Character council has openings

You can help make character thrive by joining the York Region Character Community council.

The council is accepting applications from anyone who lives and works in York Region with an interest in helping to educate and raise awareness about living and working with character.

You'll join volunteers and leaders from the community, government, education and business sectors who are com-

mitted to nurturing positive character attributes that will keep our communities as places where families are strong, homes and streets are safe, education is effective, businesses are productive and neighbours care about one another.

The council meets monthly in Newmarket every third Thursday from 4:15 to 5:45 p.m. and helps the Character Community Foundation with programs and events.

character.community@york.ca by May 27.

Interested in volunteering? Send a resume and a letter to

We're not asking for the moon.

We are the outside workers in Aurora.

We're responsible for your roads, parks, and recreation centres, we keep them in good running order.

We are also the people who keep your water clean and ensure waste water is handled safely.

We are among the lowest paid municipal workers in York Region.

Eight senior managers at the small Town of Aurora earn over \$100,000 a year plus taxable benefits.*

We lag way behind the other municipalities in terms of our wages.

We're not asking for the moon.

We're only asking for the average municipal wage in the region. If senior managers can earn such high wages why can't we be brought into line with other regional workers?

*Source: Public Sector Salary Disclosure 2010 (disclosure for 2009)

Join us at an information picket and learn more.

When: Tuesday, May 25th at 6 p.m. Where: Aurora City Hall, 1 Municipal Dr.

Fairness – not a lot to ask. CUPE 905

Multilingual service at new RBC branch

RBC's new Main Street branch is scheduled to open on Aug. 9.

The full-service bank, complete with personal, business and commercial expertise on-site, will also include three bank machines, one of which is a drive-thru.

Service will be available in English, Italian and Mandarin Cantonese. The branch employs six Whitchurch-Stouffville residents.

The 5,000-square-foot building is being constructed in front of the current branch, at Main Street and Sandiford Road.

Teach or learn at Bruce's Mill bike event

With summer comes bike riding and, in order to help you with safety, York Regional Police is hosting a bike safety event in Whitchurch-Stouffville on May 29.

The Kids CAN-BIKE York Region Bikefest will be held at the Community Safety Village in Bruce's Mills Conservation Area from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is for children seven to 13.

The day will be broken into two-hour training sessions, which are free of charge.

High school students will have an opportunity to earn time toward their community volunteer requirements as bike safety teachers.

Teenagers can take an instructor's course to qualify to teach bike safety and earn a junior instructor certificate from Can-Bike.

If you want your child to participate or your teenager to become an instructor, phone 1-877-464-9675 ext. 1581.

Dollars for downtown available

Whitchurch-Stouffville's 2010 operating budget has allocated \$50,000 to fund Downtown Stouffville Community Improvement projects.

There are four programs available. The building, facade and signage loan establishes an immediate visual benefit in support of urban design, building function or reinforcement of pedestrian scale development and the fee grant program waives the payment of cash-in-lieu of parkland contribution. There is also the redevelopment/rehabilitation grant and sale or lease of municipal buildings/lands programs.

The fee grant, redevelopment/rehabilitation and sale/ lease of municipal property programs "represent initiatives that create a positive framework for the medium to long-term investment in the downtown," according to a report by Andrew McNeely, director of planning and building services for the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. "These programs will, in time, improve the quality of the building stock in the downtown area and assist in broadening the type of buildings necessary to support a mix of land use activities that the town wants to attract to this area."

The Downtown Stouffville Community Improvement Project area and a Community Improvement Plan for the area were adopted by council last June.

"Staff had several meetings with prospective candidates, however, no applications were received in 2009," according to Mr. McNeely.

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