

## **'Shining stars' honoured**

### **TOURISM**

Posted By EXPOSITOR STAFF

A talented Six Nations potter and a Paris-based waterways travel enthusiast were honoured Thursday night for their contributions to Brantford and area tourism, during an awards presentation held by the Brantford Tourism Centre at the Best Western Brant Park Inn.

Cindy Henhawk of Santhony Pottery was presented with the Arts, Culture and Heritage Award, while Jamie Kent of Grand Experiences Canoe and Kayak Outfitters received the first-ever Tourism Innovator Award.

"Cindy produces beautiful hand-thrown pottery, which she markets extensively through Ontario," Brantford Tourism manager Susan Sager said.

"She does a great job and it's so good to see her recognized.

"Jamie has been a leader in terms of tourism in the Brantford- Brant Six Nations area. He started his (canoeing and kayaking excursion) business over 10 years and has expanded it greatly. And he's a great proponent of partnering with other tourism suppliers."

The sixth annual Shining Stars Tourism Awards were the highlight of a night that featured fare from many local restaurants, a silent and live auction in support of the Brantford Arts Block, and entertainment by the Tim Turvey Band.

In addition to the two individual awards, the city also gave out four business awards.

The Festival, Event or Tournament Award went to Brantford's Canada Day Festival, while the Bodega Inn was honoured with the Rising Star Award.

Two businesses were honoured with Promotion and Marketing Campaign awards. In the category of under-30,000 visitors annually, the winner was the Personal Computer Museum. For over 30,000 visitors, the nod went to The Sanderson Centre for the Performing Arts.

Readers of The Expositor also got a chance to vote for their favourite businesses with People's Choice awards.

Winners were: Best fine dining, the Olde School Restaurant; Best family/casual dining restaurant, Kings Buffet; and ,best attraction, the Civic Centre.

More than 25 nominations were received in the three main categories.

Each winner received a unique glass sculpture. Kelly Lowe Glass created the awards from the same design team that creates the Canadian Juno Awards. The cobalt, turquoise, and gold ribbon effect in the glass represents the Grand River, which connects the communities of Brantford, County of Brant, Six Nations and New Credit. Judging of the award submissions took place March 17.

A blind judging process was used by a panel of accredited tourism professionals from both the public and private sector.

The auditors of the awards program, BDO Dunwoody, LLP Brantford kept the winning nominations confidential until the sealed envelopes were opened during the awards ceremony.

"It is an honour for Tourism Brantford to present this program for the community," Sager said.