

Big round of applause for Newell, who says town rocks

Many, like Audrey Newell, giving credit to Milton in general for their success. Newell, who received the Lifetime Achievement Award, spoke about coming to Milton as a very quiet person, almost shy. That didn't last long.

"A walk down Main Street changed all that," she said. "I realized I could talk to strangers, and I did."

From teaching craft classes at W.I. Dick Middle School, and joining the Milton Optimist Club — what she termed "her greatest achievement" — she gradually became more and more involved in the town. She provides transportation to seniors who can't or don't drive.

"The biggest thing of all is that this town rocks," she said, bringing the audience to roaring applause.

The evening event saw a few tears shed as well. In accepting the Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Bridget and Shawn Saulnier, who came to Milton from the east coast, said they were moved and honoured by the unexpected recognition.

Shawn Saulnier could hardly get his words out in accepting the award for Mohawk Inn and Conference Centre where they took over the reigns in 2013.

"It's the first community I moved into and



The award winners are (front row, from left) Melissa Coulson, Rosanna Conteduc, Audrey Newell, Mario Belvedere, Andrea Savard, Bridget and Shawn Saulnier, (back row, from left) Angelo Posteraro, Steve Kampstra and George Savard.
Graham Paine / Metroland West Media Group (Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)

knew I was going to stay," he said, wiping his eyes with a tissue.

His wife added that "we're new to the community, but we feel we're part of it very much."

The Mohawk Inn has become involved in the community by supporting things like the United Way of Milton campaign, Destination Campbellville Community Association and a host of other community and charitable organizations, not the least of which was the entire community during last winter's ice storm that left thousands

without power for many days.

The pair and their staff forwent their own Christmas break to keep the inn open as a safe haven for rural residents. When the rooms were full, they opened the Conservation Hall.

Giving back to the community comes naturally to Milton's Joyce Hagevik Volunteer of the Year Award recipient, Angelo Posteraro.

In his encouraging and motivational acceptance speech, Posteraro was also emotional.

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