

Downtown Kingston!

heart of the city

NOVEMBER 18, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWARDS TO BE BESTOWED TONIGHT AT DOWNTOWN KINGSTON!'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Several awards will be presented this evening at Downtown Kingston! BIA's Annual General Meeting (7pm – Radisson Hotel).

Three downtown businesses will be awarded the 2009 “*S&R Award for Most Outstanding Businesses*” in the downtown core. Although S&R is now gone, it will certainly never be forgotten. Their ideals of exceptional customer service and friendly staff were two of the reasons that the award was named for them in 1999. These awards are voted on by the public. The winners for 2009 are The Rocking Horse – Toys, Minotaur Games and Gifts as well as Sipps Coffee Shop. Each winner will be presented with a commemorative plaque this evening

Two **Downtown Champion Awards** are to be presented this evening. Not awarded on a regular basis, these awards are presented when the downtown community is particularly struck an individual's service, commitment and support toward the betterment of downtown Kingston and the broader community. The award is to honour that support and commitment

The recipients are long time business people and philanthropists, John Wright and Mort Abramsky. Due to Mr. Abramsky's passing last week; the award was presented to his family earlier today. Mr. Abramsky was aware of the impending honour and was pleased to be a recipient. Mr. Wright will receive his award this evening.

John Wright was cited for the Downtown Champion Award for his avid support of the downtown for many years in different roles – from earlier years in his role as owner operator of St Lawrence Broadcasting, his role as owner/operator of the 1000 Island Cruise lines which form of one of Kingston's premier and important tourist attractions, and as a supporter and contributor to community events such as The Limestone City Blues Festival, the 1000 Island Poker Run, Downtown Country and Feb Fest through his ownership of The Radio Group.

Mort Abramsky was a philanthropist and worked with groups such as Kingston General Hospital, Queen's, B'nai Brith, the Beth Israel Synagogue, the YMCA and the Rotary Club. He was a retailer, a property owner and developer and has had many positive influences on the downtown.

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For more information please contact

Michele Langlois
Marketing Manager
Downtown Kingston
613.542.8677
michele@downtownkingston.ca

Rob Tamblyn
Development Manger
Downtown Kingston!
613.542.8677
rob@downtownkingston.ca