

Markham companies up for Ontario entrepreneur awards

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Eleven York Region business people, representing seven companies, are among 40 entrepreneurs selected as Ontario region finalists in the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2005 awards.

The awards program, now in its 12th year, nominates entrepreneurs for business leadership skills, determination and vision.

The York Region nominees and their categories are:

- Ron Tepper, Consolidated Fastfrate Inc. of Woodbridge, business-to-business products and services;
- Stephen Bebis, Golf Town Canada Inc. of Markham, business-to-consumer products and services;
- John Gärer, Roma Moulding Inc. of Woodbridge, business-to-consumer products and services;
- Margaret Sarrasin, M.J.'s Fine Foods Inc. of Concord, emerging entrepreneur;

- Steve Gupta, Easton's Group of Hotels Inc. of Markham, real estate;
- Michael and Richard Hyatt, Bluecat Networks Inc. of Richmond Hill, technology and communication, and;
- Karl Bauernfreund, Victor Fradkin, Larry Hoffman and Rhys Quin, VLR Food Corporation of Concord, turnaround entrepreneur.

Finalists in each category will be honoured at a gala celebration Oct. 6, with one being awarded the title entrepreneur of the year for Ontario. That winner goes on to compete for the national entrepreneur of the year award Nov. 3.

The entrepreneur of the year program was founded by Ernst & Young to increase awareness of the economic impact of entrepreneurial ventures.

—Roger Varley

Markham firefighters raised more than \$5,000 in their muscular dystrophy boot drive last month.

Accompanied fire trucks, the firefighters carried out the campaign at the entrances and exits of both the Markville Shopping Centre and the Home Depot plaza, both on Hwy. 7.

A second boot drive is planned for mid-September. Firefighters and Muscular Dystrophy Canada have been working together for more than 50 years.

Markham firefighters raised more than \$22,000 for Muscular Dystrophy Canada last year.

“In that time, a total of \$40 million has been raised by firefighters in Canada for neuromuscular research,” Markham Professional Firefighters Association president John Brassard said.

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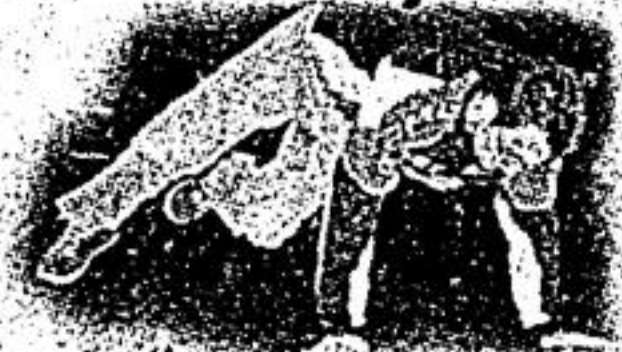
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