

PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ANNUAL AWARDS AND DINNER BANQUET
APRIL 24, 2006

The Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet of the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce was held on April 24, 2006 at the Prescott Golf Club with approximately 150 people in attendance.

Master of Ceremonies Barry Laushway welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the dinner.

President Ralph Legere welcomed the guests, the guest speaker and members of the Chamber. Ralph sent out congratulations to all nominees and winners. He noted Prescott is well positioned to attract retiring baby boomers with its picturesque river location, its close proximity to major centres and its friendly and spirited community, but Prescott needs to also attract new businesses, both large and small. It is these businesses which will provide strong social structure through community sports, youth activities, the arts and easy access to health care to become a more vibrant and robust community to live in and to do business in. Prescott must, will and can do in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Mayor Robert Lawn gave the blessing and Barry Laushway proposed toasts to the Queen and to the Office of the President of the United States.

Barry introduced head table guests: Mayor Robert Lawn, Sandra Lawn, guest speaker Jo Ann Campbell, President Ralph Legere, Diane Cross and MP Gordon Brown.

MP Gordon Brown thanked the Chamber for his invitation and was very glad to be able to attend.

Barry recognized past award winners in attendance: Mike and Judi Baril, Sandra Lawn, Judith Caldwell, Scott and Joan Hubbard, Dave Travis, Ray Young, Bernie Currier, Patsy Gillis, Jean Chaters and Pat Kingston.

Special notice was made to Brockville Mayor Ben TeKamp, Prescott Mayor Robert Lawn and Councillors Suzanne Dodge, Robert Pelda, Chuck Street; Township of Augusta Reeve John McCrae and Councillor John Fischl; Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Deputy Reeve Bill Sloan and Councillor Peter Martin; Brockville Chamber of Commerce President David White, Vice-President Bob Pearce, Executive Director Sueling Ching and Director Laura Good; Ogdensburg Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Laura Ashley; North Grenville Chamber of Commerce Director Mike O'Keefe, Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority Executive Director Wade Davis, Director of Commercial and Industrial Development John Rishe and Treasurer Connie Augsbury.

Mayor Robert Lawn welcomed everyone and praised the Chamber for its good work. He also thanked Past-President Lisa Smith for her leadership and effort shown in representing the Chamber in the past year. Mayor Lawn stated council is and has been committed to supporting the business community and has great faith in the future of the town.

Mayor Lawn introduced guest speaker Jo Ann Campbell who formerly resided in Prescott and attended St. Marks and St. Joseph Catholic Schools and South Grenville District High School. She obtained her undergraduate degree from St. Lawrence University and then worked for General Electric for 17 years. Jo Ann learned to take on challenges and risks, as a result she is a Vice-President at Kodak Eastman. Kodak Eastman is presently in the transition process of film to digital which she feels will become successful and the biggest story in corporate America. Jo Ann's career has taken her around the world but she always makes note she is from Prescott in her speeches and conversations. Jo Ann is proud of her roots and feels blessed to have grown up in a town like Prescott.

Past-President Lisa Smith thanked Jo Ann for attending our dinner as guest speaker and for her positive and heartfelt speech.

Suzanne Dodge congratulated the Chamber on its work and accomplishments on behalf of the Prescott Council. Suzanne then presented the Chamber's 32nd Annual Connie Dickey Youth Award for 2005 on behalf of Geoff and Judy Caldwell and family to CAITLIN SIGG. Caitlin attends St. Mary's High School and volunteers in the Prescott Community with the VON to record memories of Senior Citizens and has assisted with Soup for the Soul for three years. In St. Mark's, Prescott Parish, she has been an altar server, has led student retreats, is a member of the Catholic Women's League and is an advocate for Catholic education and is also organizing a group of 28 students for a summer retreat to "Journey to the Father" near Cornwall.

Caitlin has attained a 92% average in Grade 12, is developing her Grade 8 Conservatory Piano and has been composing music since she was 12 years old. She currently serves as Student Council President, has been involved in numerous clubs including Athletic Council, Social Justice, School Band, Leo Club, Grad Committee and Blood Donor Clinics. She has been student coordinator for numerous fundraisers and awareness campaigns, various organizations including Heart and Stroke, CHEO, Community Walk and Think Fast for Poverty Awareness, Walk Against Violence Everywhere, Angel Tree for Palliative Care and Battle of the Bands.

