

Tribute held for Timmins-bound Canadian Tire owner

John Williamson made a positive impact on the lives of many during his years in Milton.

That was evident judging by the turnout at a surprise dinner banquet held for the Milton businessman Friday night at the Muddy Duck restaurant.

About 90 friends, business associates and family members attended to show their appreciation and say goodbye to Mr. Williamson who is moving on to bigger things

up north.

His latest challenge takes him to Timmins where he will become a player in a new Canadian Tire store which is three times the size of his Milton location. The facility has more than 20,000 square feet of retail space and is slated to open in April.

In 1973, Mr. Williamson purchased his Canadian Tire outlet where the Goldo restaurant on Main Street now stands. Three years later, Mr. Williamson built a new location on Mar-

tin and Market streets and later added a gas bar.

He has been recognized for his contributions to the business community and local community groups. In 1986, he was named Businessperson of the Year by the Milton Chamber of Commerce.

The banquet was a co-operative effort between the Milton Chamber of Commerce, Milton District Hospital, Milton Oldtimers Canadian Tire Hockey Club and Junior Achievement of Milton.

From the Town of Milton and the Milton Chamber of Commerce; Mr.

Williamson received two plaques. The Oldtimers Hockey Club, which he has sponsored for several years, gave him an oil painting and he also received a carving.

Mr. Williamson, who is in Timmins this week, couldn't be reached for comment.



Photo by JON BLACKER

John Lawrence, general manager of Milton Chamber of Commerce, (left) says goodbye to local businessman John Williamson who is leaving his Canadian Tire Store on Market Street headed for a new store three times the size in Timmins. About 90 people attended a banquet for Mr. Williamson Friday night at the Muddy Duck restaurant. Among the presentations to him was a mock front page of *The Champion* featuring several photos and stories representing his life and accomplishments.



The Loblaw's supermarket chain has announced a multi-faceted environmental initiative that will preserve more than 50,000 trees in North America next year.

Loblaw's president David Stewart unveiled plans Friday for several environment-friendly measures, including production of an estimated 100 million flyers, which annually consume more than 3,000 tons of unrecycled newsprint, on 100 percent recycled paper.

A lack of available recycled paper in Ontario prompted the chain to look south of the border for a guaranteed supply. "We have been able to find a source of recycled paper" at a facility in Michigan, said Stewart.

The chain will also utilize vegetable oil-based inks for printing and will reduce the size of their weekly flyers by three inches in depth, a move Stewart says will save about 700 tons of newsprint annually and "take some of the pressure off our increasingly crowded landfill sites."

Loblaw's stores will also introduce later this year a re-usable cotton mesh, drawstring bag, with a 40-pound capacity, as an alternative to the plastic bags currently in use.

Stewart estimates the chain uses about 3 million plastic bags per week, with the average family toting home about 1,000 each year.

"The bag is durable (and) is easy to carry because it collapses to pocket size," said Stewart, who sees the mesh bag as "the first viable way for family shoppers" to substantially reduce the use of plastic bags.

While the cost of the cotton bags is about \$2 each, Loblaw's will subsidize customers by offering the bag for about 99 cents.

Stores in the chain will continue to offer customers a choice between cotton-mesh bags and plastic bags, but, in future, plastic bags will be manufactured with an increased amount of reclaimed plastic.

Loblaw's is not considering replacing plastic bags with a paper equivalent, said Stewart. Paper products are "theoretically biodegradable", Stewart says but their research indicates "paper takes up about 10 times more space at landfill sites" while paper recycling facilities in Ontario are scarce.

Stewart says Loblaw's instore conservation tactics will bring back the three Rs - reduce, re-use and recycle - and will include the implementation of programs for office paper waste and computer printouts, as well as the use of recycled paper for signage and cash register tapes.

Stewart says the new measures reaffirm the company's commitment to ecologically sound products, as evidenced last year by their introduction of a line of Green label products, and acts as "a signal that Loblaw's is determined to do more to protect the environment."

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