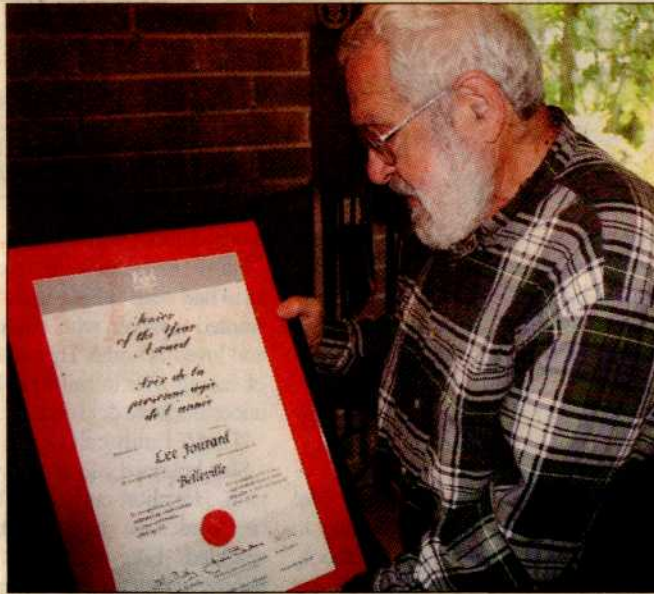


Journal, Lee



■ Lee Jourard looks at the Senior of the Year award he received from the City of Belleville in September.

Former broadcaster was chosen senior of year

BY MATTHEW GRAVELINE

Belleville — Lee Jourard has had two love affairs in what has been a wonderful life. One with the city and the people of Belleville, the other with Eleanor, his wife of 56 years, he said.

A broadcaster for 61 years, Jourard spent 45 of them speaking to the Quinte community. So when he was informed by the city of Belleville that he had been named Senior of the Year award, he asked himself: Why me?

Looking back on his days in broadcasting, Jourard said there was always just one listener in his mind. It didn't matter to him that, in fact, there were thousands; for him it was about making the connection with every community organization in the area.

"We reported the news with what their jobs are," he said. "It was not whether we have to report on service groups, we wanted to be reporting on them."

Jourard, who moved to Cablevue 4 as its first program director after 23 years with CJBQ, said he has never stopped loving people.

"Be interested in people first and then your professional life will follow very smoothly," he said.

As Jourard sat back in his chair in his Belleville home his contentment with life was obvious. Around him were photos, memorabilia and a large wooden head he said is supposed to be a resemblance of Charles Dickens.

Jourard, 78, has been a member of the Bay of Quinte Yacht Club, the Bay of Quinte Power Squadron, the Belleville Theatre Guild since its inception in 1951, and the Sons of Jacob Synagogue, to just name a few.

Jourard said the award given to him was to recognize a senior's deep commitment to the community, but for him it was more of a validation.

"It's a recognition of how I spend my life in Belleville," he said.