MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

MAYOR FOR THE DAY WINNER TAKES HELM OF COUNCIL
Gabriella Bonanno sworn in, opens June 4th Council Meeting

WHITCHURCH-STOUFFVILLE, ON – The Office of the Mayor is thrilled to announce the winner of the first ever *Mayor for the Day* contest in Whitchurch-Stouffville. Gabriella Bonanno was "sworn in" at last night's council meeting.

Soon-to-be twelve year old, Mayor Bonanno was picked up from St. Mark Catholic Elementary School where she was surrounded by all of her schoolmates as they clapped her out of the school and into the awaiting fire truck. From there, Mayor Iain Lovatt escorted her on several tours of Town Facilities including the Operations Centre, Fire Station 51, the Leisure Centre and Town Hall. Following dinner in the Mayor's office, Ms. Bonanno ended her term as Mayor by opening the 7 p.m. council meeting while sitting in the Mayor's chair.

"One of the reasons why we launched this contest was to increase civic engagement with our youth. The submissions we received certainly demonstrated an impressive understanding of local governance as well as an overwhelming sense of pride in our community," said Mayor Lovatt. "We were blown away by the quality of all of the submissions, Gabriella's really stood out not only because of her ideas and plea for more females in politics but also because of how eloquently she articulated herself."

"Being Mayor for the day was such an amazing experience! It showed me what a true leader does, I loved it so much that maybe one day I will run for Mayor," said Ms. Bonanno following her day as Mayor.

Open to Whitchurch-Stouffville students in grades 5-7, the *Mayor for the Day* contest launched in early May gave students an opportunity to share their ideas of how to make Whitchurch-Stouffville an even better place to live. Applicants were invited to submit either an essay or a 3-minute video, which was adjudicated by a selection committee consisting of the Town's Councillors.

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For more information, please contact:

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Photo cutline:

Pictured above: Mayor Iain Lovatt and Mayor for the Day contest winner, Gabriella Bonanno of St. Mark Catholic Elementary School (Photo Credit: Julie Williams, Pretty in Pictures)