

Chamber celebrates entrepreneurship at annual dinner

Continued from C Front BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

The Business of the Year Award was given to Koch Farms for excellence and responsible business advancement in the community.

Koch Farms, located in Earleton, is owned by Norman Koch.

His business involves trucking, silo construction, agri-sales/farm products etc.

"I'd like to thank everyone who nominated us. I could not have done it without my wife Gwen and two sons, Rob and Chad," he said.

He said he was the seventh child out of ten children and credited his parents for teaching him "great work ethics".

CORPORATE CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Corporate Citizen of the Year is the Foire Gourmande, recognized for the quality of services provided, advancement of the business sector and overall contributions to south Temiskaming.

The 2012 edition of the Foire Gourmande, a three-day culinary fair with a carnival atmosphere attracted 70,000 visitors and pumped \$3.5 million into the local economy.

This annual event features 50 exhibitors showcasing many of the region's businesses in nearby Quebec and Northeastern Ontario.

HOSPITALITY

The Hospitality Award was given to the Haileybury President's Suites for quality of service and advancement in its sector. The President's Suites have created a positive impact on the growth of Temiskaming.

Business owners Jocelyn Blais and Nicole Guertin thanked the nominators and the Chamber for their award.

Ms. Guertin said in ten years she has seen positive changes at the Chamber and she was pleased to see both official languages being used in the formal introductions of the

business awards.

RECOGNITION

The Chamber's Recognition Award was given to Enterprise Temiskaming (ET) for helping area businesses to prosper and thrive.

Enterprise Temiskaming was lauded for being a long-time partner of TSACC as a vital link between new business entrepreneurs and the local economy.

They assist, mentor and support local businesses through a wide-range of services.

Enterprise Temiskaming Director, Shelly Lendt said ET was a community-focused organization that partners with the Chamber to provide free services to businesses. She thanked the City of Temiskaming Shores for being a partner and providing office space for her and her Marketing Coordinator Natalie Touzin.

AMBASSADOR

The Ambassador Award was given to New Liskeard businessman Martin Maille (Maille's Service Centre Marine) for his dedication to promoting the region of Temiskaming.

In particular, Mr. Maille, his wife Doris and their daughter Monica were recognized for the assistance they gave to the film crew of *Skating to New York*. He was the local contact for the film crew and was recognized for their generous dedication as representatives of the region.

They helped provide a local economic boost to the region by helping the "Skating to New York" film crew with the day-to-day challenges of filming and by opening their homes and hearts to the film crew.

"I am up here being recognized with the lifetime achievers and I have a long way to go. Our family introduced new friends to our community," he said.

On behalf of his family, he thanked the Chamber for the recognition.



CORPORATE CITIZEN AWARD

From the left accepting the TSACC Corporate Citizen Award from RBC Canada representative Darryl Van Leer, in the back row, is Foire Gourmande volunteer Board of Directors Ontario representative Maurice Landriault and Co-Chair Denis Nolet. In the front row from the left are board members Johanne Lamarche, Helén Lessard and Helén Charbonneau. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



HOSPITALITY AWARD

From the left receiving the Hospitality Award from RBC Canada representative Darryl Van Leer are President's Suites owners Nicole Guertin and Jocelyn Blais. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



AMBASSADOR AWARD

Accepting the TSACC Ambassador Award, from the left, from RBC Canada representative, Darryl Van Leer, are Maille's Marine owners Martin and Doris Maille. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)



CHAMBER RECOGNITION AWARD

Accepting the TSACC Recognition Award from RBC Canada representative Darryl Van Leer is Enterprise Temiskaming Director Shelly Lendt. (Staff photo by Sue Nielsen)