

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ANNUAL AWARDS AND DINNER BANQUET
MARCH 26, 2007**

The Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet of the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce was held on March 26, 2007 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 Lisa Smith welcomed guests, guest speaker and members of the Chamber and sent out congratulations to all nominees and winners. Lisa noted not only are we here to honour all nominees and award winners, past and present, but also to honour and thank all the volunteers that make our community a wonderful place. Volunteers are “the little people” who make “big differences.” Lisa noted the Chamber has presented 100 award winners selected from thousands of nominees in its 114 year history and there are scores of other volunteers who also contribute to the community whose reward is the personal satisfaction that comes with knowing they have made a difference. Volunteers keep the community alive and thriving and for a community of our size to have so many dedicated volunteers is truly unique and a most valuable asset, the lifeblood of the community. Our community is filled with “little people” with “big hearts” and are the most important people you will ever meet. So, remember, when something big needs doing it’s the “little people” who get it done!

Pastor Barry Edmondson gave the blessing and Barry Laushway proposed toasts to the Queen and to the Office of the U.S.A. President.

Barry introduced head table guests which included Mayor Suzanne Dodge, President Lisa Smith, Councillor Chuck Street, Guest speaker Frank McAuley and Pastor Barry Edmondson and his wife.

Barry then recognized past award winners in attendance: Mike and Judi Baril, Sandra Lawn, Judith Caldwell, Dave Travis, Ray Young, Bernie Currier, Pat Kingston, Scott and Joan Hubbard, Betty Ring, Caitlin Sigg, Lynn Norton, O’Reilly’s YIG, St. Lawrence Printing, Bank of Montreal and Grenville Pharmacy.

Special notice was made to Brockville Mayor Dave Henderson, Prescott Mayor Suzanne Dodge and Councillors Chuck Street, Ray Young, Jo-Anne Beckstead, Neil Dufour, Treasurer/Dept. CAO Laurie Kirkby and Assistant to CAO/Clerk Rosemary Spencer and Township of Edwardsburgh/Cardinal Councillor Patrick Sayeau.

Mayor Suzanne Dodge stated it was her privilege to speak and she has loved the first four months being Mayor. She noted some successes so far include the \$600,000 pumping station grant, the 90% sewage plan funding, renovations at the Forwarder’s Museum and the Shakespeare Festival. Suzanne also noted this year’s Council is wonderful to work with and especially thanked Laurie Kirkby, a great worker for the town. Suzanne thanked past Mayor Robert Lawn for all the work he has done. She noted the EODF program has been a great help and suggested the town become an energy wise community.

Mayor Dave Henderson thanked the Chamber for his invitation and noted our town will be well served by our new Mayor Suzanne Dodge, her soul and heart is for the town.

Vice-President Marylou Murray introduced guest speaker Frank McAuley who was born and raised in Prescott. Frank is the Regional Vice-President of Commercial Markets and leads a team of more than 300 people responsible for the RBC Royal Bank’s relationship with commercial and agricultural clients throughout south western Ontario and a specialized sales force of 25 individuals across Canada providing financing to major automotive dealers.

Frank attended local schools and received his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Queen’s University in Kingston and his Masters in Management degree from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He

has also completed Columbia University's Executive Program in Business Administration.

Frank joined the Royal Bank in 1983 and named an Executive in 1993. He has held Executive roles including Vice-President Special Loans, Vice-President Lakes Region, Ontario, Vice-President Leadership Effectiveness, Corporate Human Resources, Senior Vice-President Purchasing and Premises, Senior Vice-President Commercial Markets and Regional Vice-President Commercial Markets in 2005.

Frank resides in Oakville, Ontario with his wife and three children. He is also a member of the Board of Government Executive Committee and the Shaw Festival in Niagara on-the-Lake and is a member of the Board of Directors of Curriculum Services Canada, a Canadian Standards agency for educational materials. Past directorships include Mary Centre within the Archdiocese of Toronto, the University of Cape Breton and Catholic Missions in Canada. However, his friends usually comment "he's just a goalie".

Frank reviewed his family roots in the area which go back to the 1800's. His grandfather sold cars in the early 1900's. He also made note of other local people and their successes. He explained the different stages the Town of Prescott has passed through and how it was always a strong community with strong schools. He suggested Prescott should define the Town's market and find ways to attract people. The town should "look to the past as a guide to its' future." Prescott was once an economic hub at the crossroads of auto, rail and shipping routes. There was the ferry to Ogdensburg, rail on both sides of the river and the King's Highway passed through the centre of town.

When he was growing up here there were nine gas stations on King Street and five grocery stores in town because of all the transit business. Ogdensburg had a very close relationship with the town also. He suggested reaching out to the American population that remains isolated and fearful since the 2001 terrorist attacks and welcome them. Also the town should use its French heritage to attract 3.5 million francophone residents within a two hour drive of Prescott and say "Bienvenue" and raise the Fleur-de-lis flag to attract Quebecers. He noted people have to be drawn off the 401 to the downtown core. Prescott is rich in events that could influence visitors, such as the Leo Boivin Midget Showcase, Shakespeare Festival, the Fort, the Harbour, etc. "People who come here, like it here!"

