

Cameron Williams is high school's 'music man'

He's the 'music man' of Stouffville District Secondary School.

Seventeen-year-old Cameron Williams, a tuba player in the SDSS wind symphony, is also a member of 'Spartan Sound', the school's concert choir. Because of capabilities displayed in both instrumental and vocal programs, the Grade 12 student is this year's recipient of a \$500 scholarship.

Rev. Joan Masterton will make the presentation when St. James Presbyterian Church hosts the 24th annual concert on Friday, Nov. 18 at 7:30 p.m. in Stouffville High. Participating schools include Stouffville Christian, St. Mark, St. Brendan, Whitchurch-Highlands, St. Brigid, Glad Park, Wendat Village and SDSS.

The evening's emcee will be retired Sun-Tribune editor Jim Mason.

Proceeds from a \$5 adult admission charge plus generous donations



JIM THOMAS
Roaming Around

from area businesses and service clubs will be divided among those schools taking part to assist their music programs. Over the past 23 years, more than \$108,000 has been raised.

Cameron comes by his musical talents honestly. Steven Williams, his father, plays the guitar and drums. His mother, Catherine, is an accomplished pianist as is his sister Shona, who also

plays the trumpet. An older brother, Callum, favours the trombone and bass.

Cameron credits Geir Viksa, staff music teacher at Glad Park Public School, with introducing him to the tuba in Grade 7.

"I wasn't very at good playing other instruments," Cameron recalls. "Mr. Viksa suggested I give the tuba a try. I picked it up quickly."

In Grade 9, wind symphony director Diane Marlatt recognized something unique about Cameron and continually aided his progress.

"She, (Ms. Marlatt), doesn't settle for anything less than the best," Cameron claims. To this, his instructor enthuses: "Cameron is all about music and loves every aspect of it. We'll be sad to see him graduate".

Choir director Miriam Sellick-Smith is similarly commended. "I've never seen her without a smile,"

Cameron says. "She's high energy." Together, he admits, Marlatt and Sellick-Smith have transformed a conventional musician into a committed artist.

In addition to the wind symphony, Cameron plays in both jazz and Dixie Land bands; in brass quintets and tuba quartets. He'll perform a tuba solo at the Nov. 18 concert.

Following graduation, he hopes to enter a performance program at one of three universities - U of T; Western or Laurier.

When told he would be the recipient of the coveted \$500 scholarship Cameron admitted, "I was shocked".

●Volunteers honoured

The spotlight shone brightly on Markham Fair's Todd Little Saturday night at the President's Ball with more than 400 in attendance, who gave two standing ovations.

However, it was the

same planner and manager who brushed aside commendations in favour of salutations of his own.

"You," he said, alluding to the audience, "represent the largest volunteer-based agricultural organization in the entire country. You are the reason we're celebrating here tonight. I'm proud to be one and gratified to have had the opportunity to take on this role."

In briefly mentioning somewhat unfavourable weather conditions, Little sounded the battle cry: "We'll pick ourselves up; dust ourselves off; ring ourselves out and prepare for next year." His resolute remarks brought cheers from the crowd. Attendance during the fair's four days was announced at 47,000.

The 2017 president-elect is Todd's brother, Darren Little of Stouffville. Bryant Hulshof, the immediate past-president served as master of ceremonies.

There were 34 past-presidents in attendance.

Mitchell King, son of Jan and Heather King, Stouffville, is this year's recipient of the Karen Murphy Scholarship. The announcement by Tyler Murphy, Karen's husband, was enthusiastically received. Mitchell, 22, a graduate of Uxbridge Secondary School, is currently enrolled in a five-year Food and Agricultural Business course at the University of Guelph. Following graduation he plans a career in grain merchandising.

Past-president Dennis Seeley announced the 2016 recipients of long-service awards. Heading the class were Doris Thomas, 45 years and Muriel Hoover, 40 years. Thirty-five year pins were presented to - Victor Anderson; Mark Hendy; Gail Laughlin; Esther Lewis; Blair Purcell; Holly Purcell; Mark Purcell; Rita Purcell and Marie Seebeck.

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