

'Mrs. Musicmaker'

Praised in words, song

Judy Hunter, dubbed "Mrs. Musicmaker" among other accolades Saturday night at the Chamber of Commerce's Citizen of the Year banquet, received verbal and musical tributes during the evening of presentations.

The singing tributes came from Milton Choristers (formerly Chan-sonettes) Judy has directed for about 13 years, and from friend Ron Break. Instrumental praise came from the Milton District High School band "Scarlet Fever", many of whose members were taught their first musical instrument by the guest of honor.

In addition, a dozen speakers presented gifts and plaques and extolled the virtues of the woman who has shared her musical talents with so many in her 15 years in Milton.

Mrs. Hunter, wife of Dr. Ivan Hunter of Victoria St. and mother of four young musicians, has contributed greatly in raising the standards of musical appreciation in the community, and Milton didn't let her forget it Saturday night. "This has been one of the happiest times of my life," the honored guest said at the end.

Chamber president William Mercer chaired the evening, at the Opti-

mist Centre. He introduced the special guests, also Judy's parents Alma and Glen Wicks and sisters Pam, Eva and Becky — all of whom share her love of music.

Scarlet Fever, with John Herberman directing, entertained during dinner. Among the soloists was Judy's son Glen, who gave a trombone solo.

MP Otto Jelinek presented a federal government plaque and MPP Julian Reed brought one from the provincial government. Mr. Reed also led a chorus of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" in her honor. Civic plaques were

presented by Councillor Dave Whiting of Halton Region and Councillor Rose Harrison of Milton Council.

The Chamber's citation was presented by citizen committee chairman Herb Crowther, who also introduced former citizens Dave Brush, Stan Allen, Jim Dills and members of Milton District Hospital Auxiliary who were present.

He said Judy has given fully of herself, her time and her many talents to share her love of music with others.

Joyce Hayward represented Milton Music Teachers' Association and called her "a source of inspiration" to many.

High school staff were represented by Principal Peter Gnish, who said her involvement in music "exemplifies the scope of her influence on the community and the school." Son Glenn presented flowers, on behalf of the staff.

Andrew Innes read a poem of appreciation, for the Victoria St. Band. Rev. Ed Custer read a letter from St. Paul's minister Rev. Jack Birch, who was unable to attend, expressing the congregation's joy in this acknowledgement of her talents.

Michael Phillips spoke on behalf of the St. Paul's church orchestra which she conducts.

Friend, neighbor and parent of kids in the Victoria St. Band, Bruce Clark suggested "everything you touch grows and expands, and turns out great."

On behalf of Milton Choristers, Barb Twitchell and Lillian Thomas presented a gift. Mrs. Twitchell said the choir has developed a person-



A song from Julian. Halton MPP Julian Reed leads the crowd in a rousing rendition of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" while Judy Hunter, daughter Elizabeth and her husband Dr. Ivan Hunter look on.

ality all its own. She praised Judy's talent for bringing together youth and adult groups, both of whom gain something from their association with each other — citing the high school band and choir and the Choristers, who will be involved in a show called "Second Generation" March 13 to 15.

Ron Break sang three numbers, accompanied by Chris Birch.

The Choristers wrapped up the evening with several numbers, closing with "For She's a Jolly Good Fellow". At their insistence, and despite their surprise appearance, Mrs. Hunter directed the choir.

"I feel I am one of the luckiest people in the world," Judy said in expressing her appreciation to all. She praised the many willing helpers who really deserve the

credit, and thanked all the musicians for helping give a pride in their community. She also thanked her co-workers at the school, the music teachers' group, the choir and church workers "who do all the work while I just stand up at the front, wave my arms and have a lot of fun."

Music, she said, is "an expression of life — it is love. If we can share that expression, bring more of the human element into life, it means more to all of us."

She expressed the hope Milton will soon have an arts council to help raise the quality of life in Milton.



Judy Hunter, at work. The guest of honor was called up to lead the Milton Choristers in several numbers, during the dinner honoring Judy Hunter as Milton's 1980 Citizen of the Year.



Main award. Chamber Citizen of the Year committee chairman Herb Crowther presents Judy Hunter with the Chamber's plaque.

Story and photos by Roy Downs

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