



ONTARIO TRIBUTE: MPP Ted Chudleigh, right brought greetings from the Province which he presents to Agricultural Society President Dale Hewitt.



GRIP AND GRIN: Mayor Rick Bonnette, right, presents a plaque of recognition to President Hewitt.



CHAMBER APPROVAL: President Dale Hewitt accepts a plaque from Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce President Wendy Hue.



REGION RECOGNITION: Regional Councillor Clark Somerville, right, brought greetings from Halton Region for the 2006 Citizen of the Year dinner, accepted by President Hewitt.

Acton Rotary Club salutes Acton's 2006 Citizen's of the Year

"Beardmore Tannery, gone; Storey Glove Factory, gone; Acton railway station, gone; Dominion Hotel, gone; but the Acton Fall Fair continues" which is how speaker Jack Carpenter drove his point home that the fair has continued every year since 1913 while many of the town's landmarks and businesses have not been able to withstand the test of time.

It was fitting tribute to the volunteers of the Acton Agricultural Society, voted Citizen of the Year 2006, who were feted at a banquet last Friday night at Blue Springs golf course.

MP Michael Chong, who presented a plaque on behalf of the Government of Canada, noted that while "Acton was the largest community in Halton County at the turn of the century" it now personifies small town Ontario. He drew chuckles from the capacity crowd when he related the story of telling his fellow Members of Parliament about attending the truck and tractor pull at the Acton Fall Fair - they had no idea what he was talking about!



Jack Carpenter

New Tanner editor Hartley Coles presented a scrapbook of fair history while noting that Acton is "like a Norman Rockwell town" where all kinds of people get involved in their community as evidenced by the Agricultural Society, which "keeps getting better and stronger."

"Service above Self" is the motto of Rotary, a statement that could also be applied to the Acton Agricultural Society said Acton Rotary Club President Bill Sanford as he presented a plaque to the Society.

AAS president Dale Hewitt also accepted awards, plaques and accolades from Mayor Rick Bonnette, Chamber of

Commerce President Wendy Hue, Independent/Free Press editor John McGhie, and MPP Ted Chudleigh.

When Regional Councillor Clark Somerville presented the plaque from the Region of Halton, he commented that his own family history goes way back: his grandmother won a kicking contest at the fair in the 20's, his father was President in 1942, and his niece is the current Miss Acton Fall Fair! Clark also paid tribute to the many "unsung heroes," the volunteers who don't hold office in the AAS but work diligently all year so that "the average fair visitor has no idea all that has gone on to make the fair happen" it just runs smoothly every year.

President Dale Hewitt thanked all presenters for the awards and kind words and referred to the fair as "Acton's annual homecoming as people travel from far and wide to come home on fair weekend." He too paid tribute to the volunteers, many of whom take a week's vacation every year to help put up the fair, and "who may never have the spotlight on



ANOTHER NAME: Acton Rotary Club President Bill Sanford, right, presents Ag. Society President Dale Hewitt with the official Citizen of the Year plaque and a keeper.

their work but are a very vital part of the organization".

Hewitt also paid tribute to the Town of Halton Hills for their "good housekeeping seal of approval" in approving the principal financing for the new building in Prospect Park and extended his "sincere thanks to those who have worked so hard and kept the dream of the new building alive - you know who you are."

The evening could be summed up by the words of

Jack Carpenter, "you have an enviable and colourful history and you should be proud."

— Photos by Hartley Coles and George Henderson —

PRAISE FROM MP: Wellington-Halton Hills MP Michael Chong told those at the Citizen of the Year dinner that Acton and the Acton Agricultural Society personifies small town Ontario.



FORMER CITIZENS OF YEARS: Fair President Dale Hewitt, left, introduces former Citizens of Year George Henderson (1996), Ed McGilloway from Acton Volunteer Firefighters (1978), Jack Carpenter (1995), Janis Fread (2001), Dave Manes (1999) and Jon Hurst (1992) at last Friday's 2006 Citizen of the Year dinner honouring the Acton Agricultural Society.



STANDING OVATION: Members of the Acton Agricultural Society were given a standing ovation at the Citizen of the Year dinner at the Blue Springs golf course Friday evening.