

Award recipients represent shining examples to business

By ROY DOWNS
Special to The Champion

Leadership, integrity and community service were applauded Thursday when Milton Chamber of Commerce recognized the outstanding Business Person and Business of the Year at the annual banquet.

About 100 well-wishers skipped the Blue Jays game to attend the dinner at Greystone Golf Club honouring Bert and Lauraine Andrews of Andrews' Scenic Acres as Business of the Year, and Carole Budworth of Royal LePage Real Estate who was named Businessperson of the Year.

Accountant Linda J. Nigh introduced the Andrews and praised their successful family

business. The Andrews purchased a farm on 10 Sideroad in 1980 and developed it into a pick-your-own operation where crowds flock weekdays and weekends to pick or buy fresh produce and enjoy unique entertainment. Thousands of school children also visit the farm on organized tours.

She credited their vision, total family involvement, excellent employees, the use of local people as staffers, attention to the little details, personal integrity, strong management skills and environmental concerns — coupled with the provision of entertaining events for their customers — as the reasons why Andrew's pick-your-own farm is such a success.

The farm also supports the community and recent fund-raising efforts have included the

Hospital Auxiliary and Halton Manor. "This award is for perseverance and to celebrate your family success," she concluded.

Lauraine Andrews replied that receiving the Chamber award was a "wonderful experience for all of us." The farm was always Bert's dream, she said. Bert Andrews said he was thrilled to see "a real farm recognized as a business and not as a way of life". He said he realized they were into "entertainment farming" on Thanksgiving Monday when their "Great Pumpkin Challenge" set a new attendance record.

"Growing berries is our business," he reminded the crowd. But high quality produce and innovative crops are combined with the creative playground, petting zoo and special

events to create a "fun" atmosphere for the customers. And for the future? "Just watch us," he concluded with a grin.

Carole Budworth was introduced by Chamber President Carol McDonald as a business-woman who has "balanced her career and her family successfully", at the same time giving countless hours of great service to the community.

Carole and her husband Brian opened their St. Clair Paint and Wallpaper Store in Milton in 1976, then a second store in Cambridge in 1984. She went into real estate sales in 1989 and won the President's Gold Club Award at Royal LePage for being involved in \$4.5 million in sales in 1991.

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