



Peg McCarthy/Northumberland News

Patrick and Heidi Behan, owners of Grafton's Moore Orchard, won a heaping bushel of awards for their apples at this year's Royal Winter Fair, in Toronto.

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Grafton apples shine at Royal

Moore Orchard earns country-wide acclaim at Royal Winter Fair

By Jason Chamberlain
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NORTHUMBERLAND - Grafton's very own Moore Orchards boasts apples that are among the country's best.

They proved as much this year at the Royal Winter Fair. In the Fair's first such competition in decades, Moore's apples claimed first place in six categories and notched second, third and fourth place finishes in others.

Among the winners were their Red Delicious, Northern Spy and Spartan apples. Each apple was judged on taste, appearance and size in addition to other factors.

Patrick Behan and his wife Heidi own the orchard, and though they answered the Ontario Apple Growers Association's call for submissions to the contest, they barely gave it a second thought.

"I had no expectations at all," said Mr.

Behan.

It wasn't until Ms. Behan's sister went to the Fair and saw the collection of ribbons their apples had earned that they learned of their success.

"Our name is going on a trophy that will be at the Royal Winter Fair," Ms. Behan said. "Nobody can take that away, it'll always be there."

"It's the Stanley Cup of apple growing," added Ms. Behan with a smile.

In any case, recognition at the Royal Winter Fair is nothing to scoff at, and Moore Orchards, already a successful and long-running entity with loyal customers, will garner even more acclaim thanks to their new collection of ribbons.

A Toronto restaurant named Il Fornello bought some of their apples at the show as a result of their success, and after being awarded a number of awards including the Ontario Apple Growers Trophy, their local reputation will also benefit.

"It's bragging rights, that you won something at the Royal. We're headed in the right direction," said Mr. Behan. "It can't hurt to draw people's attention to

what is being grown here."

Despite their recent success, however, they won't raise their expectations high for the next iteration of the Royal.

"I wouldn't expect anything next year. You're only as good as your last crop," explained Mr. Behan. "You can't just sit by and expect things to work out. If you're not selling quality produce, you're not going to last."

Creating a successful crop next year and earning more acclaim at the Royal and elsewhere will take a lot of work.

"Pruning is a big thing. If you don't prune, you end up with a wild tree with a lot of small apples," he explained. "And good picking (is important). You have to be careful handling apples."

"They bruise easier than eggs break, and the only apple you can't sell is a bruised apple."

Whether or not Mother Nature gives Moore Orchards a fighting chance for a bumper crop next year is unknown, but one way or another, the Behans will be defending their crown.

"It's fun to be a part of it," Mr. Behan concluded.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2008

Garrett awarded Star of Courage

COBOURG DAILY STAR
By Pete Fisher
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A slain Cobourg Police officer will be posthumously awarded the second-highest bravery medal in the land.

Originally nominated for the Cross of Valour, Constable Chris Garrett was the only recipient of the Star of Courage, announced by the Governor General's Office on Wednesday.

The criteria for the Cross of Valour demand that it be "awarded for acts of the most conspicuous courage in circumstance."

Constable Garrett, 39, was murdered in the line of duty after responding to an alleged robbery call in the early hours of May 15, 2004.

It came out during the trial of

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18-year-old Troy Davey, the Cobourg man charged with first-degree murder in Const. Garrett's death, that Mr. Davey had an elaborate plan to murder numerous officers and civilians in Cobourg.

After suffering a fatal knife wound to the throat, Const. Garrett ran after his attacker, firing his service weapon. One bullet struck Mr. Davey before Const. Garrett succumbed to his wound.

Mr. Davey was later arrested at Northumberland Hills Hospital in Cobourg where he was being treated for his wound.

"Through his final act of courage, Constable Garrett prevented his assailant from carrying out a plan to harm his fellow police officers and civilians," stated the announcement on the governor general's website.

Initially the Governor General's Office refused to consider Const. Garrett's nomination, referring to a two-year deadline. The nomination was not submitted until the trial finished, more than two years from the valourous act.

Support from thousands of people across Canada who signed a petition prompted the federal government to amend the Canadian Decorations Regulations, allowing Const. Garrett's nomination to stand.



Chris Garrett

Speaking from their home in Odessa, Const. Garrett's parents Gord and Evelyn said they were notified of the honour by secretary to the governor general, Emmanuelle Sajous, yesterday morning.

"She wanted us to be the first to know that Chris would be awarded the Star of Courage," Mrs. Garrett said. "If that's all they can give him, we're happy with that, but it won't bring him back."

Mrs. Garrett said the family wanted to thank all of the people across Canada for the "tremendous support" in honouring their son.

"As many years as it's been, it's still terrible. It will never be over," she said.

"We're very proud of him and he gave his life for something he believed in. We know he's a hero no matter what."

The Governor General's Office said the medal would be presented to the Garretts, but they've decided it will go to Const. Garrett's 18-year-old son, Ben.

"I'm proud he's finally getting recognized for what he deserves," Ben said from his home in Burlington.

"It's fantastic, but I really believe he deserves the Cross of Valour."

The bottom line is "my dad is a hero, medal or no medal," he said.

"I'm glad it's over."

Ben and his grandparents will be attending the ceremony at Rideau Hall in 2009 along with other members of the Garrett family.