

Honors, Awards Highlight Ontario Chamber Dinner

More than sixty residents, business owners and guests gathered on Thursday, September 30 at Brookwood's Country Club for the annual awards and recognition dinner sponsored by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. Announcement of special honours and recognition of businesses of the month for 2010 were made following the buffet dinner. Election of Chamber of Commerce officers for 2010 to 2012 was also conducted. Chamber Secretary Vicki Steele and Treasurer Jim Switzer handled introduction and the awards' ceremony.

Recognition of service and contributions to the "Community of Good Neighbors" was made with announcement and presentation of Gordon Beh as Citizen of the Year, the Pines of Peace Comfort Care Home as community organization for 2010 and Rochester Equipment, Inc. of 406 Route 104 as recipient of the business improvement award.

Gordon Beh introduced family members present and recounted his efforts over the past 50 years to create and expand the Beh Industrial Park on Dean and David Parkways off Route 104 West. More than 20 businesses call the industrial park home today, including an optics cluster, bio-diesel and wind energy sites.

Sherry Benedict Verstraete, executive director, spoke on behalf of Pines of Peace and the officers and volunteers who serve local families in times of need. She was surprised by attendance at the event by her four siblings and recognized their late father, Bill Benedict, as the home's first patient 12 years ago.

Leo Spezio cited the support of the local community and the chamber of commerce in his business start-up in Ontario, now at a new location and structure at 406 Route 104. His firm leases large equipment and machinery and serves a wide audience in the Greater Rochester area.

Also recognized were representatives of the businesses named as Business of the Month recognized by the Chamber of Commerce in 2010. Seven of the 12 local businesses were present to receive recognition, framed certificates and an opportunity to briefly describe their businesses:

January – Dr. Teon Kowalyk (Ontario Family Chiropractic)

March – Dr. Jonathan Falanga (Lipari Web Design & PC Repair)

April – Sean Fico (A&P Enterprise)

May – Thomas Hemstreet (Hemstreet Photography)

July – Ontario Food Pantry (Tim King, President)

August – Paul Duerr (Avalanche Fabrication)

September – Rochester Equipment (Leo Spezio)

Those unable to attend but also recognized were Craig Wilson (Factory Direct Trailers) in February; Pro Konstantinou (Konstantinou's Grocery) in June; Alan Johnstone (AVL Recycling) in November and Nanette Mazzuco (Mazzuco Clay Designs) for December. No award was made in October. Approval was made of the proposed slate of officers for 2010-2012. Vicki Steele will serve as President, Raymond Cedruly as Vice-President, Donna Burolla as Secretary and Jim Switzer as Treasurer. Retiring President Paul Carr will succeed Mrs. Burolla as a member of the Board of Directors, which also includes Michael Havens and Disa Pevear.

Numerous local business owners, civic groups and residents donated door prizes which were distributed throughout the evening. Donations were recognized from Cam's Pizzeria, Cheezy Boyz Pizza & Grill, Rocco's Pizza & Pasta, Bill Gray's Restaurant, McDonalds of Ontario, Subway of Ontario, Dunkin Donuts of Ontario, Shadow Hill Landscaping, Mike's Ice Cream, MRB Group (town engineers), Cavallaro Neubauer Chevrolet, Bob Gabriel Collision, Altra Rental, Edward R. Jones Investments (Marie Thomas), Verizon Wireless of Ontario, Ontario Parks & Recreation, Lyons National Bank and Factory Direct Trailers.

Also, JME Auto, Moto Option, Kleen Car Auto, Brookwood's Country Club, Star Travel & Tours, Wayne County Mail, Tops Friendly Markets, Rochester Equipment, Mac Stringer Painting, Meyers-Ingraham American Legion Post 428, Nothnagle Realtors (Ontario branch), Furguson's Hair Care, Adirondack Mulch & Stone of Ontario, PJ Radiator, Crown Electric, Pines of Peace, Mr. Auto, Webster-Ontario-Walworth Penny Saver, Advantage Auto, Secor Hardware of Ontario, T. Nelson Sales, Roses in the Hedgerow, B-E Fishing Tackle, Inc., Friend's of the Ontario Public Library and the Ontario Public Library.

Incoming President, Vicki Steele, concluded the evening by recognizing the many volunteers who contribute to the success of the Chamber programs "behind the scenes" and thanked them for their service: Marje Bridson, Jim and Gail Adair and Adair family members; Coni Petty, Brian Petty – Midnight Artist, John Domm, Tom Hemstreet Photography, and Jean Tsepas of Lyons National Bank. Dean Beh donated his raffle winnings to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce which donated them to the Pines of Peace. (Article by James Switzer) (Photographs compliments of Tom Hemstreet Photography – photos next page)