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## Gala evening honours town's best

By Stephanie Thiessen  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Elegance was the order of the day at the 2006 Community Awards Gala Saturday night, with guests dressed in their finest — tuxes and evening gowns — and dining on top-notch food while hobnobbing with Milton's who's who.

The crowning moment was an almost instant standing ovation given to Lifetime Achievement Award recipients James and Barbara Snow, and the admiration expressed by Ontario Conservative leader John Tory.

"Jim Snow was a towering figure in the government of Ontario," Tory said, explaining as Minister of Transportation for 10 years, as well as an MPP, Snow wasn't afraid to make his views known. "He was just an outstanding minister."

As master of ceremonies, former Milton councillor and now justice of the peace Mark Curtis highlighted some of the Snows' achievements, including their recent donation of \$500,000 to Milton District Hospital's CT scanner campaign.

Barbara spoke for both of them, mentioning the many fond memories the couple has of contributing to their community.

"We're proud to call Milton our home," she said.

### Citizen of Year Award presented

As previously announced, the award for Citizen of the Year went to Del and Rose Oxford, who are known for their involvement with events like the Milton Santa Claus Parade. They also helped to start the Milton Sea Cadets, and Del is chair of the Town's Community Services Advisory Committee.

Del said he and his wife enjoy donating their time, and that Milton has been a great place to raise a family.

"Before, if someone had mentioned the word Milton, I'd be like 'Where?' But we've been here for 30 years now," he said, chuckling.

There were two President's Awards handed out. The first went to Nanci Job and Tarah Cherwoniak, who were responsible for starting up Milton's Relay for Life, which raised about \$400,000 in the past two years.

"The cancer of apathy that so affects our



MELANIE HENNESSEY / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Milton Home Hardware operator Angelo DeMedicis shows his Business Person of the Year Award.

world will never affect these two young women," Curtis said, reading the words of a nominator.

Len Lee took the second President's Award. Lee has been chairman and a volunteer with the Milton Good Neighbours Day

for the past 15 years and is very involved with the Milton and District Horticultural Society.

"When you think of Milton's green spaces and taking care of Milton's environment, Len's name comes to mind," Curtis said.

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## Champion top paper

Loyal *Champion* readers who depend on the paper to bring them the latest in community news and sports can be confident they're getting a quality product.

The *Champion* took top honours this past weekend at an industry competition, beating out 20 other newspapers from across Ontario to place No. 1 in general excellence.

Awards for the 2006 Better Newspapers Competition, held by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association (OCNA), were presented in Niagara Falls Saturday night.

"We're extremely proud of the recognition the *Champion* has received, especially considering the trying times it has had over the past month or two," said Publisher Neil Oliver, referring to the fire that forced staff to re-locate until a temporary location could be secured.

The *Champion* was up against news-  
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