

Last full week to get in Community nominations

By Brock Weir

If you know someone who has made a difference in their community, whether it is a lengthy track record of good service, or simply being a good neighbour, this is your last full week to get nominations in for Aurora's annual Community Recognition Awards.

Nominations, which are available at www.aurora.ca/aurora/2013_communityawards, close next Thursday, June 6. Nomination forms are also available for pickup at Aurora Town Hall, The Aurora Public Library, or the Aurora Cultural Centre.

Awards include the Bob Harman Memorial Award, the Johnson's Cultural Achievement Award, the Civic Appreciation Award, the Good Neighbour Award, and the Youth Volunteer Achievement Award.

In a shift for this year, winners will be celebrated in a ceremony at the Aurora Seniors' Centre in September, the last time the ceremony will be held in the fall before they are moved to the spring to coincide with other community awards.

Traditionally held in Council Chambers, the ceremony this year will be moved to accommodate renovations to the first floor of Town Hall, slated to begin this summer.

"We're going to be reconstructing the first floor here at Town Hall so we have the event scheduled for September 16 and we're going to be having it over at the Seniors' Centre," said Michael Kemp, Aurora's Manager of Corporate Communications. "It is a little bit different in that respect, but I think what we did last year was we really made it a very classy and welcoming event and residents can expect that this year."

"I am expecting with this format there is going to be a lot of interest in this one, the last in the existing format before we merge them in May 2014 with the Citizen of the Year award. We're really looking forward to a glitzy night where we can give recognition to the people who have done a lot with the community."

Each year, different awards resonate in particular with different people and Mr. Kemp was reluctant to predict which awards will be a hit with this year's nominators. Nevertheless, as Aurora celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, everything will be branded as such and will be incorporated into the ceremony.

"It is a great way to celebrate not only the Community Recognition Awards, but just bring that extra element of notice to the anniversary as well," he said.