

ChampionCountry

Yates named Honorary Mayor of Campbellville

By Robin Downton-Poirier
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

Joining the previous 24 recipients, Harry Yates was bestowed the title of Honorary Mayor of Campbellville during an official reception held recently at the former location of Vincent's Art & Antiques on Main Street in Campbellville.

Yates said it's a great privilege to be named this year's recipient and loves being a part of the community.

"It is a great privilege to be named Honorary Mayor of Campbellville," said Yates. "During the 17 years that Joyce and I have lived in Campbellville, we have enjoyed getting to know the people of the area and becoming involved in the community activities."

The tradition of having an honorary mayor in Campbellville began in 1982 as a way to recognize residents who have contributed to the community, said Glenn Goldstraw, former chair of the

Campbellville Santa Claus Parade Committee.

Committee members select the recipient in late November prior to the parade so the honorary mayor can ride on a float in the procession, he added.

"The title of mayor is for contributions to the community, in whatever role or combinations of activities the individual has made, usually over many years. Work with kids, service organizations, church involvement, etc., are all part of the mix," said Goldstraw.

"The parade committee makes its annual choice to reflect that type of service and, of course, we are not above recruiting this type of person for the parade committee."

Yates, already a member of the parade committee, moved to Campbellville in 1989 after living in England, South America and Toronto. While looking for a retirement home in the country, Yates and his wife, Joyce, "fell in love with the beauty of the Niagara Escarpment."

They have both been involved in many initiatives

over the years including being long-standing members of the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee (NCCC) and the Campbellville Beautification Committee.

"In these happy retirement years, we have been interested in various community activities such as the (Campbellville) Beautification Committee and Jean Woods' Annual Roadside Cleanup. This is where I first met Mike West," said Yates.

"Later, I was privileged to work with Mike when he chaired the Nassagaweya Community Consultation Committee. My involvement with the Campbellville Santa Claus Parade Committee has been more recent though. Our retirement in Campbellville has proved to be a great and happy highlight in our lives and the involvement with village activities has been most rewarding."

Although the honorary mayor has no 'official' duties, Yates road in the Campbellville Santa Claus Parade last week.



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Honorary Mayor of Campbellville Harry Yates shows his 'chain of office' with 'keys to the town'.

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