



November 23, 2009

Media Release: For Immediate Release

Chamber Honours Seven Businesses and Two Individuals

The East Kawartha Chamber of Commerce presented their annual Awards of Excellence over the weekend at Viamede Conference Resort & Spa. Emcee and Chamber Vice-President, Scott Davidson, congratulated the winners as well as all who were nominated. This year saw a very strong competition with a record number of nominations.

This year's winners (in bold) and category finalists (alphabetical) are as follows:

Customer Service sponsored by Hendren Funeral Homes: **Eels Lake Cottages & Marina**, Kawartha Lakes Construction, Stoney Lake Market

Environmental sponsored by MASS Environmental Services: **Camp Kawartha**, Arboriculture Solutions, The Irwin Inn

Business Beautification sponsored by SunShrine Day Spa & Salon: **Honey's Diner/Timberline Custom Homes**, EcoVue Consulting, Salon Sorella & Day Spa

Tourism/Hospitality sponsored by Peterborough Community Futures Development Corporation: **The Irwin Inn**, Indian River Reptile Zoo, Kawartha Nordic Ski Club

Volunteerism, in memory of Mary Barrow, sponsored by CIBC: **Charlene Kloos**, finalists not announced

Entrepreneur Innovation sponsored by RBC Royal Bank: **Stoney Lake Market**, Blossom Hill Nursery, Salon Sorella & Day Spa

Retailer of the Year, in memory of Brian Holmes Lockside Trading, sponsored by Nexicom: **Adventure Outfitters**, Griffin's Greenhouses, Stoney Lake Market

Outstanding Business of the Year sponsored by County of Peterborough: **Blossom Hill Nursery**, Kawartha Country Wines, Stoney Lake Market

Corporate Citizen of the Year sponsored by Nightingale Nursing Registry: **Dr. Bruce Gibson**, finalists not announced

The East Kawartha Chamber of Commerce proudly represents businesses in the Townships of Douro-Dummer; Galway, Cavendish & Harvey; North Kawartha; Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield and surrounding area.

For more information, please contact:

Scott Davidson, Vice-President, East Kawartha Chamber of Commerce
705-652-3355

Sherry Boyce-Found, General Manager, Kawartha Lakes Chamber of Commerce
705-652-6963 OR generalmanager@kawarthachamber.ca

Specifics on the winners and group photo follows next page.



Front row: Deborah Kustor, Stoney Lake Market; Patti Irwin, The Irwin Inn; Hazel Cook, Blossom Hill Nursery; Charlene Kloos; Carolyn Amyotte, Eels Lake Cottages & Marina; Jodie Wilson, Honey's Diner/Timberline Custom Homes.

Second row: Karl Kustor, Stoney Lake Market; Pat Smith, Adventure Outfitters; Dr. Bruce Gibson; Joe Cook, Blossom Hill Nursery; Jacob Rodenburg, Camp Kawartha; Jeff Ball, Eels Lake Cottages & Marina; Shauna Beattie, Honey's Diner/Timberline Custom Homes.

Customer Service, sponsored by Hendren Funeral Homes

Eels Lake Cottages & Marina

For almost 15 years they have worked tirelessly to provide a wide variety of products and services to over 400 cottagers. Along with standard marina services they provide a convenience store, dock construction and cottage repairs. They keep in touch with cottagers throughout the year with email updates and a newsletter. In the words of their nominator, "If you have a question or problem related to cottaging on our lake, Jeff and Carolyn can solve it...or they will put you in touch with someone who can. They are always happy to help."

Finalists – Kawartha Lakes Construction, Stoney Lake Market

Environmental, sponsored by MASS Environmental Services Inc.

Camp Kawartha

Over the past year Camp Kawartha has spearheaded the construction of one of Canada's most sustainable buildings – its Environment Centre. Straw bale, recycled cotton denim insulation, composting toilets, living green roof, geothermal radiant floors are just some of its features. Solar panels will generate enough electricity to power the building and leave a surplus to sell back to the grid. Visitors will see practical solutions to some of the most serious environmental problems confronting Canadians.

Finalists – Arboriculture Solutions, The Irwin Inn

Business Beautification, sponsored by SunShrine Day Spa & Salon

Honey's Diner/Timberline Custom Homes

Initially, an existing rundown restaurant and two-bay garage were extensively renovated. Later, three units were added resulting in additional businesses at Woodland Plaza. It has become a landmark on Highway 28 with its covered front porch, post and beam appeal, stone columns, cedar shakes and high windowed gables. Inside Honey's Diner you will find that Timberline touch of pine ceilings, post and beam influence and warm welcoming colours.

Finalists – EcoVue Consulting, Salon Sorella & Day Spa

Tourism/Hospitality, sponsored by Peterborough Community Futures Development Corporation

The Irwin Inn

This year round resort is a 62-year family tradition and very much a 'hands on' operation. They pride themselves in personal service, courteous staff, fresh food, unique accommodations and a commitment to environmental respect and sustainability. Physically accessible by land and water, the dining room and several accommodations are barrier free. Promotion of the area is paramount and included in the resort's marketing efforts with packages highlighting regional arts and culture, outdoor activities and much more.

Finalists – Indian River Reptile Zoo, Kawartha Nordic Ski Club

Volunteerism, sponsored by CIBC

Charlene Kloos

This year's winner of the volunteerism award has been a lifelong believer in giving to the community and doing so with a beaming smile. While many people give of their time to one or two organizations the recipient divides time and energy among a diverse range of charities and non-profit organizations throughout the County. Involvement has included the Disaster Management Team of the Canadian Red Cross, a foster care provider for the Lakefield Animal Welfare Society, the Kawartha Lakes Chamber of Commerce committees, United Way workplace liaison, Peterborough Symphony Orchestra marketing and chair of Crime Stoppers. In the words of the nominator she is not just a 'seat filler.' She actively and freely gives of her time to help make the group a success.

This being an individual category, finalists are not released.

Entrepreneur Innovation, sponsored by RBC Royal Bank

Stoney Lake Market

They offer old country charm and service along with modernization to suit the needs of cottagers. Innovations include dockside and island delivery, free Wi-Fi, a new art gallery, a book club, yoga classes, take home meals and much more. Their nominator notes, "As a business person I rely on the Stoney Lake Market as my central location for courier deliveries, internet connections and coffee meetings with clients—services never provided before...I can now work up at the lake most of the summer."

Finalists – Blossom Hill Nursery, Salon Sorella & Day Spa

Retailer of the Year, sponsored by Nexicom Inc.

Adventure Outfitters

In over 25 years of business they have grown into a full service outfitting operation providing a full range of quality sportswear and outdoor clothing for every season. Expert advice helps customers make the right choice in clothing and a wide variety of gear. Lessons, demonstration nights, and 'try before you buy' sessions provide added value. They are great ambassadors for the region, displaying regularly at major shows in the Toronto market. They are long time supporters of many local initiatives and sports teams.

Finalists – Griffin's Greenhouses, Stoney Lake Market

Outstanding Business Achievement, sponsored by County of Peterborough

Blossom Hill Nursery

They are the only Canadian breeders of Delphinium elatum and they now breed peonies. They propagate many rare varieties. Customers are welcomed into their fields, which is not typical of most growers. Buyers from all over North America shop in person, by catalogue or on the website. This was a significant year having been awarded Canadian Grand Champion at the Canadian Peony Society Convention, along with 58 ribbons and two Best Blooms. They have also won the only two Canadian bronze medals awarded from the UK Delphinium Society.

Finalists – Kawartha Country Wines, Stoney Lake Market

Corporate Citizen, sponsored by Nightingale Nursing

Dr. Bruce Gibson

The 2009 Corporate Citizen, Dr. Bruce Gibson, has contributed to the local economy throughout 30 years of dental practice. He has been a Board member at Lakefield College School and is a Past President of the Peterborough Dental Association. Over the last six years he has become a very familiar face in the community as chair of the Lakefield Community Medical Support Foundation. As chair of the Capital Campaign for this very important initiative, over four million dollars was raised. The recently completed Morton Community Healthcare Centre has attracted five doctors, a nurse practitioner and a number of allied health professionals that will provide much needed services in the area. His nominator notes that "the Centre will have an immediate impact on the quality of daily life for the people of this area, many of whom are seniors."

This being an individual category, finalists are not released.