

VAUGHAN CITIZEN

\$1 INCLUDING GST / 28 PAGES

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TO REACH US: 905-264-8703

Alyssa D'Aversa, 12 (left) and Alessia Bianchi, 11, don some of the Swarovski crystal bracelets the duo made to sell at a gala in support of the Princess Margaret Hospital on Feb. 21. The \$20 bracelets will help fund cancer research.



STAFF PHOTO/BILL ROBERTS

Students set shining example

BY STEFANIA LAMACCHIA
Staff Reporter

Hope goes a long way when two young girls use a little ingenuity to make a difference in the world of cancer research.

Alessia Bianchi and Alyssa D'Aversa, Grade 6 students at St. Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Elementary School

in Woodbridge, have decided to make unique Swarovski crystal bracelets to benefit the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation. The duo plan to assemble 100 Hope bracelets, which they will sell for \$20 each at the annual A Night in the Past For a Cure in the Future gala later this month.

"I'm doing this because my mother is a cancer survivor. I want to raise money because I hope one day there will be a cure," Alessia said of her mother Maria Luisa Bianchi.

Now in its third year, the gala initially began with Alessia's parents, Maria Luisa

See HOPE, page 20.

City hall OKs big project

Councillors brush off suggestions of developer influence

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Reporter

In a rare show of union, Vaughan politicians OK'd a plan to amend the city's official plan to make way for a new subdivision near Kleinburg.

The move will allow a piece of land originally designated as rural to be used for housing and commercial purposes.

The land, on the east side of Huntington Road between Nashville Road and Major Mackenzie



JOYCE FRUSTAGLIO: Regional councillor says in Vaughan, developers are viewed as business partners.

Drive, spans 186 hectares, or big enough to build about 3,000 homes in a new neighbourhood billed as Nashville Heights.

While council has

See SAFETY, page 3.

Jury wants more Tasers on street

Provincial review planned

BY JOE FANTAUZZI
Staff Writer

The province appears to have no plans to hand Tasers to more police officers, despite a recommendation to do so by a jury in York Region.

The three-woman, two-man inquest jury examining the 2005 death of Jeffrey George Black, 21, who was fatally shot by York Regional Police in Markham, recommended last Thursday the province fund police training and refresher courses for the devices and that York police provide Tasers to all officers permitted under

the law.

It also recommended the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services amend provincial laws, which currently restrict the use of conducted energy devices such as Tasers to specialized police units such as tactical officers and

See YORK, page 23.

Award worth raving about

BY CAROLINE GRECH
Staff Reporter

The profile of the arts in Vaughan needs to be raised and the city's arts advisory committee hopes a new awards program for local talent will help do just that.

For the first time, the city will officially recognize those who have

made significant contributions to the visual, performing and literary arts in Vaughan.

"We have a lot of talented artists that we don't even know about," said Councillor Sandra Yeung Racco, chairperson of the commit-

See ARTS, page 19.



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In accordance with the *Nursing Homes Act*, public opinion is being requested prior to a final decision being made on the above.

If you have comments or opinions and wish to bring them to the attention of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, you may submit them by **March 9, 2009** to:

Director under the Nursing Homes Act
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Performance Improvement and Compliance Branch
Licensing, Education and Appeals
55 St. Clair Avenue West, 8th Floor, Suite 800
Toronto, Ontario M4V 2T7
Phone: 416-327-7345 Fax: 416-327-7765

Please include the name of the nursing home and quote Project #276-09 on all written submissions.

The Director will consider all submissions before making a final decision.



Hope springs eternal at gala

From page 1.

Bianchi sought to give back to the hospital that had gone to great lengths during the family's difficult time, Ms Bianchi said.

This year's retro theme event is hosted by her husband's disc jockey company, Platinum Music and Entertainment, and is scheduled for Feb. 21.

In its kick off year, the gala raised \$28,000, then followed by a \$50,000 total in 2008.

"It's growing and we're hoping to get a little bit more this year if it all goes well," Ms Bianchi said.

Alessia and Alyssa,

► For more information, go to www.acureinthefuture.com

who make bracelets as a leisurely pastime, proposed the jewelry idea as the gala's keynote gift.

DIVERSITY FIRST

"(Our mothers) know me and my friend like to make bracelets, so we thought it was a good idea. A lot of people have cancer and with the money that we raise we can donate it to Princess Margaret for a cure," Alyssa said.

And the two girls, with a little help from family, are making the bracelets with diversity in mind.

"We put the cross on some so it looks like a rosary, but not everybody at the gala is going to be Catholic, so we'll make 50 with hearts," Alyssa said.

Not many people would take on the task of contributing their spare time to such a worthy cause, especially as a child. But Alessia reiterates that age isn't a factor.

"You're never too young to try to do something for the people in your community. It's a lot of work, but it's fun," she said.

And the girls' mothers

couldn't be more proud of the task their daughters have chosen to tackle.

"A lot of children see cancer in their families, so letting them know that you can do something to help is very important. The money the girls raise is going to research and that research is for their future," Ms D'Aversa said.

Ms Bianchi agrees that the gala and the Hope bracelets are sending a strong message to youths and adults alike.

"Our reason for doing this is not only giving back, but letting people know not to give up hope," she said.

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