

# Barrington Chamber honors business, community leaders

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BARRINGTON — Over marinated steak tips and chicken Saturday night, the Chamber of Commerce honored Lester Waterhouse and Michael Nadeau for their community involvement.

Waterhouse, who was named citizen of the year, has driven to 38 states and all of the provinces and territories of Canada, but it's Barrington he still calls home.

"That's where my roots are," the town native said.

Nadeau, who was named the business leader of the year, said he brings a simple philosophy to his managerial duties at the Route 9 Irving Mainway.

"I love interacting with the customers, especially first thing in the morning," he said. "When they come in and see us smiling, it makes their day."

They were honored at the chamber's annual dinner at the Nippo Lake Golf Club, where community members attending the event also enjoyed a baby picture contest.

Waterhouse is known for helping organize food drives, the chamber's annual toy drive and the springtime Peeperfest race, which supports a scholarship fund.

"It's pretty satisfying to see the kids get the toys," he said. "There's a need for it. There's people in town that need that little boost at the holiday time."

He's also been the Major Waldron Sportsmen's Club chamber representative and, in coordination with state Fish and Game, has conducted gun-safety training courses. He's also the president of the town's historical society, which is raising funds for a new facility.

Waterhouse, 81, worked in the trucking industry for many years and ran a store in Milton before retiring. He and his wife, Barbara, love traveling in their motor home.

Having been educated in the town's one-room school house, Waterhouse marveled at the changes he's seen in town, from gravel roads gaining pavement to the new schools that have been built.

Nadeau said in the three years he's managed the Irving, he's made community involvement a cornerstone of his work.

The Route 9 business lets nonprofits use the lot for benefit car washes and in the summer it donated refreshments to workers building the town's new playground.



**Barrington Chamber of Commerce honored its 2007 Business Leader and Citizen of the Year award at the Nippo Lake Golf Course Saturday night. Pictured from left to right are Citizen of the Year Lester Waterhouse, past Chamber President Cleve Horton, current Chamber President Robert Drew, Chamber member Joel Sherburne and Business Leader of the Year Mike Nadeau. (Monika O'Clair/Democrat photo)**

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"The people in Barrington have been very good to us, so I like to give back," he said.

Instead of discarding excess products, Nadeau has goods donated to local churches or to customers working with troops returning from duty.

Nadeau, 57, of Milton, spent nearly 30 years as a chef in the Coast Guard, which took him across the country. His favorite thing to cook was fresh fish caught off the back of a cutter.

He and his wife, Jackie, live in Milton. They have three children, including a son who's in Iraq with the Army special forces.