

# Business Achievement Award

by the

## Aurora Chamber of Commerce in 2009



In 2009 York Dance Academy celebrated 25 years in business. Angela Tucker, founder of York Dance Academy (YDA) won the "2009 Business Achievement Award".



Angela receiving the *Business Achievement Award*. -2009

## Choreographer celebrates 25 years with *York Dance Academy*

Stouffville Sun-Tribune, October 20, 2010.

From her first ballet class at age three, Angela Tucker knew dancing would always be a part of her life.

Little did Ms Tucker know that she would be teaching the next generation of professionals. But for the past 25 years that is exactly what she has been doing through her studio, York Dance Academy.

In celebration of the studio's silver anniversary, Ms Tucker is hosting a dance party at The Carrying Place Golf and Country Club in Kettleby Nov. 6, 2010.

Not only will people get to see the likes of So You Think You Can Dance Canada Season 2 winner Tara-Jean Popowich and fourth-place finisher Vincent Desjardins but also performing will be Stouffville's Motus O. Non-professional dancers with two left feet and little rhythm are also encourage to cut a rug.

"It's just a celebration of dance, all styles," the Ballantrae resident said.

Throughout the years, Ms Tucker has seen a lot of dance styles come and go, some of which have had more staying power than others.

"The one thing is that it is still discipline, whether it's jazz, it's ballet, hip-hop. You still need discipline to execute the dance technique," she said. "(And) you still have to go back to those traditional art forms to excel in your art form."

Ms Tucker became a professional dancer at 21 and performed throughout the province at a variety of corporate events and in a number of shows.

"I knew I loved dancing (but) being on stage wasn't necessarily where I was alive. Being backstage was



YDA dancers performance at BAA -2009

where I was alive," she said. "Stage freight got the best of me."

Ms Tucker left performing in order to have children and then got a job as a dance and fitness instructor at Seneca College in Toronto.

In 1985, Ms Tucker decided to open her own studio in Newmarket. She called it York Dance Academy.

Eight years ago, she opened a second location in Aurora and in 2007, the Stouffville studio opened on Commercial Street.

In May 2011 the Stouffville studio will move to the Beacon Hill Business Park beside the Royal Canadian Legion on Mostar Street.

A multitude of professional dancers have come through York Dance Academy, including the assistant choreographer of So You Think You Can Dance Canada Joey Arrigo.

Other students have gone on to become cruise ship performers and members of American ballet companies. Some students have also decided to stay close to home and become teachers at the school.

Although Ms Tucker is more hands-off now and teaches only workshops and ballroom dancing, she still insists on the same high level of training standards from her instructors she started the studio with.

"One of the things that irks me about this industry is that anyone can put up a shingle and say I'm a dance teacher," she said. "I want to be involved in this as long as I can."