



Heritage Award 2018

Michael Tott honoured for Lifetime Achievement

At the 3rd annual Heritage Awards gala on October 13, 2018, Michael Tott received the highest honour from the Morin Heights Historical Association—the Lifetime Achievement award—for his many contributions to local heritage.

The local businessman and consummate community leader created what's virtually a museum at La Grange restaurant putting his collection of Morin Heights memorabilia on display. Artifacts from the Commons Hotel, Mont Bellevue and Le Studio, as well as walls full of heritage Morin Heights photos became the focal points of the décor at the restaurant he built in 2012 using salvaged beams from the Campbell barn.



In 2005 he was an integral member of the committee that organized the town's 150th anniversary celebrations, and created keepsake marketing items that included a calendar, mugs, and a poster. He ran the Canada Day celebrations from 1987 until 1994 and introduced the wheelbarrow race amongst other innovations.

Together with Linda Davey, Mike lovingly restored the run-down 1860 square log Campbell farmhouse, a 20-year project in heritage conservation that began in 1988 against all the advice of contractors and professionals who advised them to tear it down and start again. They paid particular attention to keeping the heritage building's architectural integrity.



Mike came to Montreal in 1972, after leaving Leicester College of Art in England, where he studied Graphic Design. He was born and raised in a small village named Braughing, which is quite similar to Morin Heights. Mike worked in the design and advertising business in Montreal until 1986, becoming vice-president of J. Walter Thompson Advertising. He designed all the graphics and marketing material for André Perry who was planning a recording studio here in Morin Heights. In so doing he visited and fell in love with Morin Heights, buying his first house here in 1975. He and Linda Davey were married in Trinity Church in 1977 and raised three children in the community.



Gourmet du Village started as a hobby business in 1982, but quickly grew until in 1986 Mike quit the advertising world and went full time into the gourmet food business with Linda. The company won many awards and was soon recognized as the #1 Gourmet Gift company in Canada. It's still one of the largest employers in Morin Heights.

Mike contributes to his community in many ways. He has been involved in Trinity Anglican church for years and served as Rector's Warden from 1978 to 2006. He was a member of the Morin Heights Town Planning (PPU) committee, and helped write the sign bylaws. And he's been recognized before for his achievements, most significantly, as 'Grande Developpeur Economique' of the year by the MRC Pays-d'en-Haut in 2006.

