

Milton • Means **Business**

Community support key quality in Business Man of Year nominations

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

It's not all about business for the Business Man of the Year award nominees. Community support has proven just as important.

Nominee Bob Wilson of Bob's Auto Shop has shown his support for the Milton community regularly during the shop's 24 years in operation. He makes consistent donations to local charities and sponsors local sports teams.

When asked what he thought of his nomination, Mr. Wilson said he was "terrified" by the thought of receiving the award and having to make a speech. "I've never been able to do that (public speaking)," he laughed.

Founder of the Gorrud Auto Group, Jim



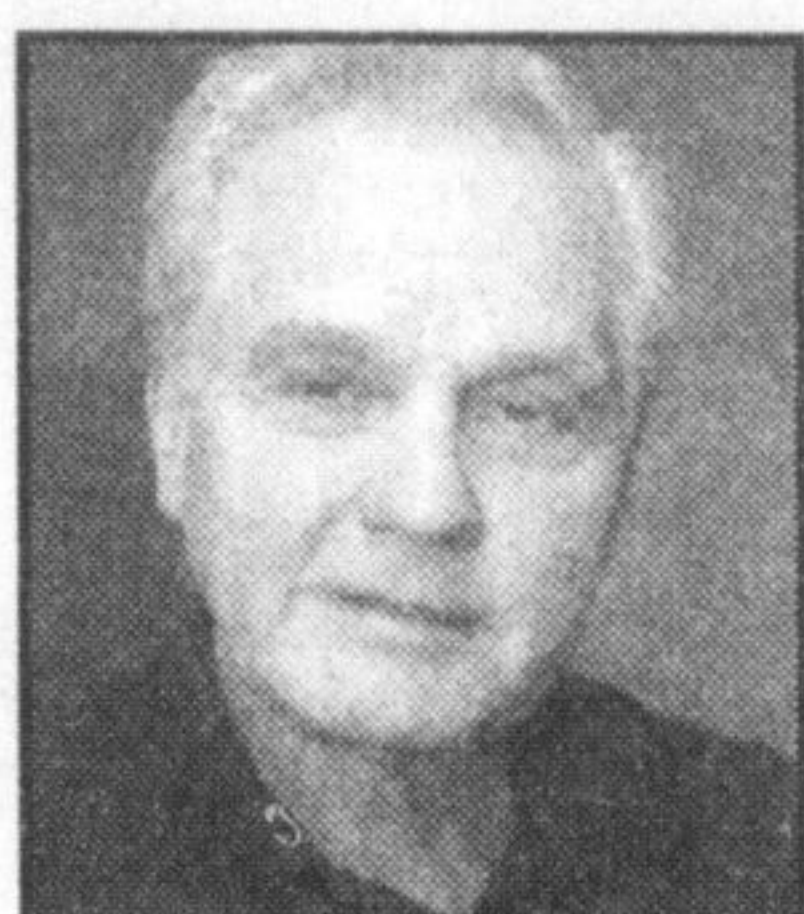
Bob Wilson

Gorman also found himself on the nomination list.

Gorrud Ltd., which started in Elmira in 1961, came with the Gorman family when they moved to Milton in 1971.

"It all started from a hobby, a passion really for automotive," he explained. "I've always tried to keep a low profile. I never expected something like this (nomination)."

In addition to his business operation, Mr. Gorman has also actively participated in the betterment of the community. He has organized charity fundraising efforts for



Jim Gorman

Milton District Hospital, the Terry Fox Foundation, the Big Sisters Association and Holy Rosary Church.

According to his nomination form, the third nominee,

David deSylva of H.D. Investments — who couldn't be contacted as of press time — was the lead partner involved in the establishment the Drury Park housing development currently under construction.

Through that development, Mr. deSylva arranged for the donation of 14 acres of parkland to the Town as well as financial contributions to several local charities.

Business of Year nominees really caught off guard

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

Five local businesses have risen to the top this year, receiving nominations for the Milton Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year awards.

Nominations are split between two categories; 25 employees or less and more than 25 employees.

25 employees or less

Candidates in the 25 employees or less category include La Rose Italian Bakery, Two-Stage Innovation and McKersie-Kocher Funeral Home — spokespersons for all of which said the nomination caught them off guard.

"I was surprised to have our company nominated. We're an industrial automation and robotics company and the other nominees are more known publicly than we are," offered Terry Sharp, president of Two-Stage Innovations.

Two-Stage is a relative newcomer to Milton, starting up in 1998 with eight employees.

Since then, demand for products has led to an increased staff of 17.

The company was also recently ranked 22nd on the list of 'Canada's Hottest Start-ups' by PROFIT magazine.

La Rose co-owner Maggie Lizzi told The Champion she heard of the nomination after returning from a holiday — a pleasant homecoming, she said.

"It was a complete shock."

The bakery has been a long-time staple of the White Oaks Plaza on Bronte Street. Ms Lizzi and her husband, Cosimo, purchased the bakery in 1982 and have expanded twice within the plaza.

The McKersie-Kocher Funeral Home is also a long-time operator in town — having been founded by Lachie McKersie in 1953.

When Doug and Judy Kocher purchased the business in 1977, they decided to keep the established McKersie name and add their own.

"It's a family-owned, family-operated business and we've put a lot of our time into the business. It's nice to see that recognized," commented son Andrew Kocher.

More than 25 employees

The two companies nominated in the 25 or more employees category include a local manufacturer and one of Milton's busiest residential developers.

Roxul Inc. has been manufacturing insulation in town since 1988 and has grown to include 143 employees.

"This is an exciting time of growth for Milton and Roxul • see **BUSINESS** on page 18

Charity work front and centre for Business Woman of Year nominees

By **RICHARD VIVIAN**
The Champion

The 2001 Business Woman of the Year nominees not only impacted the business sector, but have taken a broader role in the betterment of the community.

In addition to her sales representative duties with Royal LePage for the past 17 years, nominee Joyce Hagevik has been involved with fundraising for the Milton Leisure Centre and Rose Cherry's Home.

She was also involved in the organization of the Festival of Countries in the '70s and still actively participates in the annual Milton Santa Claus Parade.

"I couldn't believe it," Ms Hagevik modestly said of her nomination. "I do these things because I like them."

Fellow nominee Barbara Starr moved to



Joyce Hagevik



Marilyn Goodale



Barbara Starr

owner of Vincent's Art and Antiques in Campbellville. "I'm excited — I think it's (nomination) wonderful," she said. "It makes it feel like it's all been worth it."

town in 1995 and immediately became involved with the local United Way — of which she's currently the president.

"I just like helping people," she said of her nomination.

In her business life, Ms Starr is an attorney and no stranger to providing charities and community groups with legal advice.

The third nominee is Marilyn Goodale,

When not at her shop, Ms Goodale is working to better the community through her involvement in the Campbellville Area Business Association.

The group — which folded several years ago, but was re-initiated by Ms Goodale — not only promotes local businesses, but has also successfully lobbied the Town for flower beds, Christmas decorations, and garbage cans in Campbellville.

Community Awards Gala next month

Award recipients will be announced at the Community Awards Gala — hosted by the Milton Chamber of Commerce — April 6.

The black tie event will be held at Granite Ridge Golf Club (9503 Dublin Line) starting with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards.

All nominees will be honoured. Tickets cost \$65 each and are available by contacting Peg at the Milton Chamber of Commerce office, (905) 878-0581.



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