Symptoms include headache. Fever. Fatigue. A stiff neck. Sensitivity to light. Dizziness. And a red, blotchy rash. They could lose their hearing. An arm or a leg. Worse, more than 1 in 10 who get infected die. So talk to your kid about getting their free vaccination. Clinics are being held in your community and in most schools, for 15- to 19-year-olds. Call your local public health unit for more information. Or talk to your doctor, visit: www.health.gov.on.ca, or call 1-877-234-4343, TTY 1-800-387-5559.

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