

Chili cook-off. Mayor to compete in charity show that's hot stuff

Sometimes politicians dish up stuff that's hard to swallow, but wait until you see what Mayor Joe Fontana's up to now.

Get this: He's one of three chefs cooking up special chili recipes for a good cause Monday. And the public is invited to try a taste at the YOU Made it Café (332 Richmond St.).

Fontana will join radio broadcaster Andrew Lawton, who competed in Master-Chef Canada, and the café's own chef, Ricardo Cavaco. Between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., they will compete in the YOU Chili Cook Off for the title of chili champion.

"It's a fun event," said Christine Dirks, marketing

and communications director at Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU). "All the proceeds go to the great cause of helping local youth in our community."

People can try the three dishes for a donation of \$10, and indicate their support for their favourite by giving them money. Whoever makes the most for charity will win.

But why chili?

"It's the time of year," said Dirks. "It's nice and warm and heartening."

And asked for a sneak preview of the mayor's secret ingredients, she suggested it just might be "confidence."

MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Dark-coloured SUV. Driver sought in Woodstock hit-and-run

Woodstock police are searching for a dark-coloured SUV with extensive front-end damage following a head-on crash Thursday at Oxford Road 4 and Tower Line Road.

The driver of a 2006 grey Mazda was on Oxford Road 4 and turning westbound onto Tower Line Road at about 6:15 p.m. when the car was hit by an SUV on Tower Line Road.

The SUV was trying to turn northbound on Oxford Road 4, police said. The Mazda has sustained approximately \$6,000 worth of damage.

The driver of the SUV left the scene.

Anyone with information is being asked to call Woodstock Police Service at 519-537-2323 or Crime Stoppers at 519-421-8477.

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From left, organizing committee chair Andrew Kope, finance and computer science student Shenglong Gao and computer science faculty mentor Dr. Mike Bauer at Western University. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Real-world problems get students thinking

Reading Week. Industry comes looking for bright ideas



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It was quiet on campus last week as Western University students marked reading week.

But, while the rest were relaxing — sorry, make that

reading textbooks — a large group gathered at the Western Science Centre to solve some problems.

Organizations came to Western with a series of tasks for students during this year's Industry Problem Solving Week, run by students with help from faculty mentors.

With those companies came real-world problems so the students, drawn from a variety of disciplines, could apply their brains and offer real-world help.

"The students are getting a chance to interact with industry," explained Andrew Kope, a recent Western graduate and chair of the event's organizing committee.

"That's something we don't get to do. We don't get to solve real-world problems. "A lot of the time problems in our coursework are artificial and abstract."

As well as all the hard thinking, there was a chance to network with other students and people from industry, he added.

Problems to solve

Ten problems were presented to teams at the Industry Problem Solving Week, including:

- London Hydro asked about efficient ways of charging electric vehicles and posed a separate problem involving power distribution across grids.



Accepting the award is President John White and his wife Karen White.

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