

LOCAL NEWS

A night of surprises at the Legion

The best kept secrets at the annual Royal Canadian Legion Branch 187 awards ceremony are the names of the Certificate of Merit award winners. It's not simply a matter of choosing someone. The local Honours and Awards committee puts a name forward and then it goes up the Legion hierarchy for sign-off and preparation of the certificate.

It's always a highlight of the evening because only a very few of the Legion organizers actually know who's on tap for the award.

This year, Joe Nelson and Faye Wile were the much-deserved hon-

orees.

A member of the Legion for 41 years, Joe Nelson will also be assuming the role of President of the Branch effective June 1. He has most recently been 1st Vice President and Bar chairman. He also fills in as a volunteer bar steward whenever needed. He is currently Zone F2 Service Officer.

Poppy, Service Officer, Bar and Membership Chair are just a few of the offices Joe has held.

"Whatever office he holds, he puts his whole self into it," Branch President Ira Wile said, noting his quiet behind-the-scenes efforts all the while maintaining his sense of humour.

Particularly sweet was the announcement of Faye Wile.

Unbeknownst to the actual Honours and Awards Chair, she was one of the 2001 honorees.

"As an ambassador of the Legion, Faye sets an excellent example," Patti May, a branch past-president said. Since Faye and husband Ira Wile moved to Colborne in the fall of 1990, Faye



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

Branch 187 Legion President Ira Wile, left, with Certificate of Merit award winner Joe Nelson, center and Howie Bonter, Deputy District Commander.

has been involved and volunteering at the Legion. First she was a telephone reminder and in 1991, approached to become branch Secretary, she assumed the role - if she was taught how to use a computer.

"And an excellent branch secretary she was," Ms. May noted: behind every successful President is an excellent secretary.

Since 1975, Faye has also served as Zone Secretary, a post she will continue in for another term.

National Award for Chronicle

The Colborne Chronicle has been awarded the Royal Canadian Legion Media Award by the Legion's Dominion Command for its "outstanding support" of area Legion activities.

Chronicle Editor Mandy Martin accepted the award at the Colborne Legion's annual honours and awards banquet Saturday night.

"It's a great honour," she said.

"Personally, it means a lot to me to be held in such esteem by people who I regard as my heroes."

Getting the award was a complete surprise for Ms. Martin, who was covering the awards dinner for the paper.

"I don't know whether to be pleased or displeased that the secret was kept so well," she said. "I should know what's going on."

The award's citation points out that the Chronicle delivers a valuable audience to Branch 187 activities, publishing the branch's releases, covering events such as Remembrance Day, and providing free publicity of Legion activities.

"As a result, the public is made aware of the deep involvement of



PHOTO BY PATTI MAY

Colborne Chronicle Editor Mandy Martin accepts Royal Canadian Legion Media Award presented by Branch 187 Sergeant-at-Arms and PR Committee Chair George Chandler.

the Charles Rutherford VC Branch in the community, from charity funding, to sports, youth, and seniors' activities," the citation reads in part.

"Full credit must go to the editor, Mandy Martin, who is tireless in her efforts to keep our community so well informed."

The Legion Media Award is presented to newspapers, radio and television stations that have performed valuable service to Royal Canadian Legion branches, zones, districts or commands in support of their work within the community.

- FRANCIS BAKER



PHOTO BY MANDY MARTIN

Patti May, left, with Certificate of Merit winner Faye Wile, center, and Howie Bonter, Deputy District Commander.