

# YRMG publisher launched arts program in 2001

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better singer, of course, with all the practise I get."

A.J. only started singing seriously two years ago.

"My mom heard me sing when I was younger, thought I could carry a tune and brought me into classes and I really like it," the Lemonville resident said.

Although A.J. cites rockers OneRepublic as one of his favourite groups, he is also just as happy listening to contemporary vocalist Josh Grobin and classical singer Andrea Bocelli.

"Whatever I'm singing, I try to make it sound the best possible," he said.

Celebration of the Arts began in 2001 and is the brainchild of Ian Proudfoot, publisher of York Region Media Group, who wanted to showcase young regional talent.

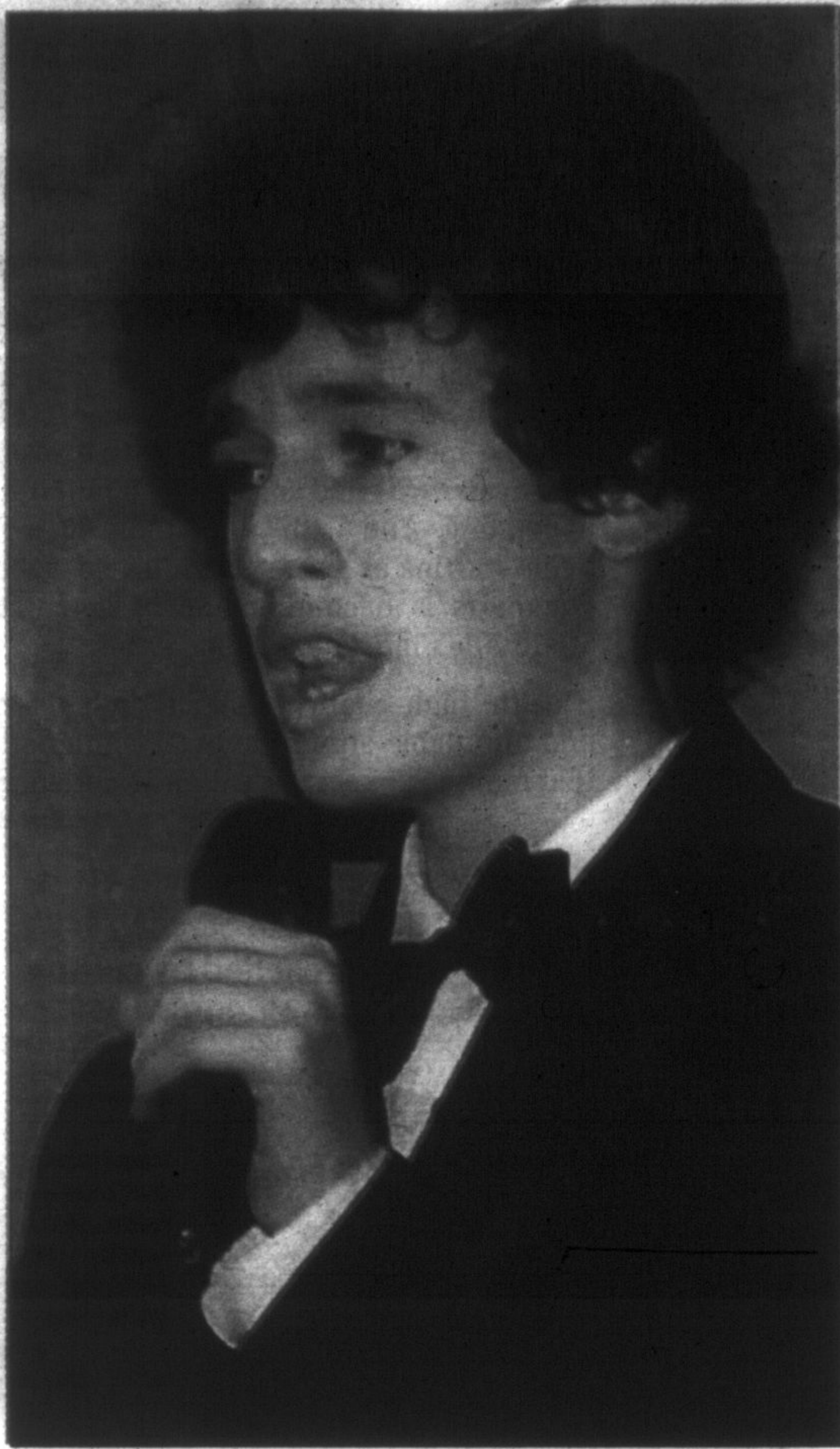
Since 2001, almost 150 bursaries have been awarded, valued at more than \$250,000.

Completed applications for this year's Celebration of the Arts are due June 25 at 4 p.m. All entries must be accompanied by a video recording and \$25 non-refundable entry fee. There is no age limit, but participants must be amateur and still in school.

Elimination judging begins July 11 at the Newmarket Theatre.

Live audition opportunities will take place at the Newmarket Theatre on May 14 and June 2.

For more information, an application and complete list of rules, go to [www.yrmg.com/coa](http://www.yrmg.com/coa)



STAFF FILE PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Whitchurch-Stouffville's A.J. de Boer was named last year's Celebration of the Arts vocal champion, which has led to numerous performing opportunities throughout the region. The 14-year-old is a student at St. Mark Catholic School in Stouffville.

## In Our Community

Markham Spring Home Show donates \$2500 to Habitat for Humanity York Region



L to R: Mike Banville, Tyler Duncan, Nancy Van Kessel, Dorothy Seefried, Loretta and Byron DiSera.

The Markham Economist & Sun, the producers of the Markham Spring Home Show are proud to donate \$2500 to Habitat for Humanity York Region (HFHYR). HFHYR and its wonderful volunteers were a big help in the ticket booth at this year's Markham Spring Home Show. HFHYR also displayed a wonderful booth which showcased a variety of used building and housing materials available for purchase at deep discount prices at the Habitat ReStore in Newmarket. Their booth also provided information on Hawkins House renovation which is the first Habitat for Humanity housing project in Markham.

If you would like to donate, volunteer or learn about Habitat for Humanity York Region please go to [www.hfhyr.com](http://www.hfhyr.com)

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# CARRIER OF THE MONTH



## Ainsley

She has been a carrier for 1 year.

She likes being a carrier because she gets to see her friends and neighbours when she delivers.

Ainsley enjoys playing soccer, road hockey, swimming, camp and playing outside and on the computer.

She is saving her points for a new scooter, and her money for a trip to Africa and a new skateboard.

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