

PATSIOS, George.

Native Greek plays pivotal role in community

# Belleville's George Patsios

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## honored by his homeland

**By Tom Gavey**

The Intelligencer

George Patsios may call Belleville home but the land of his birth, Greece, hasn't forgotten its native son.

Last month the executive director of Belleville's YMCA was presented with a golden pin and plaque recognizing public service by Achaia province and the capital

city's largest newspaper. The ceremony was held Feb. 26 in the province's capital, Patros.

The recognition came as a shock to Patsios, who to this day doesn't know who nominated him.

"It's very special when you're recognized for community service, especially when you're not expecting it," says Patsios.

The award is presented to 16 people in

Achaia province (population 500,000) for community service each year and sponsored by the state and the newspaper. Only one person from outside the province is honored each year.

"Achaia isn't my home province, by my wife Maria is from there and they've sort of adopted me," Patsios laughs.

He adds the awards, honoring one of the heroes of the rebellion against the Turks in

1821, was originated 26 years ago.

Patsios has headed up YMCAs in Hamilton and Belleville and since moving here has been heavily involved in the Greek community, the Belleville Club, Belleville Rotary Club and other community organizations.

He says there were 560 people at the ceremony in Patros.

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