

## Water Ambassadors To Host Training Camp

"Changing lives with clean water."

That's the mantra of Water Ambassadors Canada, a faith based, not-for-profit registered Canadian water charity that brings clean drinking water solutions to villages in developing countries across the globe.

The organization is to hold its fifth annual Water Training Camp on Saturday June 13 at Stouffville's Springvale Church. "Volunteers will get a hands-on taste of the type of work done by Water Ambassadors teams in Central America, South America, the Caribbean, Africa and India," said Water Ambassadors Canada spokesperson Ross Campbell, a Stouffville resident.

Water Ambassadors Canada was founded in 2003 by former Stouffville resident Barry Hart and his wife Heather Alloway. "Since our first team trip in 2003 we have travelled to hundreds of villages and more than 250,000 people now

have clean drinking water," Ross said.

"Clean drinking water revitalizes a village. It releases the women and children from walking up to six km. daily to fetch water from the closest source. Often that water source is not fit for human consumption and it causes serious stomach illnesses, but it is all that is available."

He said improved health and hygiene from clean water greatly reduces illnesses and frequently small businesses will start up in the village because of the benefits of the clean water.

"Our water chlorination systems are frequently installed in orphanages, schools, medical clinics, hospitals and churches. A smaller portable version of this chlorination system has been used very successfully in disaster relief situations, most recently in the Philippines and Haiti."

Volunteers who sign up for the Stouffville camp can

choose to be part of a group that assembles a water chlorination system from scratch, or they can take part in drilling an actual well. There is also an option to be part of a group that teaches health and hygiene to the villagers.

"Everyone who comes to the camp just loves it," Ross said.

The experience of travelling abroad with Water Ambassadors Canada, providing clean water to improve people's lives, is a great way to spend one's vacation time, he said. "We call it travel with a purpose."

The cost of taking part in the June 13 camp is \$125. It includes breakfast, lunch, snacks and a Water Ambassadors Canada t-shirt. Tax receipts are available.

For additional information please visit [www.waterambassadorscanada.org](http://www.waterambassadorscanada.org)



Barry Hart (centre) and his wife Heather Alloway take a break while working on a Water Ambassadors project in Ixil, Guatemala in 2008. Local helper Jaime Torres (left) proudly displays the Guatemalan flag.

## Chamber Hosts Mayor's Dinner



Charlotte Caye of Chic Thrills (third from right) was among many local business owners who hosted tables at the Mayor's Dinner at Sleepy Hollow Golf and Country Club April 9. The Whitchurch-Stouffville Chamber of Commerce event was sold out and Mayor Justin Altmann presented an overview of his vision for the future of the community. Kate Gilderdale photo

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