

October 24, 2017

NEWS RELEASE

Hastings County 6th Annual Tourism Awards celebrates Tourism Industry Winners

Bancroft – Hastings County hosted its sixth Annual Tourism Awards Celebration last evening, October 23, to recognize the successes and achievements of its tourism businesses, organizations, festivals and individuals.

Hastings County is pleased to announce and congratulate the winners of the 2017 Awards:

- Tourism Champion of the Year
 - *Tweed & Company Theatre*
- Festival of the Year
 - *Municipality of Tweed's Farm to Table: Canada 150 Community Dinner*
- MVP (Individual of the Year)
 - *Nancy Hopkins, Publisher & Editor of Country Roads Magazine*

"We continue to host these Awards because it provides and an opportunity to say 'thank you' to our tourism industry and to show our appreciation," says Hastings County Warden Rodney Cooney. "Tourism is an important sector for Hastings County. We have so much to offer whether it's buying local food from a farmer's market or at the farm gate, exploring our vast network of trails, relaxing on a lake or going gem collecting. We rely on many organizations and volunteers to develop and maintain these attractions as well as the many businesses that provide tourists with a place to stay, eat and experience our culture."

This year's celebration was held at The Village Playhouse in Bancroft featuring live entertainment by local musician Paul Lobe and craft beer samples from Bancroft Brewing Company. Guests were also entertained by local tourism operator Karen Challinor as emcee for the evening and greeted by Barb Shaw on behalf of the Bancroft Village Theatre.

"It is a great pleasure to be able to recognize those in our local tourism industry who help strengthen and contribute to the growth of Hastings County's tourism product," notes Marketing Coordinator Luisa Sorrentino. "It also was wonderful to be able to partner with our Regional Tourism Organization, Ontario's Highlands, this year and have the Awards as part of their annual conference which took place the same day."

For more information about the Tourism Awards, please go to <http://www.hastingscounty.com/tourism-awards>

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