

**PRESCOTT AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
ANNUAL AWARDS AND DINNER BANQUET
MARCH 9, 2009**

The Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet of the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce was held on March 9, 2009 at the Prescott Golf Club with approximately 110 people in attendance.

Master of Ceremonies John Doris welcomed and thanked everyone for attending the dinner.

President Robert lawn welcomed everyone to honor members of our community. Robert expressed concern and disappointment with the media not being positive and that we must keep a positive outlook during these difficult economical times and look forward to a productive and positive year.

Rev. Ian Maclean gave the blessing and then John Doris proposed toasts to the Queen and to the Office of the President of the U.S.A.

John Doris then introduced head table guests: Mayor Suzanne Dodge, President Robert Lawn and wife Sandra, and guest speaker Ian Farthing.

Special notice was made to Steve Clark, Executive Assistant to MPP Robert Runciman, Brockville Mayor David Henderson, Prescott Mayor Suzanne Dodge and councillors Ray Young, Brett Todd, Jo-anne Beckstead, Neil Dufour, Mike Dimopoulos and Chuck Street; Augusta Township councillor Bill Pakeman, Ogdensburg Bridge and Port Authority John Rische, Director of Commercial and Industrial Development and Samuel J. LaMacchia, board member; OPP Sgt. Paul Bisson, Director of Education Dave Thomas and Diana Dodge-Phillips, Executive Director and Robin Van Luit, Administrator of the Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce.

Past award winners in attendance included Pat Kingston, Sandra Lawn, Joan and Scott and Hubbard and Ray Young and representatives from past business award winners included Food for All Food Bank, Beach's Home Hardware, Bank of Montreal, House of Flowers and St. Lawrence Printing.

Mayor Suzanne Dodge reviewed councils past accomplishments and upcoming projects and events that are presently being proposed and worked on.

Sandra Lawn introduced guest speaker Ian Farthing, Artistic Director of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Festival in Prescott.

Ian noted the Shakespeare Festival is in its 7th year and that the actors involved love Prescott because of their support and generosity. Ian explained how plays are planned and the lifestyles of the actors from auditions up to performance of the plays.

John Doris thanked Ian for his interesting and informative speech.

Betty Ring presented the 4th Annual Rev. Gerry Ring Memorial Award, sponsored by Gold Key Realty, for 2008 to the Kinsmen Club of Prescott and SGDHS Spirit of Giving Club. Art Hitsman of the Kinsmen Club and Courtney Barton and Paige Levere of SGDHS accepted the award. For over 25 years the Kinsmen Club and students of SGDHS have collected food items and distributed the hampers to approximately 25 families at Christmas time in the Prescott, Augusta and Edwardsburgh/Cardinal areas. This award is presented to local non-profit groups to recognize unselfishness, volunteerism and being a role model to youth. A cheque was also presented to the Kinsmen Club for more than \$2730.00 from the SGDHS Spirit of Giving Club.

Ray Young presented the 5th Annual Mike Boyles Memorial Award for Business Expansion and Improvement, sponsored by TD Canada Trust, for 2008 to the Red George Public House Inc. Derek Vanschie, President, accepted the award on behalf of the Red George. The restaurant/bar opened in 2007 by efforts of Robert Haller and Scott Hubbard selling shares to a group of 50 investors and is located in the Moran Hooker Trade Building.

Heather Lawless presented the 22nd Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce Corporate Service Award, sponsored by Grenville Community Futures Development Corporation, for 2008 to Measurements International. Bill Dawson accepted the award on behalf of the company and owner Duane Brown. The company located in Johnstown, was founded in 1987 and is in its 22nd year of operation and employs 40 people. The company is the worlds leading manufacturer of metrology based calibration products for temperature, DC resistant, DC Voltage and AC Power all of which are used in standards and metrology labs worldwide. Some of their Clients include the U.S. Air Force and Lockheed Martin, Quantum Hall Resistance System in India, NMI - Institute for metrology and technology in Netherlands.

Sarah Charbot presented the 35th Annual Connie Dickey Memorial Youth of the Year Award, sponsored by Geoffrey and Judith Caldwell and family, for 2008 to 17 year old Amanda Lewis. Amanda is in Grade 12 at South Grenville District High School in Prescott. Amanda helps organize the school's annual Soup for the Soul Community dinner and is on many committees and always shows leadership and optimism. Amanda is planning to attend Algonquin College next year to become a massage therapist. Amanda noted "to make every second count and do not take anything for granted". Amanda thanked the Caldwell family, the Chamber and SGDHS's Norie Spence for this award.

Robert Lawn presented the 50th Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce Community Service Award, sponsored by Mortgage Alliance, for 2008 to the late Bryan Somerville and the late Barry Laushway, both of Prescott. Robert noted both excelled in their professions and were highly respected and outstanding citizens. This award recognizes individuals who provide leadership, serve as role models and make the community a better place to live.

Bryan joined the Prescott Police Service in 1975 and in 2004 transferred to the O.P.P as Acting Chief. Bryan was also a member of the Prescott and District Lions Club since 1984 and received

the club's highest honor, was a founding Director of Connect Youth, served on the Board of Interval House of Leeds and Grenville and was a Director for the Prescott and District Chamber of Commerce. Patrick Somerville, grandson of Bryan, accepted the award on behalf of the Somerville Family.

Barry was a prominent lawyer and operated Laushway Law Office in Prescott. Barry also served as project leader and was a founding member of the St. Lawrence Shakespeare Theatrical Company, a Brockville Shriner, and Board Director for the Brockville YMCA, Brockville General Hospital and Leeds and Grenville Law Association. Barry also served as Master of Ceremonies for many years for the our Chamber's Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet and had accepted to be this year's guest speaker. Bryan Laushway, son of Barry, accepted the award on behalf of the Laushway family.

John Doris thanked the Chamber's Dinner and Awards Committee, the Silent Action Committee and the staff of the Prescott Golf Club for making this evening's event a success.

John also thanked the guest speaker, sponsors of the awards and out of town guests. He congratulated all winners and nominees and thanked everyone for attending the Chamber's Annual Awards and Dinner Banquet.

In closing John noted an Economic Development event is being held on September 24, 2009 at the Ottawa Civic Centre which will showcase Eastern Ontario communities and area. Donald Trump will be guest speaker and will share some of his successes. You may contact John at 613-925-9018 for more information.