

Community Recognition Awards: Oakridge's Fashions honoured for Season of Giving and beyond



The season of giving might be now be behind us, but it lives on year-round at Oakridge's Fashions.

It's this spirit that helped propel the popular Aurora boutique to the 2023 Good Business Award, a cornerstone of the Town of Aurora's Community Recognition Award.

In a ceremony hosted by Council last year and emceed by Mayor Tom Mrakas, Oakridge's was bestowed the award, one which honours "a business that has shown its commitment to corporate responsibility and community involvement through its ongoing support of charitable causes, events and programs."

"Oakridge's Fashions, led by owner Deb Clark has been involved in many projects helping to support and serve the community," said Mayor Mrakas. "One of her special projects started in 2020 has been the 'Giving Tree' she created, which was staged in her store front as part of the store's holiday décor, which was filled with ornaments. These ornaments were available for purchase with all of the proceeds going back into the community."

"In 2022, the 'Giving Tree' expanded to additional products such as bags, candles and even a children's book written by Deb herself. More than \$10,000 was raised and was divided between the Aurora Food Pantry, Belinda's Place and Marquee Theatrical Productions. In addition to the 'Giving Tree', Oakridge's Fashions has also supported the Canadian Federation of University Women by providing funding for a scholarship award. One of Deb's goals was to support education and women of all ages, which this scholarship does."

Clark and the Oakridge's team were also celebrated for their contributions to Southlake Regional Health Centre, the Canadian Cancer Society and many more worthy organizations.

"Their thriving business sets an example of how a business can be truly successful and give back to the community," Mayor Mrakas concluded.

Accepting the Good Business Award, Clark said it is important for her and the team to "support the community that supports us."

"It's not just about doing the right thing," she added. "To know when you give back to the community we feed the soul of the community and, at the same time, we feed our own soul. None of us is new to difficult times or a time when we need a little bit of a helping hand."

By Brock Weir
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