

## CHATS recognizes valuable volunteers



**By Angela Gismondi**

Community and Home Assistance to Seniors (CHATS) hosted a thank you lunch for their dedicated volunteers in honour of National Volunteer Week last week.

The volunteer appreciation lunch was held at Mandarin Restaurant in Newmarket.

As a charity, CHATS depends on the dedication and compassion of its volunteers to deliver essential programs and services to more than 7,100 seniors in the community. There are currently 535 active volunteers and 37 new volunteers were welcomed to the organization in 2014.

“Without the involvement of all of you and the support and help you provide to our senior residents, we wouldn't be able to provide the services that we do,” said CHATS CEO Christina Bisanz. “You make sure our clients have a good experience with CHATS. Your time is valuable to us, you are appreciated by us and we thank you.”

“Thank you for coming out today so that we can show you our appreciation for what you do for our clients and families,” said Graham Constantine, chair of the CHATS Board of Directors. “I'm a volunteer just like you and we really appreciate your time and commitment.”

Volunteers were recognized for their years of service to the organization. One year certificate recipients included Bob Tadier, Charlene Miskolczy, Claire Favreau, Julie Kramer, Lynn Gilligan, Minda Santos, Sandra Constancio, Tammy Farbod and Manouchehr Dabirikashkhouli. Bill Church, Byrne Hill and Anne Schwarzenberg were honoured for 15 years of service, Elizabeth Arnold was recognized for 10 years of service and Jacqueline Eisen was honoured for five years of service. Five, 10 and 15 year volunteers were presented with special pins.