



Officers represent dedication, compassion

BY MARTIN DERBYSHIRE
Staff Writer

York Regional Police Const. Anthony Emanuel was driving behind the car that hit Jessica Seymour the night he saved her life.

She was changing a flat tire on the side of the road when a drunk driver plowed into her.

Her left leg was completely severed.

Riding alone in his cruiser, Const. Emanuel had to act fast.

"I felt a combination of anger, shock and disbelief," he said. "We found out later the driver was impaired but I couldn't believe they hit her. I was following about a half a kilometre behind."

As quickly as he could, Const. Emanuel got out of the car to help Ms Seymour.

He put direct pressure on the open wound stopping the flow of blood until paramedics arrived.

WOULD HAVE DIED

Hospital staff said later she would have died from loss of blood if he hadn't responded so swiftly.

The driver has since been convicted of impaired driving.

Thursday, in front of more than 1,000 residents, politicians, community leaders and fellow officers, Const. Emanuel was handed the 2005 Police Officer of the Year award for bravery in the line of duty.

"I just reacted, all the training we got just kicked in," he said.

"My adrenaline was pumping. I had a hard time coming down afterwards."

Ms Seymour, who had her leg amputated, was there to thank Const. Emanuel.

"He's touched my life in a profound way," she said.

"Without officer Emanuel and others like him I wouldn't be here today."

Community services bureau crime prevention officer Const. Douglas Cooper received the award for outstanding service to the community, for devoting countless hours of his own

time mentoring youth who in the Tim Hortons Earn a Bike program.

"It's not work I do for recognition," he told the crowd. "It's work I do to make a difference in the community."

Const. John Loughry, Det. Mike Slack and Const. James Ward, Const. James Hilton and his since deceased police dog Rescue were the recipients of the excellence in policing award for their efforts in finding a missing woman with Alzheimer's disease in -20C temperatures this past December.

"You felt her life was worth saving even though she was in the late stages of Alzheimer's," said Lisa Funk, a daughter of the woman who has since died.

"Although my mom cannot thank you with her mind she thanks you with her heart."

Const. Paul Chiang was handed the Herbert H. Carnegie Community Award for his involvement in the community.

Assigned to the diversity and cultural resources bureau, he was recognized for his role in fundraising efforts for victims of the Pakistan earthquake and Philippines mudslide last year.

"These officers are a great example of the dedication and compassion that is so evident within the policing profession," said Chief Armand La Barge.

Premier Dalton McGuinty spoke early in the evening asking everyone to step up for the community the way our police officers do.

"Each of us, like the officers here tonight, needs to go above and beyond the call of duty for our community," he said.

"These men and women do so much good for so many."

York Regional Police is celebrating its 35 anniversary this year and Thursday was the 14th annual Police Appreciation Night, which raises money for community programs and police vehicles, including its helicopter, boat and bus.

STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

York Region's top officers for 2005 took centre stage at Le Parc in Thornhill Thursday night. From left, police services board chairperson Dave Barrow, chief for a day Matt Gilmour, officer of the year, excellence in policing award recipients constables James Hilton and John Loughry, Det. Mike Slack, Const. James Ward, Chief Armand La Barge and York Region chairperson Bill Fisch.

Where will your garbage go?

The first part of the results are in and we want to hear what you think. This study could impact the way garbage is handled in our community for the next 35 years!



We need your ideas on how to solve our communities' garbage issues.

Join us and voice your opinion

Public Information Sessions will be held from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., with a formal presentation to begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 9, 2006
Ray Twinney Recreation Complex - Lounge #1
100 Eagle Street West
Town of Newmarket

Wednesday, May 10, 2006
York Region South Services Centre
1st Floor, Rooms A, B & C
Corporate Learning
50 High Tech Road
Town of Richmond Hill

Thursday, May 11, 2006
St. Joan of Arc Catholic High School - Cafeteria
1 Saint Joan of Arc Avenue
City of Vaughan

For details regarding Public Information & Delegations Sessions, please visit www.durhamyorkwaste.ca or call 1-800-372-1102 ext. 3731

Public Delegations will be received on Wednesday May 17, 2006. Please register for your delegation before Friday May 12, 2006 by contacting:

KARIN PRICE at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 1322 or karin.price@york.ca