Frank thanked the Chamber for inviting him and the chance to come home and thanked the people attending who have had a positive influence on him. Barry thanked Frank for attending and for his informative and helpful ideas on how to put Prescott back at the crossroads again.

Lynn Norton presented the 33rd Connie Dickey Memorial Youth of the Year Award for 2006 on behalf of the Caldwell Family to WILL MCILVEEN. Lynn noted he knew Connie and was also a past recipient of the award in 1978. Will is a grade 12 student at South Grenville District High School in Prescott and is the Cadet Commander of Prescott based Lt. W.F. Sharpe 661 Air Cadet Squadron. He has obtained his glider pilot's licence and private pilot's licence also. His extra-curricular activities include the Giant Fusion and the Interact Club. He was a former varsity soccer player and coach who works at the Prescott Curling Club. His nominator and guidance counselor, Norie Spence, noted he is always there helping and is an amazing role model for youth and children today and inspire many to follow suit. Will thanked everyone for the award and noted it is a huge honour and stated the Air Cadets is the best program in the world and believes it is absolutely necessary for youth to get involved in their community.

Betty Ring, last year's co-recipient, presented the Chamber's 48th Community Service Award for 2006 to CANDY ALEXANDER, a retired teacher and an energetic volunteer and town ambassador who has a great heart and who does not limit herself to one group or activity. Candy is a Past-President of the Prescott Rotary Club and has taken an active role in numerous projects including restoring the Rotary lighthouse, creating the Rotary waterfront pavilion, volunteering at the Shakespeare concessions and many other Rotary events. She was also involved in creating and maintaining the Interact Club (Youth wing of Rotary) at S.G.D.H.S. in Prescott. Candy is a board member and volunteer at the Food For All

Food Bank and has served as a liaison between the Rotary and the Prescott Blossoms Garden Club. She is a longtime member of the Prescott Golf and Curling Clubs for over 25 years. She also canvasses for the Cancer Society and the Diabetes Association and others. Candy was surprised but honoured to receive this award and noted she has the people behind her and acknowledged the support of everyone in the community.

Hugh Gallagher of Grenville Pharmacy, last year's recipient, presented the 20th Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Award for 2006 to TIM HORTONS in Prescott. The business is owned by the Lockett family, Steve, Ruth, Shawn and Lisa and opened in 1995. The business underwent major renovations and upgrades last year. Their involvement in the community covers Minor hockey and the Little Rock Youth Curling program to the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival, Prescott Public Library and the Food For All Food Bank. It also takes part in a local program which rewards young cyclists for wearing helmets and works closely with the local highschool in hiring students and giving them a chance to obtain experience and learn commitment and responsibility. They also sponsor local swimming and skating programs and provide local boys and girls the opportunity to attend camp. Ruth Lockett thanked everyone and noted it takes three things to be successful, "an excellent bank behind you, a great staff and an awesome community, which they have."

Chris O'Reilly presented the 3rd Annual Michael Boyles Memorial Award to LISA SMITH, owner of the HOUSE OF FLOWERS/PAGES BOOK STORE. The award goes to a business that has expanded or improved over the past year. Lisa purchased the flower shop on Edward Street in 2001 and recently moved to King Street (former Raney's drugstore) from Churchill Road. She made major renovations and increased the size of her business and number of staff. The project has made a positive impact on the community. Lisa thanked the Chamber for the award and credits the award to her staff and also thanked Chuck Street for his encouragement and support.

Neil Dufour, past recipient (Food For All Food Bank), presented the 2nd Annual Rev. Gerald and Betty Ring Award for 2006 to the FRIENDS OF THE PRESCOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY. Sandra Lawn accepted the award on behalf of the group. The group spearheaded the project in 2003 and raised over \$500,000 over four years to renovate and remodel the local library. Volunteers spent endless hours working on the project. This group of volunteers spent hours of their time away from their homes and families to ensure the community had a library for all ages to enjoy and to be proud of. Sandra acknowledged former library board Chair Christine Endicott and the Friends group and supporters of the fundraising campaign. She also acknowledged her husband, Robert Lawn, whose dream was to renovate the town hall and library. Members of the group also include Adelle Throop, Jane McGuire, Karen Atcheson, Kathy Lubimiv, Glenna Bonneau, Pauline and Gavin Robertson, Sharon Spychi, Suzanne Dodge, Sue O'Hanlon, Gini Leonard and Virginia Adams.

Ray Young presented Debbie Lawless a plaque to recognize her 23 years service as secretary for the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce and her 300th Chamber meeting.

Barry congratulated all award winners and nominees and thanked every for attending the Chamber's Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet.