

Business award winners announced

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of opening the door. It's like Christmas every day because you open a box of donations and you might get some beautiful items that we end up giving to our silent auction."

LaRose was hired to run the Thrift Store when it moved to the 114 Mill St. East location in 2009 and is the lone full-timer out of six employees there.

She brought to the store a whole new dimension of customer service, design and promotions. LaRose not only manages the numerous volunteers, the donations, stocking shelves, window dressing and so much more.



MARY LAROSE

Nancy has promoted a monthly silent auction, encouraged the store to be part of the Acton BIA through events such as the Holiday Magic on Mill & Main, Acton Winter Carnival and just recently the Swag Bags for the new Acton GO Station commuters.

Often, customers will come in to the store looking for a certain item and if it isn't there, LaRose takes down their phone number and contacts them when she finds it.

"People come in and say, 'I have an odd request.' And I say no, no, no. I've heard it all before. I'm no longer surprised. The funny thing is if we don't have something today, tomorrow it will come in."

Entrepreneur of the Year

"I actually started crying I was so excited," said Andrea Clark, owner of Tanner's Pub and Grill, of her reaction when she learned she was named Entrepreneur of the Year.

"For a small town business, Andrea gets it," said Kathleen Percy of Acton in her nomination letter recommending Clark for the award.

Clark owns Tanner's with her stepfather Rick Matchett. They took over the business in 2007 and changed the format and menu to pub fare.

Percy said she's raised the level of awareness of the business in the community and "taken the outdoor space

and created the nicest patio in Halton Hills."

Percy said Clark sponsors Acton hockey, baseball and Acton BIA events such as Acton Winter Carnival Chili Cook-off and Leathertown Festival, and collected the most money for local fundraiser Paws for Austin.

"Andrea has also brought the business out of the pub. She is always happy to accommodate her client and brings her staff along to serve/cater events such as the Mayor's Masquerade Ball and Acton Winter Carnival.

The business also caters for Acton Senior's Centre and Links2Care.

"Andrea is all about providing the utmost for her customers and it amazes me that she will close her business to ensure someone's special evening is special."

Clark employs 14 people year-round, plus more during the summer.

Andrea has worked in the restaurant location under its previous names since she was 15 years old and can most often be found cooking in the kitchen.

"I was surprised anyone knew me," said Clark.

Green Award

"We are very excited because we work really hard," said Downtown Georgetown BIA Manager Wendy Farrow-Reed of the BIA being named Green Award recipient. "It's a team effort."

The award recognizes environmental preservation through conservation efforts in the areas such as energy, water, waste, green procurement and protection of natural heritage.

"Every time I shopped in downtown Georgetown last spring, summer and fall I was amazed at the colourful, beautiful vision that I enjoyed," said BIA nominator Marilyn Serjeantson. "The Farmers' Market looked especially vibrant and the ambiance was incredible. Flowers and greenery were everywhere."

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ANDREA CLARK

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