

And the nominees, and winners, are...

By Stephanie Thiessen
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

After careful consideration, the recipients and nominees of the 2006 Community Awards have been announced.

The awards, given out by the Milton Chamber of Commerce, are split into several categories and will be given out March 31 at an awards gala at Granite Ridge Golf Club.

Chamber executive director Sandy Martin said it wasn't easy deciding on the recipients and that there were many deserving nominees.

"All the people nominated have contributed to the fabric of the community over a number of years," she said.

The Lifetime Achievement Award goes to Jim and Barbara Snow, who've served the Milton community in various ways for more than four decades.

Recently, the couple donated \$500,000 to the Milton District Hospital's CT Scanner Campaign, which was the largest individual donation in the hospital's history.

Shortly before that, they'd donated their farm to the local Salvation Army.

For 10 years, Jim served as minister of transportation and communications, as well as an MPP and has lent his sup-

port to various boards and committees including the Conservation Halton Foundation and the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation.

Barbara has also been extremely active volunteering in the community and raising money for a variety of initiatives.

"I can't think of a more gracious couple, a more giving couple to the community," Martin said. "They've spent their lives giving."

Citizen of the Year goes to Del and Rose Oxford, who helped start the Milton Sea Cadets, of which Del was later commanding officer. The cadets meet in a building at the Milton Fair Grounds, which they helped renovate.

Del is chair of the Town's Community Services Advisory Committee, and together the couple has volunteered for the Milton Santa Claus Parade and other local events.

There are three recipients this year of the President's Award — Nancy Job, Tarah Cherwoniak and Len Lee.

Job and Cherwoniak founded Milton's Relay for Life, which raised more than \$160,000 last year. This year's goal is \$200,000.

For the past 15 years, Lee has served as chairman and volunteer of the Milton Good Neighbours Day and lends his time to many other community events.

The recipients of the three business awards won't be announced until the gala, with the exception of Business of the Year (26 employees or less), which goes to Chudleigh's Apple Farm on Regional Road 25.

The nominees for Business Person of the Year are Angelo DeMedicis of Milton Home Hardware; Kimberly and Glenn English, who own Main Street's A Country Mile store; and Troy Newton, owner of Troy's Diner on Main Street.

For Business of the Year (25 employees or less), the nominees are A Country Mile, Arthur Electric and Charlie Speck Welding.

The Milton Community Awards was started in 1972 by the Royal Canadian Legion. In 1981 the Milton Chamber of Commerce took over the initiative, and expanded the focus to include recognition of businesses.

Citizens send in nominations for the various categories, and two chamber committees decide on the recipients.

Tickets to the gala cost \$80 and are available by calling the chamber at (905) 878-0581.

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

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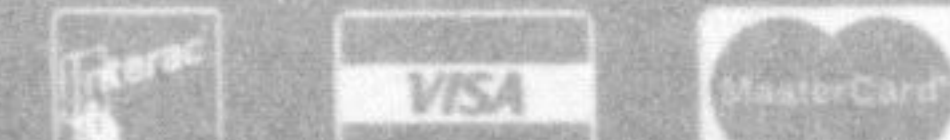
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