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On April 5, 1997, the Chamber hosted its annual Community Awards Gala. I was amazed and delighted at the number of people who turned out to celebrate with us, excellence in our community. I would like to thank everyone who shared the evening with us in support of this event. This event continues to grow larger and larger each and every year.

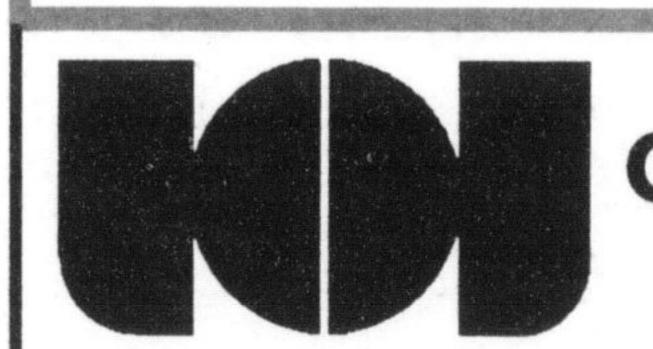
This Community Awards Gala is designed to recognize Milton's finest citizens, business persons, businesses and civic organizations. A review of the list of this years nominees, as well as those of previous years is truly an inspiring exercise. Thinking about how much these individuals, organizations and businesses do in and for our community, it's not hard to see why Milton is such a great place in which to live and work.

The focus of the Awards Gala is the recognition and celebration of the accomplishments of each of the nominees in the five award categories. Just as the turnout for the Awards night was overwhelming, so to was the community's response to our call for nominations. Many quality nominations were received in each award category. The process of determining the nominees that were recognized at the Gala was both difficult and time consuming. Each nomination was reviewed by a nomination committee. Based on the endorsement of the nominators and the information contained within the nomination letters, the committee reduced the nominations down to those who were recognized at the Gala. Each of the nominees is very deserving of the recognition they received. I would like to thank the nominees for their inspiring examples of social commitment, community leadership and entrepreneurial flair.

Every once in a while, a nomination is received by the Chamber that reflects a lifetime of commitment to the community. This year, after reviewing a nomination for Mr. Ed Parsons, the committee was so moved, that they decided to initiate a new award, the Lifetime Achievement Award, in order to recognize his life long commitment to Milton's social and community activities. While this award may not be presented each year, was proud and honoured to present this inaugural award to such an outstanding individual.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers that have committed so much time and energy into ensuring this success. I would also like to thank the many prize donors and the sponsors for their generous support of the Gala. Last but not least, I would like to thank Father Mark Curtis for, once again, entertaining us and agreeing to act as our master of ceremonies. Father Mark put a lot of work into the Gala and we truly appreciate his dedication to the success of this event.

For those of you who were able to join us for the Gala, I hope to see you out again next year. For those of you who missed this exciting evening, we are planning an even bigger, better event for next year. You won't want to miss it.



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Milton Chamber P.O. Box 52, Milton L9 e-mail chamber@ir A Monthly Newsletter of the Milt Mission Statement: To provide leadership influencing and only influencing and enha

> Membership driv

During the months of March and April we began an extensive membership drive for the Chamber. Kim Slessor was hired to coordinate this initiative.

Over the two months a letter and brochure have been sent to three-quarters of the 1450 Milton businesses inviting them to join the Chamber of Commerce.

Membership in the Milton Chamber of Commerce is an investment in the future of our community and its economic growth. As a Chamber member, you will also have the opportunity to help carry out the Chamber's program of work and to give your business a great deal of positive exposure through networking, sponsorship and marketing opportunities.

The process included a personal letter to the business

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