



Photo by STEVE LeBLANC

Martha Gleeson celebrates with husband Pat after being named 1997 Citizen of the Year Saturday at the Chamber of Commerce's Community Awards Gala.

Gleeson chosen top citizen

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to The Champion

Martha Gleeson has scored countless victories for Milton's youth and elderly over the years. Saturday night the entire community gave one back. The highly decorated basketball coach netted top prize at the Chamber of Commerce's annual awards gala, where she was named the 1997 Citizen of the Year.

Also nominated were Brad Clements and Judy and Bob Wallace.

In true team-player fashion, the Campbellville mother of four was quick to redirect some of the spotlight, adding "this award is much more than Martha Gleeson."

A sizable chunk of the town's population was thanked during her acceptance speech — everyone from fellow Cancer Society canvassers and teachers at Our Lady of Victory to immediate members of team Gleeson.

She described her husband Pat — the other driving force behind Monarch Basketball — as the advisor, consultant and visionary of the family, which was unfortunately missing one member this year.

"My mother recently passed away. I wish I could

share this award with her," said Ms Gleeson afterwards. "My parents helped me develop a strong work ethic and taught me that there is some good in everyone."

Fundraising for the Cancer Society, singing with Our Lady of Victory Church's choir and working towards establishing a senior's complex are among Ms Gleeson's many selfless acts.

She said she was completely taken aback by the honour and that her hands were shaking during the entire presentation.

Misty eyes only turned to full-fledged tears afterwards when dozen of well-wishers began circling her table.

These same supporters were likely among those who voted her in since, for the first time in the Community Awards' history, the public chose their top citizen.

Said Ms Gleeson, "I think in some ways it means even more that the community got to vote this year."

Topping a class with Antero Gomes and Ren Siblock, Betty Bassett and Roy Metcalfe were chosen as the Business People of the Year.

Their commitment to supporting local artists — as

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Hipgrave moves on

Milton's chief administrative officer is moving on.

David Hipgrave will become executive director with the Society of Management Accountants of Ontario — the governing body for all 13,000 management accountants across the province.

He tendered his resignation yesterday morning and will officially end a five-and-a-half year stint as CAO May 1.

"They (the accounting group) sought me out through a professional recruiter. It's a great opportunity, one that's too good to pass up," said Mr. Hipgrave, who's certified as both a management accountant and professional engineer.

"I feel I've built a lot of strong relationships over the years and will remember town council and staff fondly."

Mr. Hipgrave is particularly proud of his

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