



Michael, Marisa, Alana, and Nathan Butt have collected over \$1,000 worth of beer and wine bottles throughout the community to purchase livestock and other essentials for families living in poverty overseas. The family hopes to double their efforts this year.

Auroran photo by Brock Weir

Empty bottles help fill needs for people overseas

By Brock Weir

Beer and liquor stores do a booming business at this time of year, trading with people just wanting to keep the good times flowing over Christmas and New Year's.

If you gave a few of your empties to some local kids going door to door this season, however, your contributions could have helped send them \$66 over their \$1,000 goal for 2012.

Marisa Butt, 10, and her siblings Alana (8) and Michael (6), have been going door to door throughout the eastern side of Aurora, and beyond, collecting bottles and cans to raise money for children living in poverty through Compassion International, a Christian-based aid organization for children.

They set out early in 2012 with a goal to raise \$1,000 to buy livestock, wells, and other gifts for families overseas living in poverty, and by the time of their final collection for the year on Friday, they had raised \$1,066 with over 9,000 items collected.

"My wife Angela and I were looking to train our children into thinking of others and not just themselves," said Roy, the father of the eager trio. "The kids came up with the idea when they realised they could get

money from the bottles and would find them in the park. My daughter Marisa is really good at finding stuff and when she realised some people actually threw out their bottles and cans into the recycling bin, we would go out and collect them."

The family is not new to Compassion, as they continue to sponsor children in Nicaragua, Thailand, Ghana, and Indonesia. As practicing Christians, they were attracted to the group with its Christian philosophy, and also through sponsoring the kids would not only benefit the children in need but provide valuable lessons to their own children.

"We're able to write to the children and speak to them about things and it just became a bit of an extension with our kids," he said. "They wanted to do more on their own. We didn't just want to give them the money, but we wanted to get them to do a bit of the work and make sure they can just take some of that responsibility."

"It's the satisfaction that you have done something yourself. It means more to you and I'm pretty impressed with how well they have done. We have been going out for about every week and they have been amazing in how they have been going

about doing it."

Indeed, the kids have become familiar sights through their neighbourhood near the Sobey's plaza at Bayview and Hollidge, as their Facebook page can attest, and they have built up relationships not just with their neighbours, but the nearby Taylor Park.

"There has been a great response from people," said Roy. "Neighbours are actually saving the bottles now instead of taking a chunk to the Beer Store and throwing the odd ones in the recycling. We actually have people getting their old cases that have just been sitting on the shelf for the longest time or making sure they keep their empties for us. We had a huge surge in money because we have spoken with people."

For the teetotalers in the neighbourhood who had no bottles to donate they were more than happy to put forward cash donations, which were also gratefully accepted. With the success of their 2012 campaign, the family is looking to step it up this year and double their efforts.

"I think \$2,000 is aggressive, but you have to have something to strive for," says Roy. "We will see this year how we can get more awareness, how we can reach more houses, and how we maybe get people who aren't on the

street and are outside of where we are. Maybe we can figure something out where we can go and pick up, or people can email or call us and make an arrangement."

This sounds like another case for family brainstorming!

For more information on the kids' "Kids with Compassion" campaign, visit www.kidswithcompassion.com.

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Briefly

GREY CUP IS COMING TO AURORA

The celebrated CFL trophy will be coming to Aurora on Monday, February 18 as part of Family Day celebrations. The Toronto Argonauts won the 100th Grey Cup this past November over the Calgary Stampeders, and in a nice coincidence, in the year of its 100th award, it will be coming to Aurora for its Sesquicentennial. Organizers of the special event are slated to meet next week to hammer out final details. For full details on how you can take part in the special event, look in the January 15 edition of The Auroran!

ATTENTION GRADE 1 STUDENTS!

Grade 1 students across York Region are eligible to receive a free Canadian children's book as part of the 2012 TD Grade One Book Giveaway Program. Aurora kids and their parents or guardians can pick up their book at the Aurora Public Library. This year's selection is "I've Lost My Cat", written and illustrated by Phillippe Beha. According to the Library, the program, which was started in 2000, delivers over 500,000 children's books annually in conjunction with provincial ministries of education, local school boards, and the Canadian Children's Book Centre, a national non-profit founded in 1976 to encourage the writing, illustrating and publishing of Canadian books for younger readers. Kids can pick up their book at the Library's Children's Desk on the second floor.

"ART AT THE MANOR" RETURNS FOR 2013

The Aurora Historical Society (AHS) is looking for another round of artists to take on the second annual "Art at the Manor" competition. The program was launched at Hillary House last year to mark the 150th anniversary of the national landmark and artists were invited to submit proposals to look around the house and its grounds and find inspiration for their work, which was then exhibited at Hillary House throughout the year. Artists are invited to apply for the program through the AHS no later than Monday, January 21. All media are welcome. This year's focus for Hillary House is Medicine and Health and proposals are encouraged to stick with the theme. For more information on how to apply, contact the AHS at 905-727-8991, email ahs@aurorahs.com, or visit aurorahistoricalicalsociety.ca.



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Is Aurora big enough for two soccer clubs?

By Brock Weir

That will be the issue on many people's minds this year as the Town faces the problem of growing enrollment in youth soccer and an increasing crunch on field time.

The matter could come to a head between the Aurora Youth Soccer Club and Sport Aurora, the local body which encompasses many local and varied sports clubs.

The issue was underscored recently by Roy Cohen of the Aurora Youth Soccer Club (AYSC), who appeared in the open forum session of Council. He said he had gotten wind that Sport Aurora was contemplating bringing forward another soccer club that would be in direct competition with the AYSC's

efforts.

"We currently do not have enough fields to facilitate one club, how can we facilitate another one?" Mr. Cohen asked Councillors. "We maintain that [a] competing club in Town is unnecessary and at this time we respectfully ask Council to look into this very serious issue. We feel this will splinter an already challenged sporting scene in Aurora due to lack of fields, due to lack of space, and there is no need for a renegade soccer club in Aurora."

"In a polite society we should respect tenure, we should respect 49 years of service, and most of all we should respect the close to 5,000 children and volunteers that we currently look after."

Continued on page 11

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