

Olan Ovation

continued from page 2

The tag team of Morris Tait and Jim Williams poked at Keith's attempts to change the dress code at Rotary during his terms as president.

Morris remembered posting a sign on the front of his store on Keith's birthday asking customers to wish him a happy birthday. It didn't take long for Keith to discover the source of their knowledge.

A devoted supporter of the Rotary Harvest Auction, Keith was also a big bidder on sports memorabilia. As a reminder, Morris presented him with a sign for his driveway, "Maple Leafs Lane".

Sincere appreciation

Amongst the jibes and the good-natured exaggeration came moments of sincere appreciation.

Erica Meekes, one of the many student employees who have worked for the Olans, gave her thanks. "The Castleton General Store has provided so much more than just ice cream and coffee for our community. ... Keith is a boss, but more importantly, he is a mentor, bringing new meanings to the lessons we learn at work about owning our own decisions and mistakes, and creating an environment where we can leave work slightly more mature and

responsible than when we entered."

She went on to praise Eileen for her role. "Without her constant love and support the Castleton General Store would not exist as we know it today. Between her endless tasks, Eileen also finds the energy to offer the immeasurable support of a mother to the employees - reminding us that going to work isn't really about going to work. It's about going home."

A granddaughter's perspective

Michelle O'Malley saw many sides of her Nanny when she wrote in her acrostic poem, that Eileen was "Everyone's favourite, intelligent like an owl, every day behind the scenes, and never stops working!"

Audrey Tucker reminded everyone that it was Eileen who ran the store when Keith was involved in his many activities. She joked, suggesting the women in the community enjoyed going into the store when he was away and the store was being run properly.

Irene Clarke went one step further, presenting Eileen with a medal she has earned for all that she has been through, supporting her husband and family, and managing a store for the past 18 years.



The Rotary Room was packed with wellwishers for the Olan Ovation on Saturday.

Keith Olan has his say

It's not often that Keith Olan fails to get the last word, and he did it again at the Olan Ovation Saturday at the Keeler Centre. Members of the community gathered to thank Keith and Eileen Olan for their many contributions. For some of the speakers, it was an opportunity to roast the man who has been the face of the Castleton General Store for 18 years.

When all was said, Keith rose to speak.

He started with George Chandler, a columnist for *The Chronicle*, reminding everyone that George deals in fiction.

The charismatic storyteller went on to tackle Malcolm Tucker, unsuccessfully asking the crowd to help him saying something nice about his longtime friend.



January, 2001: The Castleton Fields Sports Club presents Keith Olan with a certificate of honour, in thanks for all the Castleton General Store contributed to the community.