

PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ANNUAL AWARDS AND DINNER BANQUET
APRIL 7, 2008

The Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet of the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce was held on April 7, 2008 at the Prescott Golf Club with approximately 110 people in attendance.

Master of Ceremonies Robert Lawn welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the dinner.

Vice-President Mike Martel welcomed everyone on behalf of President Marylou Murray who was unable to attend.

Reverend Lindsey gave the blessing and Robert Lawn proposed toasts to the Queen and to the Office of the President of the U.S.A.

Robert Lawn then introduced head table guests: Mayor Suzanne Dodge, Gerry Brown, Vice-President Mike Martel and his wife Bonnie, guest speaker Jeff Morris and Reverend Lindsey.

Robert recognized past award winners in attendance: Candy Alexander, Ray Young, Dave Travis, Sandra Lawn, Mike and Judi Baril, Pat Kingston, Scott and Joan Hubbard and Will McIlveen.

Special notice was made to Brockville Mayor Dave Henderson, Prescott Mayor Suzanne Dodge and Councillors Ray Young, Joanne Beckstead and Brett Todd, Treasurer/Dept. CAO Laurie Kirkby and CAO/Clerk Rosemary Spencer and Township of Augusta Councillor Bill Pakeman.

Mayor Suzanne Dodge stated Council has had a great year and has many projects on the go and many more to do. She noted a great team effort has been shown by the town, business owners and the BIA. Suzanne stated the industrial base is growing again and Westerra Homes are looking at the next phase of their development of homes. She thanked GCFDC for their help and noted the town's new aerial fire truck will be arriving soon. Council is working on updating the emergency plan and community improvement plan (CIP) and also the town's website.

Some upcoming events are the Shakespeare Festival, now in its 6th season, Loyalist Days and the SGDHS Reunion.

Beth Morris introduced her son and guest speaker Jeff Morris who was born and raised in Prescott.

Jeff explained how his post-football career to become a punter in the Canadian Football League helped him land marketing positions from Nashville to Denver to Seattle with the Pacific Trading Card Company in 2001 which launched a promotion for the NFL. He returned to eastern Ontario to take over as publisher of the Manotick Messenger and is presently Publisher and Managing Editor of the Manotick Messenger, Barrhaven Independent and The Packet newspapers and also columnist for our local Prescott Journal.

Jeff summarized by noting even if you hit roadblocks it is up to you to overcome it, "when one door closes, always look for another to open". His marketing advice is to keep customers and get repeat business by providing a "value-added" service to a product for consumers to "feel they have received an unexpected delight that they got more than their money's worth".

Robert Lawn, former SGDHS principle, thanked Jeff for attending and noted it is always a pleasure to have former students return as guest speakers.

Sandra Lawn presented the 3rd Annual Reverend Gerry Ring Memorial Award, sponsored by Gold Key Realty, for 2007 to the **ROTARY CLUB OF PRESCOTT**. President Ken Durand accepted the award

for the club which extends back 69 years and presently has 20 members. Recent projects of the club include the Lighthouse at the harbour front, restoration of the Daniel's Clock at Market Square and the pavilion at the waterfront. The club has also been involved in an international effort to eradicate polio throughout the world. They have also been supporters of the Shakespeare Festival, volunteers at bingo and barbeques and Christmas ham sales.

Lisa Smith presented the 4th Annual Michael Boyles Memorial Award for Business Expansion and Improvement, sponsored by Young's of Prescott, for 2007, to **PRESCOTT JOURNAL/ST. LAWRENCE PRINTING**. The business employs 17 people and has been in the Morris family name since 1958. An expansion began in 1974 and the Chesterville Record, Tupper Lake Free Press, Winchester Press, Eastern Ontario Agri-News, Barrhaven Independent, Russell Villager and the Manotick Messenger newspapers were acquired or started. Building renovations and accounting practices were revamped in 2004.

Beth noted this award is for her staff and thanked them for all their hard work, cooperation and support and felt honored to be recognized in the community for business improvements.

Allan Norton presented the 21st Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce Business Corporate Service Award, sponsored by Hasiuk Trailers and Rentals, for 2007 to **CASCO**. The plant opened in 1858 shipping corn to Montreal and Toronto and receiving corn from the United States. It produced starches for textiles, laundry and culinary applications and now offers products including sweeteners, corn oil and animal feed and meal. The plant is based in Cardinal in Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Township employing 200 people and is in its 150th year of operation as a corn refiner.

Manager Marc Harcus thanked the Chamber and accepted the award on behalf of Casco.

Will McIlveen, last year's winner, presented the 34th Connie Dickey Memorial Youth of the Year award, sponsored by Jeff and Judith Caldwell and family, for 2007 to **SHANNON HARGREAVES**. Shannon is a grade 12 student attending SGDHS in Prescott. She served as class President in Grade 11, served as South Grenville's representative on the UCDSB's student senate, helped design the yearbook and is working on the prom. She has been a member of UNICEF and OSAID and coordinated the school's World Vision's 30-hour famine. Outside of school she is a member of the Ontario Kickboxing Institute as a competitor and event organizer, dances at Brockville's DADX Dance Academy and volunteers at the Augusta Library and for the United Way of Leeds and Grenville.

Shannon wishes to pursue a career in health sciences at the University of Ottawa next fall and is the daughter of Richard and Marion Hargreaves.

Mike Martel presented the Chamber's 49th Community Service Award, sponsored by Mike and Bonnie Martel of Mortgage Alliance, for 2007 to **GORDON SWOGER**.

Mr. Swoger is a retired history teacher and was head of the history department at SGDHS and has devoted a great deal of time to promoting Prescott's heritage. He has helped in establishing local walking tours, canvassing for the Cancer Society, is involved with St. Paul's United Church, the Forwarder's Museum and many other groups. Other activities include serving two terms as President of the Grenville County Historical Society and present member, initiating historical plaques for 19th Century stained-glass artist Harry Horwood and Wiser's Distillery founder J.P. Wiser, served as President of the local Architectural Conservation-Advisory Committee and as a member of the Friends of the Windmill.

Lisa Smith thanked the Silent Auction Committee for their hard work and time in planning the auction. Lisa also thanked the girls of the Prescott Golf Club for the delicious meal served.

Robert Lawn thanked everyone for attending and congratulated all nominees and award winners.

