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Community-minded citizens, businesses honoured



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

MAKING HISTORY: Mark and Greg Ollerenshaw became the youngest Milton Citizens of the Year and the first brothers to win the honour Saturday night.

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Glitz and glamour were served up plentifully at the Milton Chamber of Commerce's 2005 Community Awards Saturday night, along with laughter and more than a hint of suspense.

And organizers had no intention of allaying the suspense until the very end of the evening, when the long-awaited winners of the three business awards were announced.

Business of the Year (25 employees or less) went to Scotiabank's Main Street branch, the award for Business of the Year (26 employees or more) went to Springridge Farm, and the honour of Business Person of the Year was bestowed upon Melissa Janjevich of McCuaig Insurance Limited.

"Tonight's a night to celebrate not just the winners, because you're all winners, but to celebrate how wonderful this community is," said emcee Father Mark Curtis.

The event was held at Granite Ridge Golf Club in a gala evening that began with a seafood buffet and continued with a scrumptious dinner. The courses were interspersed with games of 'Who Wants to Be a Miltonaire?' in which Curtis traveled to different tables, asking nominees historical questions about Milton.

With more than 200 people in attendance, men and women alike were dressed in their finest.

There were three nominees in each business category, which the chamber announced several weeks ago.

"It comes naturally to support a community like Milton," said Laura Hughes — who owns Springridge Farm along with her husband, John — upon accepting their award. "Milton has been so good to us."

Reading from the nomination submitted for Springridge Farm, Curtis spoke of the 200,000-plus visitors the farm attracts yearly through the innovation and hard work of its four-generation team.

"Springridge Farm has evolved from a seasonal pick-your-own farm operation to a value-added tourist destination," Curtis said.

Halton MP Garth Turner took to the stage as presenter of the Business of the Year (25 employees or less) award.

"It's indeed an honour to be here tonight," he said.

He noted it's no easy feat to build such a positive reputation and earn the respect of the community as Scotiabank's Main Street location has done.

In her acceptance speech, branch manager Rosa Martins said she hopes the example set in community involvement by the bank's employees will inspire other businesses.

"Ninety-one per cent of our staff live in the area and the support to their community is constant and generous," she said.

Martins also announced a third Scotiabank location will come to town at Main Street and Thompson Road.

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