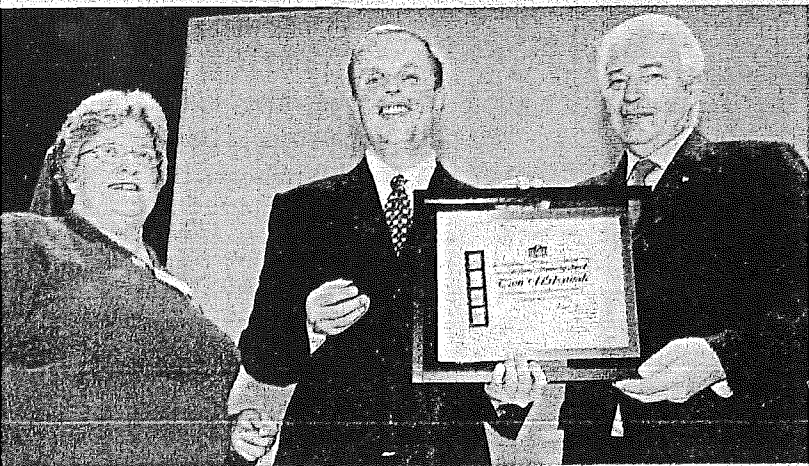


People

Writer wins heritage award for dedication



Achievement awarded — Tom Urbaniak (middle) receives a Lifetime Membership Award from the President of Heritage Mississauga, Marian Gibson and the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, James Bartleman.

Photo by Derek Woollam

By CHRIS CLAY
Staff

With Lieutenant Governor James Bartleman presiding, the Mississauga Heritage Foundation handed out its 10th annual Heritage Awards recently at the Noel Ryan Auditorium.

Former Heritage Mississauga board member Tom Urbaniak received the Lifetime Membership Award for his "outstanding reporting on the heritage of Mississauga" and his efforts to "bring to life concerns we all should have for the heritage of Mississauga."

Prior to receiving the award, Urbaniak, a regular contributor to *The News* and the *Mississauga Booster*, was lauded as a man who "doesn't seek recognition or credit but quietly leaves his imprint."

A visibly-thrilled Urbaniak deflected

praise away from himself, "there are a number of people far more deserving than I," and thanked the hard work of all heritage volunteers.

"Heritage is an integral part of the complex jigsaw that makes up a healthy city," said Urbaniak. "This (award) is for the people who believe the city should have a soul."

Also receiving recognition was longtime volunteer Mary Wilkinson, who took home the MHF Heritage Award. Praised as a woman who significantly advanced historical knowledge in Mississauga for her exhaustive genealogical work, Wilkinson also helped organize an Erindale school reunion.

"I find it a bit odd, even funny, that I'm being recognized for what I love to do," said Wilkinson. "The Erindale reunion was the biggest thing I've ever tackled and there were many times that

I wanted to throw in the towel and quit."

Also receiving an award was Meadowvale's Paula Wubbenhorst for her volunteer work and for organizing a 25th anniversary celebration for Meadowvale Village Heritage Conservation District.

"I just enjoy preserving our heritage because it's a part of us," said Wubbenhorst. "We have to keep promoting (heritage) because the more people know about it, the more it stays alive."

Other recipients to receive the Special Recognition Awards were Booster editor Stewart Brown, Richard Roberts, John Warburton and Mavis Wilson. Receiving Member's Choice Awards were Ward 6 Councillor George Carlson, La Villa Fine Foods and Lois McKinney.

URBANI, (104)