

Attendee hopeful To Serve & Savour event will continue

Last Friday night I was privileged to attend To Serve & Savour, an event in partnership with York Regional Police that raised \$500,000 in support of Wounded Warriors.

This was the first in our community and the single largest in Canada for an organization dedicated to supporting veterans, police officers and first responders dealing with PTSD resulting from the stresses of their jobs. A job on the front line, keeping us safe and providing essential service when we need it most.

It was important for 2 reasons:

Magna once again stepped up beyond any reasonable expectation by hosting the event in the Hoedown tent. Their support was foundational to making this event a reality by providing such a special venue, well known as a place the community gathers.

Without their early commitment, To Serve & Savour would never have made it off the ground. This is in addition to their support of Hoedown for the 30th consecutive year, in which they generously underwrite the event so funds raised through tickets and raffle sales goes directly back to community groups here in Aurora, Newmarket and beyond.

That contribution is now over \$12 million. Imagine where our sports and cultural organizations would be without that direct infusion of cash support?

The second reason To Serve & Savour was so important is because it provided an opportunity to demonstrate our gratitude to our police services. For many, interactions with the police are accompanied by fear and anxiety. Whether receiving a traffic ticket, to car accidents and burglaries, to serious issues like domestic abuse, exploitation and murder, rarely is it a good day.

Yet police officers are just like you and me ? they just have a different job. They live in our neighbourhoods, have families and kids, and coach our teams ? so this evening provided a unique opportunity to engage and interact with uniformed officers in a fun, community-based event.

So, I am hopeful we will see this event repeated each year -- and that we all look for an opportunity to extend our gratitude to the members of our first responders and to the management at Magna for their leadership in our community. We will all be better for it. With gratitude,

Bill Hogg
Aurora