

Local artist Mark Grice receives tourism award

Headwaters Tourism celebrated excellence in field recently.

The event was their annual tourism awards ceremony, A Taste of Tourism. It was held at the Dufferin County Museum and Archives.

With a record number of nominations in 2015, it is clear that the tourism industry is thriving in Headwaters, and continues to help support the vibrancy and vitality of the region. The Taste of Tourism awards honour those tourism businesses and individuals who exemplify excellence, and help profile the Headwaters region as one Ontario's premier rural tourism destinations and Where Ontario Gets Real.

Dufferin County Museum's General Manager Darrell Keenie acted as master of ceremonies for the event and announced the award recipients.

They were Hills of Erin Studio Tour ? Best Arts, Culture or Heritage Experience; Mark Grice ? Artisan of the Year; Little Creek Ranch ? Best Agri-Tourism Experience; 24 Hours of Summer Solstice ? Tourism Event or Festival of the Year; The Friendly Chef Adventures Inc. ? Best Culinary Tourism Experience; Mountain Ash Farm Country Inn and Spa ? Best Overnight Getaway Experience; Rosemont General Store and Café ? Best Customer Service Experience (business); Rosemary Cottrell ? Best Customer Service Experience (individual); Fromage ? Best New Tourism Business; Headwaters Parade of Horses collaborative project ? Tourism Innovator; and Maria Britto ? Tourism Ambassador.

The evening concluded with a special presentation of the Chairperson's Award of Merit by Headwaters Tourism's Board Chair Stacey Coupland to Wayne Townsend, in recognition of his commitment and passion for the regional tourism community. When announcing this year's recipient, Coupland said, "History comes alive in Headwaters for so many reasons, but perhaps it comes most alive when it is told to us by our own historian, raconteur and Renaissance man, Wayne Townsend."