PRESENTS Sunday June 8, 2008 1:00 pm

Mingle with the most influential members of Markham's arts and culture communities

Join us for an entertaining afternoon as we honour the first recipients of the Mackie Awards: Ian Proudfoot, Colleen Cugini and Miller Thomson for their contributions to the arts and culture of Markham.

Entertainment provided by the Quincy Bullen Jazz Trio and Opera York

Shangri-la Banquet Hall, 50 Esna Park Drive, Markham Tickets: \$50 each • Corporate table of eight, \$500. Call 905-947-9054 to book your tickets. Cash, cheque or Visa www.markhamartscouncil.com

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ROGERS W

ECONOMIST & SUN

'On the right track' with youth programs

From page 1.

Whitchurch-Stouffville's submission included the Mayor's Youth Council, youth programming and volunteer and leadership development.

"We are obviously very happy to receive this recognition as are our partners with whom we work so closely," said Tom Graham, the town's director of leisure services.

"We will continue to identify new ways of engaging youth in our programs, which is so important to our community."

But what of the complaints of a lack of activity here?

"It may not be that we have everything for youth, but we're on the right track," said Micole Ongman, the town's program and aquatics supervisor, of the recognition. "We have staff focussed on youth issues and the mayor has a youth council and has led meetings on youth. If youth have an idea, they have

Go to playworkspartnership.ca for more information

access (to town officials.)

"(Youth are) telling us there's nothing to do, but they have an opportunity to share their wishes."

Letting youth know what's available may be a missing link, she said. A youth section will be added to the town's website and a youth page will be included in the town's fall leisure guide.

Play Works has recognized 25 communities during the three years of the program.

"Play is arguably the most important activity through which youth learn how to interact socially and develop skills such as leadership, decision-making and problem solving," said Jennifer Cowie Bonne, chairperson of Play Works.

"When communities make youth play a priority, they are creating a healthier, friendlier and stronger community for

everyone. It may be a cliché, but youth do grow up quickly. And I encourage all Ontario communities to participate in the ... program in 2008 in order to make sure all youth benefit from the best opportunities possible, as soon as possible."

Play Works is also releasing its newest research on ways to invest in youth programming Monday.

The Play Works Partners are 4-H Ontario, Arts Network for Children and Youth, Boys and Girls Clubs of Ontario, Educational Research, Laidlaw Foundation, Ontario Physical and Health Education Association, Ontario Young People's Alliance, SportAlliance of Ontario, Parks and Recreation Ontario, YMCA Ontario and Youth.

Anyone with suggestions for youth programming in Whitchurch-Stouffville should contact Jen McEachen at 905-640-1910 ext. 288 or jen.mceachen@townofws.com

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