

Joyce, Ward to get President's Award

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President's Award

Don Joyce is one of this year's President's Award recipients. Mr. Joyce volunteers with the Golfing For Cancer committee and contributes to the fund-raiser's auctions, as well as auctions put on by the Scott Early Foundation. He also runs the putting contest each year for the Foundation.

He's a supporter of Rose Cherry's Home for Kids and participates with various United Way of Milton functions. He also helps with the Steve Condren Golf Tour, which raises money to find homes for retired race-horses so they won't be put to sleep.

Mr. Joyce said he's excited about the award, to say the least.

"I like to do some good for others," he said simply.

Rita Ward is also a recipient of the President's Award. Ms Ward's community involvements are numerous and include serving 16 years on the Milton District Hospital Auxiliary. She's the current president and has filled a number of roles throughout the years.

"The hospital is extremely important to me," Ms Ward said, adding, "It's nice to be able to give back a little bit to the community. Whether it's cleaning floors or sitting at a board table, it doesn't matter."

Ms Ward is a member of the Halton Hills Health Care board of directors, and was a volunteer with the Red Cross. She's also volunteered for quite some time in various positions at Grace Anglican Church, among other endeavours.

Ms Ward said she's honoured to be recognized, particularly since there are so many deserving volunteers around town.

Business Person of the Year

Business Person of the Year nominees are Shamim Bhimji of the Ramada Inn and Conference Centre, Donna Danielli of The Vacuum Store and Angelo De Medicis of Milton Home Hardware Building Centre.

Together with her husband, David, Ms Danielli has owned The Vacuum Store in Milton since 1994. She's also the assignment editor at the Halton Compass publication, and covers the Town of Milton and Region of Halton. In her 'spare time', Ms Danielli has served as chair of the Brookville School Parent Council.

Ms Danielli said she's honoured to have been nominated alongside Ms Bhimji and Mr. De Medicis, admirable business people.

"Obviously, I'm very thrilled and honoured. It came as a total surprise," she said.

Although a relative newcomer to Milton, Angelo De Medicis — owner of Milton Home Hardware for the past three years — has quickly become involved in a number of community initiatives. He was recently presented with Milton Historical Society's Visual Arts Award for his in-store wall collage featuring blown-up photos of Milton in the past. He said the Chamber's business awards are particularly important these days.

"Especially in today's world, with the big competition, it's nice to acknowledge the people behind the four walls," he said.

Shamim Bhimji took over as general manager of the Milton Ramada Inn about 10 years ago. The facility, which has 94 rooms and five conference rooms, recently underwent a large renovation. Nominator Sharon Henriques couldn't say enough about Ms Bhimji.

"Ms Bhimji (is) one of the kindest and most compassionate people you'd ever be blessed enough to meet," she said, adding Ms Bhimji supports many non-profit organizations.

Business of the Year

This year's nominees for Business of the Year (25 Employees and Less) are The Halton Compass, Milton Springers Gymnastics Club and Parkway Auto Trade.

The Halton Compass was purchased by Stephen Baker 10 months ago, and it quickly progressed from a monthly to a bi-weekly to a weekly publication, covering issues and events across the region. The Compass was recently a gold sponsor of the Milton Fall Fair and a platinum sponsor of the Milton Chamber of Commerce's Sports Celebrity Dinner.

The Milton Springers Gymnastics Club is a non-profit co-operative club that's been providing fundamental gymnastics skills to kids in the Milton area for 30 years. With more than 500 children registered, the Springers provides school demonstrations and performs at numerous community events including the Milton Santa Claus Parade.

"We're just so delighted," said head coach Janet Campbell. "To be recognized in the community is just fabulous."

It's the parents, Ms Campbell added, who deserve the credit for making the club what it is today.

Parkway Auto Trade is a pre-owned auto dealership that's been serving customers in Milton for 17 years. The family owned and operated company values community involvement and its staff has volunteered and donated resources to a number of char-

itable organizations, including the Canadian Red Cross for tsunami relief efforts.

Owner Carmine Mallozzi said he was surprised and pleased by the nomination, and sees it as an opportunity.

"Hopefully people will get to know us better," he said.

Nominees for Business of the Year (26 Employees and More) are Granite Ridge Golf Club and Milton District Hospital.

Granite Ridge Golf Club has been the setting for many a special occasion, and has generously supplied prizes for a number of Milton's charity events. It supports various non-profit organizations and sports teams and helps sponsor the Chamber's Community Awards Gala each year.

Milton District Hospital is an integral part of the community and is involved with its residents in numerous ways including community outreach, its Community Task Force and the expansion of many programs. It's faced the challenge over the past few years of responding to Milton's quickly growing population.

The hospital is a leader in the Eye Bank of Ontario donation program. In fact, it's been one of the top five providers of donated eyes in Ontario for the past 10 years. It was also a founding member of Milton's Physician Recruitment Committee, and it organizes ongoing health-care presentations for the public.

Stephanie Thiessen can be reached at sthiessen@miltoncanadianchampion.com.

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