

King names its two Pan Am torchbearers

By Mark Pavilons

Two outstanding citizens will represent King Township this June, ushering in the 2015 Pan Am Games.

Peggy Belcher and Alessandra Benazzi are the proud community torchbearers and will join the pack visiting King



g City Public School Thursday, June 25.

"I am very excited that the Township of King has been selected as a celebration community for the Toronto 2015 Pan Am Games Torch Relay. These events foster community pride and spirit," said Mayor Steve Pellegrini.

Belcher was the recipient of the 2014 King Township Citizen of the Year Award, and exemplifies strength and loyalty in her commitment to the community. She is a long-time Nobleton resident and has a long history of service with the Girl Guides of Canada, Stewardship Committee at Cold Creek Conservation Area, King Curling Club and All Saints Anglican Church.

"I was very honoured and thrilled when I was asked to be a torch bearer, although it did take me a while to fully absorb the news," Belcher said.

"I am very excited and it has been hard not to mention a word to anyone. I have always been interested in athletic events, including those at the international level. When the Olympic torch run passed through York prior to the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary, we took our children to the route, to cheer on the torch (and came home with a plastic replica).

"We also watched the run here for the 2010 Vancouver Olympics and have attended some Olympic events, both at the Montreal and Vancouver Olympics. When watching the runs, I never dreamt that I might have that opportunity to carry the torch for an International Athletic event."

Benazzi was the 2014 Youth Award of Merit recipient in King, for demonstrating her leadership and dedication for the community. She is an honour roll student, Lead Mentor and student council liaison at King City Secondary School. She was also a 10-year member of the Nobleton Girl Guides.

She was involved in the Leaders in Training program and volunteer work with young campers within King's Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.