

Community gears up to help Fort Mac



By Brock Weir

As fires continue to ravage Alberta and residents of Fort McMurray begin to assess the damage from the fire that destroyed large swaths of their community, several members of our community are stepping up to the plate to lend a helping hand.

On Monday night, members of the York Regional Police Male Chorus gathered at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic Secondary School for a fundraising concert. The presentation, which took place from 7 ? 9 p.m. and featuring the chorus in all their finery, was attended by members of the Canadian Red Cross who took donations for the cause in lieu of ticket sales.

Over at the Aurora branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, chefs whipped up some support through soup sales. Beginning last Tuesday and running through Friday night, the Legion sold several varieties of soup for a minimum donation of \$5. All proceeds are to be donated to the Alberta and Northwest Territories Legion Commands to help any veterans and/or their families that need assistance recovering from the fire.

Council stepped up to the plate as well, approving a motion from Councillor Sandra Humfries to donate \$1,000 from Council's contingency fund to the Canadian Red Cross to assist in the relief. The Federal Government will match any funds donated to the Red Cross.

?There is a precedent for this when the tornado went through Goderich,? said Mayor Geoff Dawe. ?We supported that and it was \$1,000 at that point.?

Added Councillor Michael Thompson: ?I am very supportive of this. I know in 2011, we did something similar for the fire that happened at Slave Lake and I think it is appropriate for us to help out another community.?