



**Press Release
February 1, 2007**

DCI Annual General Meeting and Awards Presentations

Downtown Charlottetown held its annual General meeting last night. David McInnis of Peak and McInnis will serve as President for the organization again for 2007.

The 2007 DCI Board;

Dave McInnis	President
Mike Murphy	Vice President
Shaun MacIsaac	Secretary/Treasurer
Joe Dow	Director
Tanya O'Brien	Director
Debra Wellner	Director
Terry Allen	Director
Peter Hyndman	Director
Larry Jones	Director
Peter Norton	Director
Scott MacKenzie	Director
Councillor Mitchell Tweel, City Representative	

Downtown Charlottetown Inc. has developed an award(s) program to recognize exemplary contributions to our city by individuals and businesses within our Business Improvement Area. At last night's AGM (January 31st) Awards were presented in the categories;

Retailer of the year	–	Peter Norton – Norton's Jewelers
Business Improvement of the Year	–	Liam Dolan – Claddagh Oyster House
DCI President's Award	–	Harry O'Connell, President MicroAge

Downtown Charlottetown Inc. 2006 Retailer of the Year award winner Peter Norton, Norton's Jewelers

Fred Norton opened a family owned jewelry store on Kent Street in 1974 after having worked for Taylor's Jewelers for many years. Fred was an expert watch and jewelry repairer. This new store, located where Captain Sub is today was next to Patterson Jewelers and . . . even back then, the first Captain Sub store.

This truly was a family business with Fred, Lois and their four children all working in the store. . . . the children on weekends and holidays. Peter was working at the store, attending UPEI and was accepted into George Brown College in Toronto to where he would study jewelry arts when Fred passed away suddenly in 1979. The family then had to regroup around the store and Peter had to adjust his plans. He did manage over the next few years to study at the college and received a diploma in 1982.

Norton's Jewelers moved to Queen Street as part of Confederation Court Mall in 1981 and has been there since. Peter has enjoyed the support and loyalty of family, staff, friends, customers and the jewelry industry over the years. A consistent staff and always good service and superior product have kept customers coming back.

In 2005 Peter Norton received the Eastern Jewelry Retailer of the year award from the Canadian Jewelry Group. . . . an honor well deserved and here tonight we would like to honor him further by presenting him with the DCI Retailer of the Year award, 2007.

**Downtown Charlottetown Inc.
2006 Business Improvement of the Year Award
Liam Dolan – Claddagh Oyster House**

It is late in the 2005 calendar year; Liam Dolan is contemplating a radical change for one of his establishments that are housed in 131 Sydney Street. The gathering of information had begun a few months previous with an informal survey of past customers, friends, associates and others that were known to them. The question was: when considering going out for an evening to dine, was "The Claddagh Room" in the list of restaurants being debated, and if not, WHY NOT? The answers varied slightly in response – with the most popular one being that the Claddagh Room – while still a popular restaurant to some – had fallen of the radar of most of those who dine out on a frequent basis. The decision that followed became and easy one! Time For Change

Flashback

In 1978, Liam Dolan a culinary school graduate, lands in Charlottetown from Galway City, Ireland. Working as Executive Chef at was in currently the Charlottetown Hotel; Liam had always envisioned owning his own restaurant. A few years had passed, and in 1983 Liam came across a vacated building located on a one way street in OLDE Charlottetown. The top floor was under renovations for the home of a bar, while the main floor was sitting idle – for some time. Despite many telling this young man that there was no worse place to want to open a restaurant – especially one that was going to be to the level of what was to become The Claddagh Room. With a little bit of money and a lot more in sweat equity, The Claddagh Room opened its doors in 1983. With Liam at the helm of his kitchen – the Claddagh Room made its way onto the list of places to dine for both Islanders and tourists alike.

1985 approaches and an opportunity came to purchase that bar located above the Claddagh Room for the previous 2 years – that would involve more hard work, longer hours, which was actually another relatively easy decision for Liam to make. In the same year, The Olde Dublin Pub was born.

Both restaurants and the building had undergone previous renovations up to present day – 1987 saw the largest structural change, with the addition of a basement which allowed for a prep kitchen, storage and office. The remainder of the building was ‘gutted’ with structural enhancements added. Liam always believed in reinvesting for growth.

