

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 12th 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 2nd 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 DeGroote & Keith Strong are the **2011 Tourism Ambassador Award Recipients**.

The Tourism Ambassador Award was awarded to Gary DeGroote 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 for more information or call 905-634-5594.

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