

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### Burlington Tourism Award Announced at Chamber Gala

**BURLINGTON, April 16, 2012** - Winners of this year's Tourism Awards were announced at the recent Burlington Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Gala on Thursday April 12<sup>th</sup> by Tourism Burlington.

Tourism Burlington congratulates and applauds the efforts of Mike Wallace and Walter Mulkewich. They both are the winners of the **2011 Tourism Builder Award**. This Award recognizes an individual or business who has shown exceptional vision in the development of tourism that will leave a strong legacy in Burlington, demonstrated outstanding leadership and been a tireless advocate in encouraging tourism product and service development in Burlington.

Mike Wallace and Walter Mulkewich transformed a vision into reality when they took the lead on advocating for a new Performing Arts Centre in Burlington. For their vision in building of this Tourism product; the legacy that has resulted, and their outstanding leadership in this project.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Award presented, was the Tourism Burlington Ambassador Award. It recognizes an individual or group who has made an outstanding contribution in a voluntary capacity, to the promotion of Burlington as a tourism destination, which has had a significant impact on visitation to the city. Gary DeGroot & Keith Strong are the **2011 Tourism Ambassador Award Recipients**.

The Tourism Ambassador Award was awarded to Gary DeGroot for his significant leadership gift to the Burlington Performing Arts Centre fundraising campaign which spearheaded other community members to raise \$11m and to Keith Strong who lead this successful fundraising campaign for this project. There were many who helped with this project, however, these two individuals clearly made a significant impact on the development of the Burlington Performing Arts Centre, a new tourist attraction.

The Tourism Burlington Awards are sponsored by Burlington Hotel Association. Tourism Burlington is the destination management organization for Burlington and operates a Visitor Centre that is open 7 days a week at 414 Locust Street just minutes from our beautiful waterfront. Contact [www.tourismburlington.com](http://www.tourismburlington.com) for more information or call 905-634-5594.

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