

A banker no longer, but always a citizen

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Parker, Dave



Tribute

Dave Parker, for more than a decade both a bank manager and community-active citizen in Belleville, accepts one of the presents given him marking his professional retirement Thursday night. But, he's

staying on the city where he's played leading roles in such crucial projects as United Way and Salvation Army's Red Shield campaigns.

(Staff photo)

By JACK EVANS
Staff Reporter

Belleville may have lost a banker, but not an actively community-minded citizen.

He's Dave Parker, whose retirement from the local financial sector brought out several hundred associates, customers, friends and fellow-workers in community causes to his retirement party at the Ramada Inn in Belleville, Thursday night.

He's departing a long career with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce—the latter 10 years of which were spent managing its downtown Belleville Branch.

But, in that time his personal mark also became his community work.

His service includes two years as chairman of the city's United Way campaign, other years on its board of directors; 10 years on the advisory board of the Salvation Army in Belleville, and treasurer of its Red Shield Campaign; a director of the Quinte Living Centre; president of the city's financial appeals review board, and active memberships in the Belleville Kiwanis and Belleville Sales and Ad Club. Golfing and curling have been pastimes.

Mayor George Zegouras paid tribute to Parker's "great contribution" to the city, adding: "We're fortunate to have the (Parker) family as part of our community."

Parker actually took his bank retirement several weeks ago, earlier than planned but avoided a transfer out of Belleville for himself and his wife, Jean.

"When I first came here, I had always thought of Kingston as the 'big' city in eastern Ontario," said Parker. "But, I discovered that Belleville is it, in broad-based business and industry, activities and

other things. It was not a hard decision to decide to stay here."

Parker has been with the bank for 35 years, following the business footsteps of his father who was 43 years with the bank. Parker's son, Michael, is now with the bank at a Toronto branch.

Parker started at St. John, N.B., and worked extensively in the Maritimes, later moving to head offices in Montreal and Toronto, then other Ontario centres before coming to Belleville.

Among the retirement presentations Thursday night to Parker: A trip to Myrtle Beach, N.C., —and a silver tray—presented by Tom Killoran, a senior vice-president of the bank; golf clubs from former staff members and friends.

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