

October 24, 2016

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Hastings County celebrates its tourism industry with the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual HOTie Awards**

*Corbyville* – On Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, Hastings County hosted its fifth Annual ‘HOTie’ Tourism Awards Celebration 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 2016 HOTie Awards:

- Tourism Champion of the Year
  - *Potter Settlement Winery*
  - *Municipality of Tweed*
- Festival of the Year
  - *Stirling Water Buffalo And More*
- MVP (Individual of the Year)
  - *James Smith & Laura Forth – Deloro War Memorial & Tribute Film*

“It is the tourism businesses and organizations in our communities that continue to ensure our local economies thrive and grow, bringing in thousands of dollars from tourists,” says Hastings County Warden Rick Phillips. “This is a great opportunity for the County, as well as provincial and federal levels of government, to recognize business owners and event organizers who’ve worked so hard to make Hastings County even more attractive to tourists.”

The celebration was held at The River Inn in Corbyville featuring live entertainment by local jazz duo Yarranton-Barton and wine tastings sponsored by Bay of Quinte Tourism. Guests were also entertained by host Paul Snepsts and received greetings from MP Mike Bossio, Warden Rick Phillips, Councillor Paul Carr (City of Belleville) on behalf of MPP Todd Smith and the owner of the soon to open Signal Brewery Richard Courneyea.

“We’ve done it again, enjoyed another successful year for our tourism awards program,” says Hastings County’s Tourism Development Coordinator Kasey Rogerson. “This year the program reached a milestone that shows just how important it has been over the past five years that we recognize an industry that strongly supports our local economies. And we are pleased to continue the partnership with Bay of Quinte Tourism and celebrating their tourism awards program that is open to all the communities within the region to participate.”

For more information about the event and this year’s recipients of the HOTie Awards, go to [www.hotieawards.ca](http://www.hotieawards.ca).

- 30 -

For more information, please contact:  
Rick Phillips, Warden  
(613) 966-1319

Kasey Rogerson, Tourism Development Coordinator  
(613) 966-6712 ext. 4012