



Bringing people and properties together

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News Release

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REALTORS® give back to their community

The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® held its 2009 Annual General Meeting today at the Lamplighter Best Western. Special guests included representatives from the following organizations:

- Real Estate Institute of Canada, **Alicia Brodie**, President-Elect;
- London Property Management Association, **Brenda Davidson**, Administrator;
- London Home Builders Association, **Mike Baldinelli**, President-Elect, and **Lois Langdon**, Executive Officer;
- Canadian Real Estate Association, **Mike Carson** and **Laura Leyser**, Directors at Large;
- Ontario Real Estate Association, **Phil Dorner**, Provincial Director for the Western Area, **Greg Harris**, Chair, Ontario Commercial Council, and **Deanna Johnson**, from OREA's REALTORS Care Foundation; and
- London Chamber of Commerce, **Gerry Macartney**, CEO and General Manager.

REALTORS® Bruce Sworik and **Richard Haddow** received the Association's prestigious Lyn Coupland Outstanding Service Award:

- **Bruce Sworik**, of whom President Thyssen said, "his cool head, dry wit and cagey unflappability has served our Association well," was LSTAR President in 2008. Bruce's over thirty years of service to LSTAR included membership on a whole host of Association Committees, Task Forces and Advisory Groups in addition to a decade on its Board of Directors.
- **Richard Haddow**, a Past Marketing Division President and LSTAR's current St. Thomas Director, has also sat on numerous Association Committees, Task Forces and Advisory Groups. An enthusiastic advocate for the City of St. Thomas, Port Stanley and Elgin County, Richard logged eighteen years as a Member of the Elgin County Council and has served as Reeve of Yarmouth Township. The list of community organizations he has volunteered for is impressive, including such worthwhile organizations as the Kettle

Creek Conservation Authority, the Heart and Stroke Association, and the St. Thomas Chamber of Commerce.

LSTAR Bonspiel Committee Chair (and the Association's 2004 President) **Glen Gordon** was on hand to present Mission Services of London's Acting Executive Director **Gordon Russell** with a cheque for \$14,499.88. This money was raised by LSTAR's *Homes for Hope*® Bonspiel and the sale of its *Homes for Hope*® pins. "We may have been doing the Bonspiel for thirteen years," Glen pointed out, "but Mission Services been in the business of 'meeting need at point of need' for almost sixty years." Since 1992, LSTAR has donated a little over \$226,456.00 to Mission Services.

This presentation was followed by one by **Stacey Evoy-Smith**, Chair of the Association's Christmas Gala Committee. Stacey presented **Silvia Langer**, Development Manager for the Unity Project, with a cheque for \$11,028.48, saying, "the Unity Project is committed to doing some of the heaviest lifting in our community – providing emergency shelter and transitional housing accommodations to men and women aged 18 and over, in a safe, secular, and home-like setting." To date, including REALTOR Care Foundation Grants, LSTAR has donated \$43,140.49 to the shelter.

Among the many LSTAR Members honoured at the meeting was **Romano Pulzoni**, whose fifty-five years at the Association broke the previous record of fifty years. Romano received a special pin in recognition of his long service. **William Putherbough's** fifty years of service was also recognized.

The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) is one of Canada's fifteen largest real estate associations, representing 1,475 REALTORS® working in Middlesex and Elgin Counties, a trading area of 500,000 residents. LSTAR adheres to a Quality of Life philosophy, supporting growth that fosters economic vitality, provides housing opportunities, respects the environment and builds good communities and safe neighbourhoods. As members of the Canadian Real Estate Association, LSTAR members may use the REALTOR® trademark, which identifies them as real estate professionals who subscribe to a strict code of ethics. The Association operates the local Multiple Listing Service® (MLS®) and provides ongoing professional education courses for its members. Advertisements of local MLS® property listings and information about the services provided by a REALTOR® can be found at www.realtor.ca. More information about LSTAR is available at www.lstar.ca.