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## *County of Lanark presents five Awards of Excellence*

Five citizens were honoured on Wednesday evening as the County of Lanark presented the 2010 Awards of Excellence.

The award recognizes and honours citizens or organizations that have made a significant and/or extraordinary contribution to Lanark County. This year's recipients are Colin and Barbara Sangster for health, volunteerism and community services; Jackie Seaton for youth, volunteerism and community services; and Tony and Lynda Hendriks for volunteerism, community services and philanthropy.

"The Awards of Excellence give us a chance to thank these extraordinary citizens for all the things they have done to make Lanark County a better place," said Warden John Fenik (Perth mayor). "Recipients touch the lives of our residents in many different ways, but they share something in common: through their positive actions they leave a legacy of generosity."

This is the sixth year for the awards program, which recognizes recipients for contributions to the county at large or in at least two municipalities. It was developed to say thank you to citizens of Lanark County, to provide community recognition and visibility, to support citizens for their contributions and to inspire further community service.

Colin and Barbara Sangster of Drummond/North Elmsley were jointly nominated by resident Mary Vandenhoff "on behalf of several grateful community groups." In her nomination, she spoke of the Sangsters' many contributions, broad influence and impact over the past 15 years they have lived near Lanark Village. They have been actively involved with the North Lanark Community Health Centre and the Lanark Health and Community Services since the late 1990s, serving in many executive positions and in many capacities. They have also taken on leadership roles with the Canadian Cancer Society since 1994, both locally and regionally. Other contributions include active involvement with the Lanark and District Civitan Club for 15 years, leadership in various aspects of the Anglican Parish of Maberly-Lanark, contributions through the board of Dignity House Hospice of Perth and active involvement with the Evergreen Masonic Lodge and the Lanark County Quilters Guild.

"Once committed to these organizations, they are dedicated, loyal, in for the long haul," Ms. Vandenhoff said. "They are tireless...not only as leaders, but willing to do the heavy lifting when necessary. Generous with their time, effort and spirit, their positive, cheerful can-do attitude works wonders with the other volunteers. More importantly, both Barb and Colin are exemplary role models and mentors, thus providing the county with a legacy for the future."

Jackie Seaton of Tay Valley Township was nominated by Darinka Morelli, executive director of the Youth Action Kommittee of Perth and District. He was recognized for creating and maintaining his Empty Bowls project. Through the creation and sale of 500 beautifully handcrafted stoneware bowls each year since 2002, Mr. Seaton has raised more than \$100,000 to benefit three organizations that serve those less fortunate. Called a powerful communicator on the issue of hunger and poverty in our area, Mr. Seaton's fundraising efforts support the Perth & District Food Bank, the Food For Thought School Food Program and the Youth Action Kommittee. Other potters, ceramics students, volunteers, businesses and individuals have joined in his campaign.

"In our view Mr. Seaton is a true community hero, who has single-handedly conceptualized, organized, mobilized the community and ultimately achieved remarkable, tangible results for the benefit of those less fortunate," Ms. Morelli said. "Every year Jackie Seaton's beautiful bowls are filled with delicious soups...and many hearts are warmed up and brought together. There is a genuine good spirit and special atmosphere that radiates from this event for which Mr. Seaton should be commended."

Tony and Lynda Hendriks of Drummond/North Elmsley Township were nominated by Maberly Agricultural Society director Anne Thomlison. The couple has helped with the fair in various capacities for several years, by donating time and by making financial contributions. Mr. Hendriks is also noted for his involvement as project coordinator for Big Ben Park, which raised \$250,000 to build a monument to equestrian stars Ian Millar and Big Ben in Perth, as well as his leadership with Lanark County's Own the Podium 2010 initiative, which garnered national attention. He is also assisting Drummond/North Elmsley Township with the formation of an environmental initiatives committee. Mrs. Hendriks' involvement with the Perth &

District Chamber of Commerce and her service on various community boards and associations was highlighted. Professionally and as volunteers, the Hendriks have contributed to numerous events and initiatives in the area.

“We believe that the Hendriks could not be more deserving of this community recognition and public acknowledgement for their ongoing dedication to the well-being and promotion of our communities,” said Linda Van Alstine, Drummond/North Elmsley acting clerk-treasurer.

The recipients received individually designed awards commissioned by Mississippi Mills-area artist Stephen Braithwaite, who also created the stained glass windows in the council chambers. They will be recognized on a plaque in the county administration building, as well as on the county website at [www.lanarkcounty.ca](http://www.lanarkcounty.ca) and in notices in local newspapers.

Last year’s recipients were Neil Fennell and Gerald Tennant for volunteerism, community service and youth; and the Lanark County Museums Network and Paul Keddy for heritage and ecology.

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For more information, please contact:  
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**Please see attached Backgrounder for more info about each winner.  
Digital photos are available upon request at [clerk@county.lanark.on.ca](mailto:clerk@county.lanark.on.ca) .**