Caitlin wishes to become a Music Therapist in the future. She is a true example of a "people person"

Caitlin thanked the Chamber, her family, St. Mary's staff and her employer Tim Hortons.

Jean Chaters, last year's recipient, presented the Chamber's 47th Community Service Award for 2005 to MRS. BETTY RING and her late husband, REV. GERRY RING. Reverend Gerry Ring, formerly with the Military and Betty moved to Prescott in 1990. Rev. Gerry and Betty were recognized for their selfless contributions to the Town of Prescott.

Rev. Gerry was "a man of the people, a pillar in the community, a confidant and a friend to all whose lives he touched.". He presided over St. John's Anglican Church for 10 years and continued to provide spiritual leadership after retiring. He was committed to projects for people of all ages and served as Champlain of the Prescott fire and police departments, Br. 97 Royal Canadian Legion and chaired the sponsorship committee of the Air Cadets. Rev. Gerry passed away suddenly on March 18 of this year.

Betty was not only Rev. Gerry's helpmate but also worked outside the home while raising five children. She volunteers for the Grenville County Historical Society and was also Past-President twice and was a member of the Girl Guides of Canada for nearly 35 years. She just received the Ontario Volunteer Award for 30 years in December 2005. Betty always spoke up for human rights and environmental issues.

Betty and her daughter Catherine accepted the award and encouraged young volunteers to continue as "they are paving the way for a wonderful life".

Chris O'Reilly presented the 19th Annual Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Award for 2005 to BETH AND HUGH GALLAUGHER of GRENVILLE PHARMACY. The pharmacy has been owned and operated by the Gallaughers since 1982. They have sponsored local hockey and soccer teams and also supported the Shakespeare Festival, the library expansion, the Terry Fox Run, the Food For All Food Bank and local schools. The pharmacy recently became part of the Pharmasave Group but remains independently owned and operated. With the change they may now offer more and varied product lines and price advantages to customers. It is also "a reflection of their commitment to downtown Prescott". This business "goes the extra mile and treats customers with care, compassion and respect".

Hugh and Beth thanked the Chamber all their employees for their dedication and hard work each and every day over the years. Hugh stated the business is all about the people who work there and those who enter the store. He also thanked the people of Prescott and South Grenville for their support for 24 years.

Janice Boyles presented the 2nd Annual Michael Boyles Memorial Awards to ROBERT AND TERESA PELDA, owners of the WISER HALL and the MAYFIELD senior residences. This award goes to a business that has expanded or improved over the past year. The Mayfield has expanded to include 15 new rooms, an elevator and many other upgrades and expansions. It is currently undergoing an expansion for six more rooms. The Peldas purchased the former Whitehall (presently Wiser Hall) property in 2001 and refurbished it which is now an eight-suite retirement resident for seniors. In 2002 they purchased the Mayfield and launched a \$2 million renovation and expansion project. Last week the Mayfield and Wiser Hall were acquired by Chartwell REIT which operates more than 100 senior residences in Canada and the United States. Wiser Hall Inc. Received limited partnership shares in return for the properties. Robert and Teresa will continue operating the senior residences.

Robert Pelda thanked the Chamber, the residences and staff of the residence as well as town staff, residents of Prescott, investors and local contractors and suppliers.

President Ralph Legere introduced the 1st Annual Rev. Gerry Ring Memorial Award, which honors non-profit or not-for-profit organizations. Ralph presented this award to Prescott's FOOD FOR ALL FOOD BANK. The food bank opened in September 2002 and serves residents of Prescott, Edwardsburgh/Cardinal and Augusta and has over 25 volunteers. They supply food, baby supplies and other items for 400 families in the area. Chairman Neil Dufour thanked the volunteers who work at the locations in Prescott and Cardinal and also noted the efforts of board members and especially the work of Bonnie Gommert. "The whole organization is a credit to our Community". This award is sponsored by Gold Key Realty.

Mrs. Ring was totally surprised by this new award presented in memory of Rev. Gerry but could not think of a better kind of award to name after him.

Barry Laushway congratulated all nominees and award winners of the evening and thanked everyone for attending the Chamber's Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet.