



SAUGEEN TERRITORY

Awards of Recognition & Success

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PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STARS shine bright in Saugeen Territory

ARTHUR: Over 290 people enjoyed a gala night out on the town on November 7th as the fifth annual Saugeen Territory Awards of Recognition and Success (STARS) in business gala was held at the Arthur & Area Community Centre.

Recipients received black granite awards in six categories. The 2007 winners are Mary Ruth Job of Holstein General Store for Customer Service Excellence, runner up in that category was Sidekicks Café in Markdale. Dan Sinclair of Sinclair Construction won the Young Entrepreneur of the Year award with Scott's Pizza Burger in Mount Forest the runner up. IDI Markdale, operating as "those three stores" Peek Thru My Window, Fancy That and County Line won Company of the Year (under 15 employees) with the runner up being Forest Physiotherapy in Mount Forest. Elsa Mann and Paul Kaye of Night and Day studio walked away with the Entrepreneur of the Year award, with runner up Off the Wall in Dundalk. Charlie Rhéaume of Chapman's Ice Cream accepted the award for Corporate Citizen of the Year, with McFarlane Health Facility in Mount Forest taking the runner up position. Company of the Year (over 15 employees) went to Wightman Telecom of Clifford, the runner up in that category was Talisman Resort Village in Kimberley.

"With 27 excellent nominations from across the Saugeen Territory, this year's awards ceremony really showed how amazing our local business community is," said Project Coordinator Kate Russell. "I am so impressed with the quality and community-mindedness of our area businesses. It is a real pleasure to see them recognized in this way for their hard work and dedication to their respective areas, which all really makes up one large Saugeen community."

The STARS awards are held every year by the Saugeen Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with local Chambers of Commerce and corporate sponsors CIBC, Musashi Auto Part Canada, CKNX and the Amazing Persona 6 News. The SEDC is very proud of the businesses and entrepreneurs in their area. This awards project was initiated to help

celebrate and recognize these businesses and entrepreneurs to provide a unique opportunity for businesses to become more visible in the larger Saugeen Territory, comprising of the municipalities of Chatsworth, Grey Highlands, Minto, Southgate, & Wellington North.

“We get great support from all our sponsors, from the corporate to the award sponsors Wightman Telecom, Union Gas, TD Canada Trust, CIBC, the Township of Wellington North and BDO Dunwoody,” said Russell. “We have so much excellent monetary and in-kind support from our event, table and in-kind sponsors as well. We really couldn’t have done this without them.”

A volunteer committee made up of area Chamber of Commerce and corporate sponsor representatives works with a panel of volunteer judges to assist in coordinating the annual event. The efforts of these dedicated volunteers shone brightly at the gala evening, where the mood was congenial and supportive. Most of the nominees came out for the awards and the committee looks forward to seeing some of them back with nominations next year.

Information on the awards is available by calling the SEDC office in Hanover at 1-866-761-7232 or online at www.sbdc.ca. Deadline for next year’s awards is September 10, 2008.

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