

Aurora schools celebrate their athletes of the year



By Brock Weir

Students from across Aurora packed up their football helmets, their soccer cleats and their hockey gear for the summer last month as Summer Vacation arrived but many of these athletes suited up and headed back into the arena last Tuesday.

Well, they headed into the political arena as nearly 40 of Aurora's best and brightest emerging athletes from 15 local schools were honoured in Council Chambers as Sport Aurora's 2016 School Athletes of the Year.

'This recognition, as part of [The Town's] Sports Plan, recognizes the promotion and celebration of sport,' said Laurie Mueller, Managing Director of Sport Aurora, which is driving the development of Aurora's Sports Plan.

Each up-and-coming athlete had the honour of being introduced by a man with a long-established name in the sports community, namely Allan Dean, whose prowess on the soccer field and his work for disabled athletes vaulted him into the Aurora Sports Hall of Fame last year.

'Thank you, on behalf of Sport Aurora, for the opportunity to recognize the outstanding young athletes attending the Aurora school system,' said Mr. Dean. 'Each athlete has been named by their respective schools for their outstanding contribution to their sports programs. This recognition of these student athletes will highlight their achievements in our community.'

'Sport Aurora, through its member stakeholders, provides opportunity in sports and recreation for people of all ages. Participation in sports and recreation by young people engages active minds, promotes fitness and a sense of achievement ? all qualities that will bear them well later in life. Our committee is very excited about this opportunity to recognize these young athletes.'

Aurora's 2016 School Athletes of the Year, in alphabetical order by school, are:

Aurora Grove Public School

Hailey Appleby

Jonathan Avgousti

Igor Popovic

Aurora High School

David Blom

Madeleine Keller

Taylor Kruffeldt

Lauren Strathdee

Devins Drive Public School

Clarissa Duthie

Daniel McKay

Dr. G.W. Williams Secondary School

Erik Faber
Paige Sandwell

Highview Public School
Benjamin Barber
Andrew Langlois

Holy Spirit Catholic Elementary School
Noor Boutanos
Dilan Da Costa
Alexandra Pantorilla
Evan Vierling

Light of Christ Catholic Elementary School
Bryn Curran
Sebastian Trinchini

Our Lady of Grace
Madison Chimenti
Christopher McGee

Regency Acres Public School
Kake Adams
Yasmeen Al-Kas
Sidney Gardiner

Rick Hansen Public School
Andrew Totsis
Karen Trac

St. Andrew's College
James Michaelis

St. Jerome Catholic Elementary School
Maya Antoine
Denise Balogh
Ilia Guselnikov
Matthew Liscio

St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School
Caleb Niro

St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School
Morgan Graham
Matthew Minchella

Wellington Public School
Wolfgang Gross
Sarah Williams