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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Economic Development Leadership Award presented at Summit

KEMPTVILLE – A champion for heritage preservation is this year's recipient of the Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership.

Maitland's Richard Dumbrille is known for his lifelong work in restoring historic buildings, a passion which in turn has created employment and much-needed housing in the Township of Augusta. The award was presented by Leeds Grenville Warden Ron Holman at the United Counties Economic Development Summit today. Accepting on his behalf was Augusta Township Reeve Mel Campbell and Councillor and Reeve-elect Doug Malanka. Mr. Dumbrille was unable to attend due to his son's wedding in Vancouver on Saturday.

"It's an honour to be nominated, particularly for my lifelong endeavour of historic preservation," Mr. Dumbrille said when notified he was one of four local volunteer economic development leaders honoured this year.

"I'm overwhelmed for being recognized by the people that care about the United Counties as much as they do," Mr. Dumbrille said, calling his five decades of restoration in Maitland a "lifetime ambition." When he started his quest in 1959 he was considered unique because heritage restoration wasn't fashionable at the time. Since then, he has refurbished a total of 24 buildings, including a homestead dating back to 1821 and two school houses.

Because of his efforts, Maitland has been recognized as being "one of the most preserved places in Ontario." He was nominated for the award by the Township's Economic Development Committee.

Mr. Dumbrille was appointed to the order of Canada in 1963 and is a founding director of what is now known as the Ontario Heritage Fund. He was involved during the acquisition of Homewood Museum and Fulford Place. He co-authored the book *Maitland: A Very Neat Village Indeed* in 1985.

where **lifestyle**
grows good **business**

synonyme de **qualité de vie**
et de **réussite** en **affaires**

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The Bill Thake Memorial Award was presented at the sixth-annual summit with the theme "Making the Right Moves." The event attracted more than 175 business operators, non-for-profit organizations and government representatives from Leeds Grenville and neighbouring regions. It was hosted by the Counties Economic Development Department in partnership with Gord Brown and Steve Clark, MP and MPP for Leeds-Grenville respectively, with sponsorship from the 1000 Islands, Valley Heartland and Grenville Community Futures Development Corporations and the 1000 Islands Region Workforce Development Board.

Also honoured at the summit were award nominees John Barclay, of the Municipality of North Grenville, Rod Fournier of the Village of Merrickville-Wolford, and Pierre Mercier, of the Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands.

"We're recognizing these nominees for their volunteer efforts in making their respective communities better places to live and do business," said Warden Ron Holman.

Mr. Barclay earned praise for his leadership in relocating the Kemptville Kinsmen Farmers' Market and his work with the annual Dandelion Festival, an event that attracted 10,000 people this year. He's helped do promotional videos for local communities and helped found the View Youth Film Festival.

Mr. Fournier is known as a trailblazer. He has been involved in trail development through the Merrickville-Wolford District Trail Society since 2008. His efforts have ensured trails are more accessible and open year round. The trails draw tourists and residents alike and create a positive economic spin-off for businesses.

Mr. Mercier earned accolades for his many projects in three townships. He was a driving force in establishing the Lansdowne Farmers' Market and the Rockport Annual Plein Air event. A retired librarian, Mr. Mercier spearheaded a historical document archive which led to historical walking tour maps for the villages of Rockport, Lansdowne and Lyndhurst.

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