

Milton Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet

BY DONNA DANIELLI
CAMPBELLVILLE & AREA

When the Milton Chamber of Commerce held its gala banquet on April 4, 1998, the rural community was well represented, especially in the categories of Citizen of the Year and Business Person of the Year. Along with the festivities and gaiety of the evening was the often heard comment "What a great place to live." When asked why they enjoyed the area so much, all made note of Milton's small town spirit and community awareness.

The evening started with Chamber president Jamie Burton's welcome when he commented on the nominees saying "I feel that we are the winners, having these people in our community." Master of Ceremonies Mark Curtis, 1994 Citizen of the Year, echoed this sentiment with "Everyone nominated tonight is a winner." Mr. Curtis kept the ceremonies light-hearted, taking teasing shots at local

politicians Ted Chudleigh, Julian Reed and Mayor Krantz, but he wasn't above poking a little bit of fun at himself. The former priest had his tongue firmly in his cheek when he said Milton was renaming one of its streets to Curtis Crescent, "once a one-way street but now a two-way street with a dead end."

A Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Mike Ledwith. Mr. Ledwith opened Ledwith's Grocery Store in 1946 at the corner of Main and Market Streets. The then twenty year old, fresh out of the Royal Canadian Navy and with a family history in the grocery business, expanded that tiny store, now known as Quality Greens, until 1970. He donated generously of his time to the community that welcomed him. He served, at different times over the past fifty years, as chair of the hospital board as well as parking authority and school boards.

A Citizen of the Year winner in 1964, Mr. Ledwith has driven cancer patients to Princess Margaret Hospital, served as president of the Chamber of Commerce, president of the Rotary Club and Mayor of Milton. A well deserved standing ovation accompanied the acceptance of his award.

Business person of the Year nominees were rural residents Betty Bassett & Roy Metcalfe, Antero Gomes and Burlington resident Ren Siblock. Mr. Gomes, the owner and operator of Milton Graphics was surprised by his nomination. "When you start a business, you focus on producing a quality product, but recognition from the customers is always great. I guess I must be doing something right." Fellow nominees Betty Bassett and Roy Metcalfe also expressed their surprise and pleasure at the nomination and at the award they carried away with them at evening's end. The owners

of Wyget Woods Art Gallery & Conservation Framing have been actively involved in bringing the arts to the area. Since moving here in 1982, they have been actively involved with the Nassagaweya Art Show, Arts Milton and the Fine Arts Society of Milton as well as Ebenezer Church and the Chamber of Commerce. Their concern for the environment and the effect it has on artwork is evidenced in the conservation framing they do. Mr. Metcalfe was trained as a chemist and in studying the effect of chemistry of paintings in the paints and papers, he performs the painstaking task of creating a framework that is totally reversible and protects the artwork. The third nominee, Ren Siblock, former manager of the Milton CIBC, (which was honored by a Business of the Year award) is known for the fundraising he has done for the United Way, Milton District Hospital, the Salvation Army and the Breast Cancer Foundation.

Milton residents Bob and Judy Wallace joined their rural counterparts Brad Clements and Martha Gleeson as nominees for Citizen of the Year. The Wallaces, married 27 years, have given much of their time to the United Way, serving as co-chairs of the fundraising campaign for the last two years. Nominee Brad Clements has been actively involved in the Chamber of Commerce, Milton Historical Society, has served as both town and regional councillor as well being Co-chair of Milton Community Information Services, an agency which has just amal-

gated with Milton Children and Youth Centre to become Milton Community Resource Centre. He serves as both board member and spokesperson, Rounding out the nominations was award recipient Martha Gleeson, the founder of the Monarch Basketball League, Mrs Gleeson, who is also known for her work with the CWL, the Holy Rosary Parish Council and the Marian project, a planned senior's Citizen condominium complex in Milton, spent most of her acceptance speech redirecting the credit of her award to all the people she's worked with over the years. She later commented on this saying, "I feel that everyone has talents to share. Mine is of leadership but you have to have good people to lead, everyone shared this award." Mrs Gleeson was overwhelmed by the award and added "We had so much fun and yet were able to do so much."

Each award nominee was given a plaque from the Chamber commemorating their nomination and award recipients received plaques from the Chamber, the Town of Milton, the Region of Halton, the province of Ontario and the Government of Canada. The evening's festivities continued well into the night with dancing to Bill and Diana's D.J. Service. If you want to see the area's movers and shakers bogeying down to the Village People's YMCA, then I'm sure we'll see you at next year's awards Ceremony.

