

Governor General honours Caring Aurorans

By Brock Weir

Whether you're providing a young mother a hand-up at the start of a new generation, or taking your concerns global, the simple act of caring can take many forms but can often go unrecognized.

Governor General David Johnston, however, was on hand to salute 28 volunteers ? including two Aurora residents ? at Queen's Park on Tuesday afternoon, recognizing them with the Caring Canadian Award.

Aurora's Janet Metcalfe was just one recipient, honoured for her long-standing volunteer work with Rose of Sharon, the Newmarket-based organization which helps young mothers.

?Over the course of two decades, Janet Metcalfe has been an avid and dedicated volunteer caregiver at the Child Development Centre of the Rose of Sharon Services for Young Mothers,? reads Ms. Metcalfe's citation. ?She looks after the children of clients who are attending educational workshops or group sessions at the Rose of Sharon. With a consistent and compassionate approach, she helps with feeding, outdoor activities and interactive play.?

While Ms. Metcalfe dedicates her time to families just beginning to make their way in the world, Aurora resident Melissa Fairey thinks globally.

?Melissa Fairey has made the world a more accepting and inclusive place through her involvement in Campus Ubuntu, a university organization for which she organized events and promoted peace and equality,? reads her citation. ?Melissa has also contributed her time to health initiatives and after-school programs in Chile, Indonesia and Nova Scotia with the United Nations Development Program and Canada World Youth.?

The Caring Canadian Award was created by Romeo LeBlanc, then Governor General of Canada, in 1995 to recognize living Canadians and permanent residents who have made ?a significant, sustained, unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad.? It was intended to highlight people who typically work behind the scenes while embodying the ?Canadian character? through ?compassion and engagement.?