



NeighbourhoodNetwork
Building Better Communities Together

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK 2009 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Neighbourhood Network, which was established in January 2008, recently completed its second full year of operation. By year's end, the nonprofit community agency had grown to nearly 2,000 volunteer members and 135 partner organizations.

The following are some of the many events, highlights and achievements from the past year:

FIRST ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Neighbourhood Network celebrated its one-year anniversary on January 15th by providing volunteer members with free tickets to a Newmarket Hurricanes' home game. The Neighbourhood Network volunteers were treated to a pre-game reception and received a special anniversary gift.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK SPONSORS CO-OP STUDENT

In January 2009, Neighbourhood Network sponsored a co-op student in the final year of studies at Aurora High School. The co-op placement ended in May.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK BOARDROOM BOOKINGS BY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Beginning in 2009, Neighbourhood Network made the boardroom at its office available to partner organizations for meetings. During the course of the year, seven different organizations booked more than 40 meetings at the Neighbourhood Network office.

NEWMARKET & AURORA HOME SHOWS

For the second year in a row, Neighbourhood Network participated in the *Newmarket Home Show* (April 3-5) and the *Aurora Home Show* (April 16-18).

HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

During the month of April, Neighbourhood Network's Ambassadors and committee members visited high schools in Aurora and Newmarket and made presentations about volunteer opportunities with Neighbourhood Network. The presentations generated hundreds of new volunteers for the organization.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK KICK-OFF EVENT

Neighbourhood Network founder Belinda Stronach kicked off National Volunteer Week (April 19-25) with the announcement of a number of new Neighbourhood Network initiatives. These included the launch of a pilot *Lawn Maintenance Program* to help low-income seniors and disabled residents take care of their properties during the spring, summer and fall; and the administration of two previously existing community programs: the annual *Give Back Awards*, established in 2004 by Belinda Stronach when she was the Member of Parliament for



Newmarket-Aurora, and the annual *Aurora Seniors Centre BBQ*, also established by Belinda during her term as MP.

PICKERING COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM

On April 23rd, during National Volunteer Week, more than 30 Pickering College students descended on the Neighbourhood Network office for a day of canvassing in Newmarket and Aurora. The students distributed more than 10,000 flyers that informed residents about Neighbourhood Network and promoted volunteerism. Neighbourhood Network was also instrumental in assisting the Director of Community Service at Pickering College organize their Annual Service Day on April 23rd.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK HOSTS VOLUNTEER BBQ

To close out National Volunteer Week, Neighbourhood Network invited members to a *Volunteer BBQ* on April 24th at its Yonge Street office in Aurora.

REAL YOU'TH DAY

Neighbourhood Network displayed an information booth at the 2009 Real You'th Day event that took place at the Magna Centre in Newmarket on May 24th.

WORKSHOP ON GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING

Neighbourhood Network hosted a seminar on May 29th in Newmarket aimed at helping local charities and nonprofit organizations secure public and corporate funding for important community projects. The seminar, titled *How to Write a Winning Proposal*, was given by Tracey Bailey, a Vice-President with Ketchum Canada and a fundraising and communications expert specializing in the nonprofit sector.

WORLD'S LONGEST STREET FESTIVAL

For the second year in a row, Neighbourhood Network hosted a booth at the World's Longest Street Festival, which took place in Aurora on June 7th.

INVITING NEW AURORA RESIDENTS TO NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK BBQ

The Aurora Air Cadets delivered door hangers with an invitation to a June 14th barbecue for the residents of a new subdivision at Bayview and Wellington in Aurora. The barbecue was hosted by Neighbourhood Network.

NEWMARKET CHAMBER BBQ OPEN HOUSE

Neighbourhood Network team members attended the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce BBQ Open House on June 24th.

FUNDRAISER FOR AURORA SENIORS CENTRE

Neighbourhood Network sponsored *Belinda's Barbecue* on June 25th in support of The Aurora Seniors Centre. Belinda and other members of the Neighbourhood Network team grilled hamburgers and sausages, with all proceeds going to The Aurora Seniors Centre.

