

SDSS grad receives McDonald's scholarship

Emily Mihok, who has attended Markham District High School and Stouffville District Secondary School, received a \$500 scholarship from McDonald's Restaurants this week.

The 19-year-old Markham resident will use the scholarship to help pay tuition costs for studies in social work at McMaster University this fall.

Her job at McDonald's has given her a learning opportunity and support from other staff members, she said. Here she was able to hone people skills she believes are an important in all jobs.

Ms Mihok was chosen for the scholarship from employees at the McDonald's in Stouffville and the Markham location at Hwy. 48 and 16th Avenue. Both are owned by Howard and Pamela Cooper.

The McDonald's Employee Scholarship Program, awarded in Stouffville for five years, rewards employees' contributions to their school, work and community. Ms Mihok has volunteered at Markham Stouffville Hospital and helped with charity fundraisers and preparations for the 50th anniversary reunion at Markham District High School.

Judges inspecting Stouffville's blooms

BY HANNELORE VOLPE
Staff Writer

Whitchurch-Stouffville residents have shovelled compost, gotten their knees dirty, planted flowers and involved everyone from small children to seniors to prepare for the arrival of Communities in Bloom judges today and tomorrow.

Arborist Ed Borczon and Brampton leisure services department employee Catherine Purcell will be in town casting a practiced eye over the municipality.

Residents can meet them from 4:30 to 5:30 this afternoon in the town's council chambers at 37 Sandiford Dr. in Stouffville.

This is the first time for the program

in Whitchurch-Stouffville. One of the first things evident to drivers and pedestrians along the west end of Main Street is the new garden at the corner of Hwy. 48 and Main Street and the colourful barrels of flowers along the street.

The flower barrels were donated by corporate sponsors and the garden was planted and maintained by members of the Communities in Bloom committee.

Mr. Borczon and Ms Purcell will tour Bruce's Mill Conservation Area, including its children's safety village, take a boat ride on Musselmann's Lake, visit a Lafarge gravel pit and tour gardens including landscaper Gary Bouwmeister's creation on Thursday.

The next day they travel around the municipality, taking in the rural and urban settings. They will also tour sewage plant at the Ballantrae Golf and Country Club.

They visit such a diversity of sites to assess the municipality on eight categories including turf management, landscaping, the environment and community involvement as well as flowers and plantings.

Several months ago, the Communities in Bloom committee began assessing the municipality to come up with a presentation book, also known as the "brag" book, to present to the judges.

It is available at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library, the Leisure Centre, the town offices and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Museum.

Committee chair Mayor Sue Sherban spearheaded the move to take part in Communities in Bloom and noted the program was well supported by the community in the number of

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gardens nominated by residents for judging.

Dianne Ward was a strong advocate in ensuring schools, service clubs and other community organizations got involved, Mrs. Sherban said.

Students at St. Brigid Catholic School and Summitview Public School prepared yards and flower beds. Day campers weeded and planted flower seeds at Stouffville District Secondary School.

Gardening expert and TV show host Denis Flanagan and landscape architect Shan Tennyson were instrumental in helping assemble the presentation book for judges.

Communities in Bloom is a non-profit Canadian organization which aims to foster civic pride, environmental responsibility and beautification through community participation and friendly competition.

Winners in the national competition is to be announced in September.

For more information on Communities in Bloom, go to www.communitiesinbloom.ca

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