

Recognized for anti-smoking stand

Two Brampton residents have received provincial awards for their contributions to tobacco control in Ontario.

The inaugural Heather Crowe Awards were presented to the local winners by Brampton Centre MPP Linda Jeffrey during a recent Brampton City Council meeting.

Laurie Gallant, who was nominated for the award by the Brampton unit of the Canadian Cancer Society, was recognized for his volunteer work with the society. He drives clients to their treatments, and speaks to Grade 7 and 8 students about the danger of smoking. Gallant brings a personal message to the students. A former smoker, he had to have laryngeal surgery and now uses a stoma to speak.

The Region of Peel Tobacco Prevention Team

nominated Ryan Chang. Chang has been a strong tobacco activist since he was a student at William G. Davis Senior Public School when he first attended a youth tobacco conference. He was involved in youth-led, peer-to-peer tobacco awareness activities in Peel Region, and he continued in his activism during his time at Turner Fenton Secondary School.

Each Ontario MPP was given the opportunity to nominate individuals from their community to receive the award.

The award was created by the Ontario Ministry of Health last December, in honour of Crowe, a former waitress and non-smoker who developed lung cancer after being exposed to second-hand smoke in the workplace. Prior to her recent death, Crowe travelled throughout Canada to advocate for improved second-hand smoke bylaws.