

GANGING UP ON WEEDS



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville leisure services employees Autumn Walker (from left), Jess Bartle, Dani Lamirand and Erin De Melis preen gardens and green spaces, including this bed on Weldon Road.

Arts groups cashing in

The Latcham Gallery, Lebovic Centre for Arts and Entertainment - Nineteen on the Park and Motus O have been collectively awarded \$52,806 from the Ontario Arts Council.

During the past year, \$90,306 was allocated to professional artists and arts organization within Oak Ridges-Markham, according to the area MPP Helena Jaczek.

"Individual artists and arts organizations serve valuable roles within Oak Ridges-Markham and help to enrich all of our lives. I am confident that the Ontario Arts Council investments in our region's artistic community will continue to nurture and showcase the artistic ability of some of our region's finest talent," said Ms Jaczek in a media release.

DANCERS, THEATRE, GALLERY

Nineteen on the Park received \$5,000 to help pay for artists performing in its professional series.

"It does offset a bit of the artistic fees," said Steven Foster, cultural facility and programming co-ordinator for the downtown facility. "Without these kinds of programs, ticket prices would be higher, not just here, but in general."

This is the second year in a row Nineteen on the Park has received \$5,000 from the Ontario Arts Council for artists, according to Mr. Foster.

The Motus O dance troupe received \$31,800, while The Latcham Gallery was awarded \$16,006. Both organizations said their respective grants will be used for operating expenses.



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