

Mayor's Council applauds youth

By CRAIG MACBRIDE
Staff

Awards are nice, but it's not about the awards.

For the young men and women who took home hardware last Tuesday night at the Mississauga Youth Achievement Awards, it was about becoming further motivated to continue helping those less fortunate.

"It's an energizer. It refreshes my motivation," said Kenny Chan, 22, winner of the Hazel McCallion Youth Leadership Award. "Motivation is self-generated, but it is nice to be recognized."

Chan, a recent graduate of the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM), was recognized primarily for his work on the

Minga Project, a program that reduces the effects of poverty in Guatemala.

The group has raised \$30,000 and Chan was among 28 students to visit the Central American country to help launch education and health initiatives.

The achievement awards are handed out each year by the Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee (MYAC), established by McCallion in 1982 to give a voice to young men and women in Mississauga.

"Youth have a place, in fact, a vital role to play in their city," said

McCallion.

Anita da Costa, 21, founded Women's Initiatives, which helps impoverished women in India. She received a Young Citizen of the Year Award.



Anita da Costa



Kenny Chan



Youth of the Year — Andrew Brown (above) was one of two young people honoured with the Youth Citizen of the Year award by the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council Tuesday evening. Anita da Costa was the other youth citizen of the year, while Kenny Chan received the Hazel McCallion Youth Leadership Award.

Staff photo by Nick Perry

She is also involved with Evaas Phoenix, a housing facility for homeless youth.

Andrew Brown, who received the other Young Citizen of the Year Award, created Culture U at Hamilton's McMaster University. The program gives students a chance to learn about other cultures.

Brown also volunteers at McMaster Children's Hospital and is vice-president of finance of the McMaster African Caribbean Association.

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