



SRO honoured for work with students

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Listening to the accolades bestowed on their son, Const. Mark Earl, made parents Dave and Linda Earl very proud.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) was the recipient of the inaugural 42 Division Community Police Liaison Committee (CPLC) Officer of the Year Award, presented at the Division's annual Family Fun Day on June 9 at Burrows Hall Community Centre and Park in Scarborough.

Earl has been the SRO at Francis Liebermann Catholic School for the past three years. SROs work out of schools across the city to prevent crime and create a positive bond between police and youth.

Insp. Dave Saunders, who attended the event, said Earl is indicative of many of the Service's officers who go above and beyond the call of duty.

"Mark does more than is required," Saunders said. "He invests personal sweat and that's why he fully deserves the recognition."

Earl assists with coaching the school's boys hockey team, provides guitar lessons, accompanies students to summer camps and helps young people in the weight room.

"Mark is fully involved in the life of this school," said principal Brian Hunt.

"He's well-liked and received by students and he can often be found in the cafeteria with our young people. He's intertwined in the fabric of the school and helps to bridge that gap between youths and the police. He's more than a police officer. He's a very caring adult."

Earl, who has spent his entire law enforcement career at 42 Division over the past decade, said he was honoured to be the recipient of the first award.

"It means a lot when the community says they think what you are doing is making a difference and you should be recognized for it," said Earl, whose wife Nicole, children Grayden and Ava, and in-laws Perry and Wilma Armstrong attended the event to support him.

"You don't do these for honours, but I humbly accept this award in the presence of my parents. The award and their presence mean much."

Despite the inclement weather, hundreds of community members from the diverse neighbourhood turned up at the annual community day.

"This is one of the biggest Divisional events and it keeps growing every year," said Saunders, of the community Fun Day.

Unit commander Supt. Kathryn Martin and several Divisional members, including crime prevention officer Const. Gary Gomez who displayed his artistic talents on the steel pan, interacted with the community.

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