Renovations between '87 & '97 were primary cosmetic, with the 2nd major renovation coinciding with the opening weekend of The Confederation Bridge. This brought about an addition to The Olde Dublin Pub almost doubling its square footage and adding washrooms & a secondary service bar.

Flash Ahead to New Year's Eve 2005

The Claddagh Room ceases to exist as of the strike of midnight, well shortly there after - with a full compliment of customers, the Claddagh Room rings in the New Year with an eye on the future – the future being the birth of ‘The Claddagh Oyster House’

January 2nd, the demolition begins, which leads to re construction of the restaurant. Gone are the table cloths, flowery wallpaper, and classical music – replaced with vibrant new paint, richer stained wood, booths, & of course, the oyster bar featuring a wide variety of PEI, maritime and other Canadian Oysters as well as some from the US & Ireland.

A menu that changes every month or so has given the kitchen brigade freedom to research, develop, and create dishes on such a regular basis that creativity has been re instilled in all of the staff – both front and back of the house.

February 8, 2006 – Present

The unveiling of the reincarnated Claddagh happened on February 6 – and has never looked back – Islanders & Tourists alike have been rewarded for the patronage with quality food, quality service and what they desire most – a dining experience.

Claddagh Oyster House
Seating 62 persons (including bar)
Variety of Oysters Shucked at the Bar
Year Round Lobster
Ever Changing Menu
Extensive Wine Menu (80+ Bottles)

Congratulation Liam on receiving the DCI Business Improvement of the Year Award. . .

Downtown Charlottetown Inc.
2006 President's Award Winner
Harry O'Connell, President MicroAge PEI

Harry was born and raised in PEI, graduated from St. Dunstan's University with a Bachelor of Science and from Iowa State University in 1972 with a Master of Science in Socio-Economic Development. He began his career in the early planning phase of PEI's Comprehensive Development Plan by interviewing property-owners, preparing plans for public participation, and implementing community development programs as Managing Director of the Rural Development Council of PEI. From 1976-1979, he served as a consultant with DPA Consulting Ltd. and managed the Charlottetown office.

In 1979, Mr. O'Connell joined government as Deputy Minister of the PEI Department of Community Affairs and later as Deputy Minister of Fisheries, Industry, and Labour where he served until 1985. Harry had always been interested in a business career and he brought his dream to action when he ventured into the computer business and opened a computer franchise in the Confederation Court Mall and later in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. This business expanded and flourished and in 1996, Harry decided to construct his own building on Queen Street where he continues to operate MicroAge Computer Centre and also leases space to other downtown business tenants.

Harry has always maintained an active involvement in his community and has generously donated his time and service to many and varied organizations. He has served as President of the Queen Charlotte Home and School Association, President of the Colonel Gray Home and School Association, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Saint Dunstan's University, President of the Charlottetown Rotary Club, President of the Charlottetown Minor Baseball Association, Treasurer of the Charlottetown Minor Hockey Association, and Chairman of the Provincial Winter Games in 1997. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Charlottetown Area Development Council for six years and as a member of the Junior Achievement selection Committee for the Business Hall of Fame, a member of the Holland College Advisory Committee, a member of the Charlottetown Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Board of Directors of Industrial Enterprises Inc. and as Board member of the PEI Lending Authority. This is just to list a few of the organizations for which he has served.

During his time in business, Harry has been a champion in promoting and revitalizing downtown Charlottetown. He was instrumental in the formation of the Downtown Business Association in 2001 and served as its president until it evolved into the present Downtown Charlottetown Inc. He served as president of DCI for its formative first two years and continues to have active involvement and interest in this organization. His most recent accomplishment is his effort in focusing on the Financial Services Sector as an appropriate business cluster for the downtown and in helping to secure the relocation of Aim Trimark's Global Enterprise Centre to Charlottetown. It is his hope that this will be the catalyst for attracting similar companies to our city.

Harry's leadership, foresight, optimism and enthusiasm have been an inspiration to many to persevere in their determination to ensure that Charlottetown continues to be a vital and exciting place to live and work.

For more information; David McInnis 628-3680 or Dawn Alan 368-8636