

2010 MEDAL OF MERIT CEREMONY AND DINNER

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011 – MARCONI CLUB

REMARKS MADE BY SAULT STE MARIE ONTARIO MAYOR DEBBIE AMAROSO:

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"Welcome to this year's ceremony and dinner honouring Sault Ste. Marie's 2010 Medal of Merit winners. This annual event is regarded as one of the highlights of our municipal involvement and responsibilities. It is a very important function for City Council.

Sault Ste. Marie can be extremely proud of how, over the years, we continue to generate citizens who by themselves, or as a member of a group or team, excel in various areas, bringing great pride to our community in a way that should be recognized.

In 1969, the City Council of the day established a Sault Ste. Marie Medal of Merit award to annually honour such excellence and achievement.

A citation was approved by Council which reads as follows:

"The Mayor and members of City Council have long recognized the need to pay tribute to those special individuals or groups who achieve top honours in athletic, cultural or academic fields or who make outstanding contributions to our community."

The 1969 Council passed a by-law to establish a committee that would review nominations from the community and to consider other such individuals who might be worthy of community recognition.

This evening's ceremony, the presentation of the Medal of Merit, the pin and the citation represents Sault Ste. Marie's highest honour.

Medal of Merit recipients are chosen by the Medal of Merit Committee, comprised of the Mayor acting as chair, and individuals representing a cross-section of the community.

I am pleased to introduce our Medal of Merit Committee members for the term 2008 to 2011 and their guests:

1. Sharon Graham and her husband, Dwight Donaghue
2. His Honour Justice John Kukurin and his wife, Cathy
3. Mary Ellen Szadkowski and her husband, Ted

The Medal of Merit is the City's highest honour. Since its inception we have honoured close to 150 recipients including the likes of Phil and Tony Esposito, Dr. Roberta Bondar, the Hollingsworth Family and Dr. David Walde – to name a few.

We are delighted to have prior Medal of Merit recipients in attendance: Harry Houston who received the Medal of Merit award in 2009 and Kathy Contini, a 1999 recipient. Kathy is the wife of Mickey Contini, a member of the Northland Barbershop Chorus.

Former award recipients include scientists, athletes, academics and community builders – people from all spectrums and walks of life who have brought pride to Sault Ste. Marie and contributed to its betterment.

The Medal has the City coat of arms embossed on its face. The colours of the ribbon and the pin – gold, blue and grey – are intended to project the image of Sault Ste. Marie as a flourishing and prosperous city.

The gold is symbolic of the Civic Centre, which has become known as a landmark on the seaway and centre of local government in the area.

The blue represents the water or seaway, and the grey band represents industry, steel in particular. The significance attached to this medal is indicative of an exceptional achievement or contribution.

Tonight, The Northland Barbershop Chorus will be added to this elite group of people. Congratulations to the 2010 Medal of Merit recipients."