GIVE BACK AWARDS

In June, Neighbourhood Network announced the 2009 recipients of the *Give Back Award* – a \$500 cash prize donated annually to one male and one female student at every high school in Aurora and Newmarket. The award is presented to students in their final year of school who have given



back to their community and who have made a positive contribution to fellow students and citizens.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION BBQ

Neighbourhood Network hosted its 2nd annual Volunteer Recognition BBQ on September 17th at the Magna head office in Aurora. More than 300 Neighbourhood Network volunteer members and representatives of partner organizations enjoyed BBQ food and refreshments as well as musical entertainment provided by *The Coyotes*.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK COMMUNITY FUNDING PROGRAM

At the Volunteer Recognition BBQ, Belinda Stronach announced the 10 local charities and community groups that received a \$5,000 donation as part of the first ever Neighbourhood Network Community Funding program. The recipient organizations were: ABLE Network, Royal Canadian Legion, Big Brothers Big Sisters York, Doane House Hospice, Inn From the Cold, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), The Safehaven Project for Community Living, Women's Centre of York Region, York North Basketball Association and York Region Food Network.

GRAFFITI DAY

On September 25th, Neighbourhood Network volunteers assisted in the clean-up and painting of sites in the Town of Aurora that had been defaced by graffiti.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK SPONSORS 2ND CO-OP STUDENT

In October 2009, Neighbourhood Network sponsored another co-op student in the final year of studies at Aurora High School.

WORKSHOP ON RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS

Neighbourhood Network hosted another successful seminar for its partner organizations on October 2nd at the Aurora Public Library. The seminar was focused on helping local charities and nonprofit organizations recruit board and committee members.

RUN FOR THE CURE FUNDRAISER

Neighbourhood Network entered a team of volunteers in York Region's first ever CIBC Run for the Cure in Richmond Hill on October 4th. Neighbourhood Network Founder Belinda Stronach was Honorary Chair of the event, which raises funds for the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK MOVES TO NEW OFFICE

Neighbourhood Network moved to a new office on 14988 Yonge Street in Aurora on October 30th.

CRIME PREVENTION TRADE SHOW

Neighbourhood Network hosted an information booth at the 2009 Crime Prevention Trade Show with York Regional Police on November 6th and 7th.

2ND ANNUAL SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM

Neighbourhood Network launched its second annual *Snow Removal Program* on November 16th aimed at helping low-income seniors and disabled residents clear snow from their driveways and walkways. The



program matches volunteer snow shovellers from the community with eligible residents in Newmarket & Aurora. In its first year of operation, the Snow Removal Program helped more than 30 residents in Newmarket and Aurora.

2009 NEWMARKET SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Neighbourhood Network partnered with the Newmarket Hurricanes and rode the Newmarket Hyundai-sponsored fire truck in the Newmarket Santa Claus Parade on November 21st. Students from Newmarket High School and Neighbourhood Network volunteers assisted with the event.

NEIGHBOURHOOD NETWORK VOLUNTEERS TAKE PART IN SALVATION ARMY KETTLE DRIVE

Neighbourhood Network launched a major volunteer recruitment effort to help the local Salvation Army with its annual Kettle Drive, the charity's major fundraising campaign that ran from November 28th to December 24th. Neighbourhood Network volunteers contributed nearly 300 volunteer hours at Kettle locations in retail outlets throughout the Town of Aurora.

2009 AURORA SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Neighbourhood Network partnered with the Era Banner and took part in the Aurora Santa Claus Parade on November 28th. Neighbourhood Network volunteers, along with those from the Era Banner, raised more than \$1,700 for the Aurora Food Pantry and collected 800 pounds of food along the parade route.

2ND ANNUAL HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE KICKOFF & OPEN HOUSE

Neighbourhood Network officially opened its new office on December 1st and launched its 2nd annual *Holiday Toy Drive* on behalf of children and families in Newmarket and Aurora.

SNOW REMOVAL PROGRAM TOWN COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS

Neighbourhood Network's Ambassadors and committee members made presentations concerning the *Snow Removal Program* to Aurora Town Council on December 8th and Newmarket Town Council on December 14th.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT

Neighbourhood Network hosted a year-end volunteer appreciation night on December 17th at a Newmarket Hurricanes home game. Neighbourhood Network volunteers were treated to a number of door prizes, including Toronto Maple Leaf tickets, and refreshments were supplied by Tim Hortons. During the second-period intermission, Neighbourhood Network Ambassadors Tim Jones and Tom Taylor took part in a "Toss the Ham Challenge", with the frozen hams later being donated to local food banks.