The North Halton Compass sends congratulations to all award nominees and recipients.



PHOTO BY CINDY LUNAU

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOMINEES & AWARD WINNER
L to R - Joanne and Brad Clements, Roy Metcalfe and Betty Bassett, Antero and Paula Gomes, and Pat and "Citizen of the Year" Martha Gleeson.

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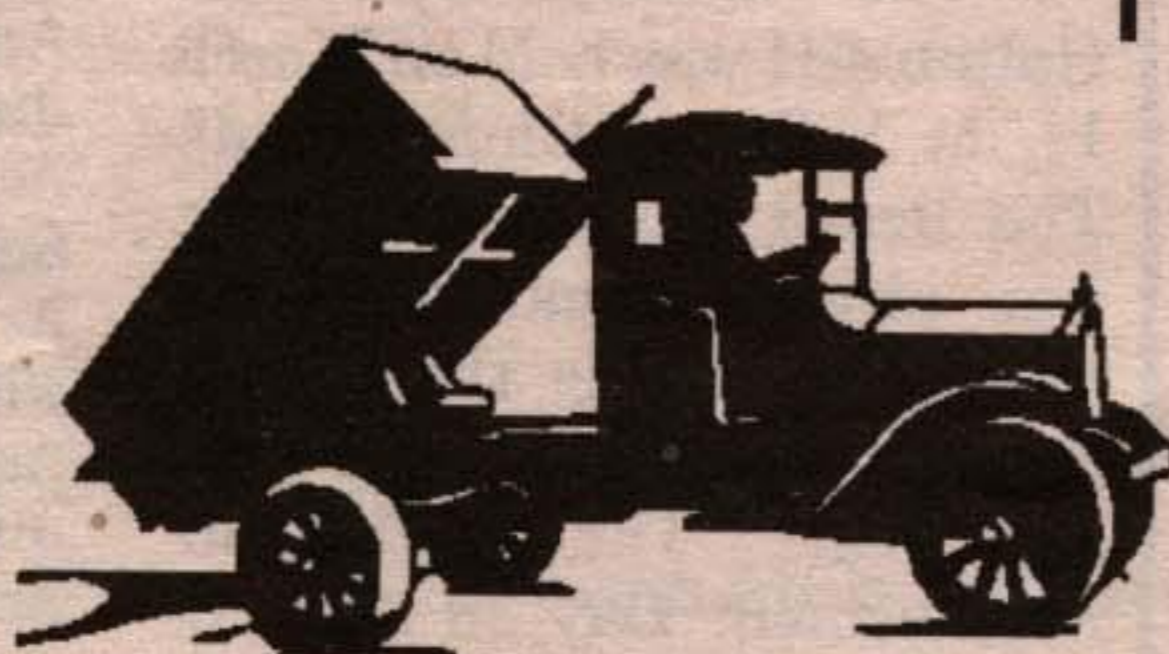
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Joe Henderson remembers school days



There's not many people in Nassagaweya, (or should I say Nasagaweya, the original spelling used by the local Historical Society) that remember S.S. Number Eight School, but Joe Henderson can. In fact, the 89 year old Henderson can recall both schools that stood on a lot severed from his great-grandfather Jeremiah Smith's farm, on Lot 21, Con. 6.

The original frame structure was built in 1865 on the 5th Line by builder Stephen Coxe for \$200. The first teacher was Robert Barber, the first school inspector for the area was Joseph Lowrey, who was educated in Ireland before coming to Canada.

Joe himself started at the school in 1915 and outlined for over 50 people at Ebenezer Church on April 14 what it was like to attend a one room schoolhouse during the First World War. He told many interesting stories concerning the teachers that came and went, usually in quick succession at Number Eight. One thing they all seemed to have in common however, was the ability to keep the rambunctious farm boys and girls from the area concentrating on

their school work. Joe recalled a teacher that asked for a \$50 raise for the next year. The Trustees hemmed and hawed and finally said he could have it. To which the teacher responded that he was leaving as "if I wasn't worth it a week ago, I'm not worth it now."

When the new brick schoolhouse was completed in 1923, Joe remembered the concert to open the building. His father and Thomas Storey played their fiddles. He explained how the school was a focal point for the community and served many purposes such as a dance hall and a Sunday School.



NUMBER EIGHT SCHOOL, NASSAGAWEYA. CIRCA 1920

STORY BY REID KENNEDY

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARION DIAMOND