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News Release

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LSTAR awards outstanding and community service

On Wednesday, April 22, 2009, the London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) held its Annual General Meeting and Tradeshow at the Best Western Lamplighter Inn in London, Ontario. LSTAR was proud to recognize three outstanding members with its highest honours – the Outstanding Service Award and the Community Service Award.

LSTAR's Outstanding Service Award recognizes outstanding service to the real estate industry and is LSTAR's most prestigious honour, next to that of Honourary Membership. LSTAR honoured both Mike Carson and Gerry Weir with the Outstanding Service Award.

A past President of the Association in 2007, Mike Carson was also the President of the Marketing Division. A past recipient of the Outstanding Service Award in 2003, he has served on innumerable committees, including the Political Action Committee and Discipline and Professional Standards. He has also chaired other committees, including the Finance and Executive Committees and the Privacy Task Force. He served on OREA's Communications Committee and in 2008, Mike had the distinction of being elected as the Ontario Director on the Canadian Real Estate Association Board of Directors, which also puts him on the Ontario Real Estate Board of Directors. That Mike has been a driving agent for positive change can be discerned by the many projects he has played key leadership roles in over the past few years, including the "Home at Last" affordable housing project, which Mike has dedicated countless hours to over the last four years to ensure its success. He also spearheaded LSTAR's Quality of Life Task Force and did such a good job that he then moved on to the Canadian Real Estate Association's Quality of Life task force. He has also been an integral member of the Keep London Growing Coalition.

For years, Gerry Weir has served and chaired many LSTAR Committees (most particularly the Technology Task Force, which managed LSTAR's transition to an Internet-based MLS® system Filogixdms). He then rose through the Directorate to become President of LSTAR in 1999. Elected to the Ontario Real Estate Association Board of Directors in 2001, he has served as a member of OREA's leadership

development committee and the Ontario Commercial Council and has chaired that association's Communication, Finance, Standard Forms and Government Relations Committee. In 2008, he was chosen to serve as OREA's President. He also served on LSTAR's Community Relations, Industry Issues, Political Action Committee and Touchbase Task Force groups in 2008.

Bernie Sheridan was presented with LSTAR's Community Service Award, which is presented to those whose service to the Association has been above and beyond the call of duty. Bernie seems to always be helping out somewhere, and is always doing it with a smile on his face. He is eager to help and he understands the importance of giving back to his community. He has been an active member of St. Thomas for over 50 years and has been selling real estate actively for over 33. An active Knights of Columbus member, he also frequently volunteers his services to help serve at funerals, sell tickets to various fundraisers and emcee live auctions. He was an active participant in the restoration of Holy Angel's church, where he also sings in the choir. And if all that weren't enough, he has also chaired the local cancer society for a number of years, just recently completed time on the board of director's for St. Anne's Festival Gardens, and spent a number of years volunteering on the St. Thomas Economic Development Board.

LSTAR congratulates its winners and is pleased to work with such committed and passionate REALTORS®.

The London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® is a professional organization committed to serving the real estate needs of the community and to providing its Members with the services and education required to promote excellence, knowledge and a high standard of ethics and business practices. The Association's jurisdiction includes Middlesex and Elgin Counties, home to nearly 500,000 residents. The Multiple Listing Service® is a cooperative marketing system used only by Canada's real estate boards and associations to ensure maximum exposure of properties for sale. All of LSTAR's listings may be found on the public website at www.REALTOR.ca.