

Teens nominated for awards

Three 16-year-old Stouffville residents have been nominated for 2012 Ontario Junior Citizen of the Year awards.

Ben Murray, Jennifer Connolly and John Alton will find out tomorrow if they are in the elite group of 12 recipients from across the province.

There were 150 nominees in the annual program co-ordinated by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association – of which The Sun-Tribune is a member.

The awards are sponsored by TD Canada Trust and Direct Energy.

• Ben Murray received the Chief Scout Award from Scouts Canada in 2010 and attended an international jamboree in Sweden the next year.

He has volunteered at East-Ridge and Springvale churches, Summitview Public School and

on the Mayor's Youth Council.

• Jennifer Connolly, who accumulated 781 volunteer hours with the Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville, received a 2010 Award for Citizenship from Mayor Wayne Emmerson.

The honour roll student at Stouffville District Secondary School also works with children in the youth group at her church.

• John Alton's volunteer resume at the town includes work with the summer camp, adapted aquatics program and public library.

The president of the Mayor's Youth Council said time is the biggest limitation on his ability to volunteer. He is also on the honour roll at Stouffville Secondary.

The award recipients will be honoured at a ceremony in Toronto March 8.

— Jim Mason

Staff 'stressed, overworked': study

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but they don't maximize that technology," said Ian Smith, regional leader for consulting for MNP, during his presentation to council.

For Whitchurch-Stouffville, this also means investing in technology, such as mobile devices for bylaw officers and building inspectors who currently go out into the field, take paper/pen notes and then key that information into a computer back at the office, according to Mr. Cash.

Whitchurch-Stouffville currently partners with other municipalities within the Northern 6 of York Region for such things as waste management, website redesign and internal audits. Other areas for potential partnering include water meter reading and the purchasing of insurance and benefits for town staff, Mr. Cash said.

When it comes to building the talent pool, that may not be so easy.

Planners, engineers and IT specialists are hard to find because they are in such great demand throughout the GTA and York Region, all of which are growing and competing for the same professionals, according to Mr. Cash.

On the upside, he said there are a good supply of less technical



DAVE CASH: Whitchurch-Stouffville CAO says town won't always grow as fast as it has been lately.

Two things revealed by MNP's overall observations is that staff thinks the town has not adjusted its resources to meet the growth that has taken place and, as a result, staff feels "stressed, overworked and unrecognized, which can lead to inefficiencies and poor customer service".

Whitchurch-Stouffville was the third-fastest growing Canadian municipality, with a population of more than 5,000, between 2006 and 2011, according to Statistics Canada.

That equals a 54.3-per-cent population increase between censuses, or 13,238 residents (24,390 to 37,628).

"Our situation is a bit unique. We're not always going to be growing this fast," Mr. Cash said in an interview.

The MNP study also noted council has placed additional demands on staff with standards that exceed provincial requirements or those of other municipalities.

"The accountability and transparency is extremely high with the local government. I see that trend increasing and I don't see that changing," Mr. Cash said, noting this was not specific to Whitchurch-Stouffville, but to all municipalities.

Cliff Thorburn is a professional Canadian snooker and pool player. A world number one, he is one of only nine players to hold the #1 spot. He was world snooker champion in 1980. Thorburn was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1988.

Pool Exhibition with **CLIFF THORBURN** At the Stouffville Legion 150 Mostar Street Saturday February 2, 2013 at 1:00 pm 905-640-1714 ALL WELCOME!

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