

Gunsolos, Drew

City native is honoured

They love our man Drew Gunsolos; Lindsay names him top citizen

Still
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LINDSAY — Belleville native Drew Gunsolos learned the spirit of giving early in life and his commitment to volunteering has earned him a prestigious award in his adopted home-town.

A partner with the Lindsay law firm, Staples, Swain and Gunsolos, he was recently named the Lindsay and District Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year for his tireless efforts on community projects and dedication to children's causes.

A longtime advocate for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Gunsolos has most recently been using his legal training as lawyer and chairman for the Ross Memorial Hospital capital campaign, an initiative which has raised more than \$1 million over the target of \$6 million for the expansion of the local hospital.

A graduate of Centennial Secondary School, Gunsolos graduated from Queen's University with a B.A. in political science in 1978 and the University of Windsor Law School in 1981. He was called to the bar at Osgoode Hall in Toronto in 1983, the same year he moved to Lindsay with his wife Ann. They have two daughters, Claire, 15, and Etta, 10.

He credits his parents, Belleville residents Ray and Winn Gunsolos, with instilling the virtues of volunteering in him and his sisters at an early age.

"It was expected of us," he said. "My parents were heavily involved with their church as well as the community and my sisters and I just carried on."

And it's carrying on with his daughters as well. Claire has already surpassed the mandatory 40 hours of volunteer work required for high school graduation and Etta, a Grade 5 student is

busy volunteering with the younger grades at school.

He spends much of his spare time championing the cause of children. An active Big Brother for

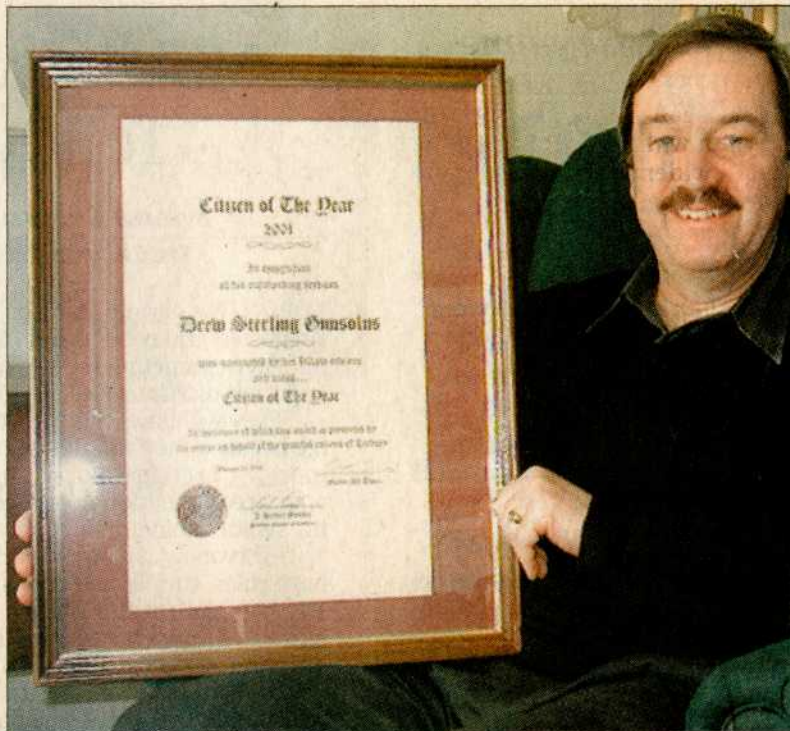


PHOTO BY KRISTI SETTERINGTON, LINDSAY DAILY POST

Belleville native Drew Gunsolos is highly thought of in Lindsay.

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— LINDSAY'S CITIZEN OF
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DREW GUNSOLOS

13 years, he was on the board of directors until 1996 and continues to support the organization with free legal advice.

"It's just a natural for me in my line of work to get involved whenever (organizations) have legal work that needs to be done," he said. "I guess in my profession they call it pro bono."

A modest Gunsolos said his efforts are nothing more than a contribution to a community, to help make it a little better for everyone.

"It would be a pretty sad place if people didn't help out when they can," he said. "Volunteering just adds a little flavour and as far as I'm concerned, if you give to your community — it will give back to you."

Intelligencer - June 11/02 p.2