

Gemma receives the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Award for distinguished community service



Grenada's Honorary Counsel in Montreal, Leonard Wharwood with Goldbloom Award winner, Gemma Raeburn-Baynes

Montreal, October 25, 2011 -- On Saturday, October 22, at the St. James Club in downtown Montreal, Gemma Raeburn-Baynes was among a trio of remarkable women who have gone “above and beyond the call of duty” in contributing to the improvement of their communities, and of the English-Speaking community of Quebec.

Recognized by the Quebec Community Groups Network (QCGN), Raeburn-Baynes received the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Distinguished Community Service Award in the presence of her family, many friends and supporters.

Dr. Wesley Crishlow, Dr. Dorothy Williams and the Black Community Resource Centre, as well as the Hon. Justin Trudeau and the Hon. Marlene Jennings were the people who nominated Gemma for this prestigious award.

“It is so great to know that the things you do are appreciated and recognized,” said wonderful during her acceptance speech.

Dr. Crishlow said that she had observed her incredibly positive and productive contributions to a variety of English community based organizations, and the private and public sectors in Montreal. “Among the credentials for receiving this award are the strengthening of the English speaking community, bridge building between all communities in Quebec, creating tolerance, and respect and understanding between Quebecers of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Ms. Raeburn-Baynes is eminently qualified,” said Dr. Crishlow.

Among the many guests honouring the Montreal-based Grenadian at this ceremony were Bernard and Kevin Baynes, Gemma’s husband and son; the Honorary President of A Taste of the Caribbean, Mr. Howdy Meghdadi, Vice President of A Taste of the Caribbean, Ms. Judy Manoo and husband Salvatore; Hon. Marlene Jennings; Mr. Tyrone Benskin, Member of Parliament for Jeanne Le Ber; Dr. Wesley Crishlow, Professor of Law at UofT; Honorary Consul for Grenada in Montreal, Mr. Leonard Wharwood, Jr ; Honorary Consul for Jamaica in Montreal, Maitre Vonnie Rochester; President of the West Island Black Community Association, Mrs. Tomisita James and husband Franklyn; Executive Director of the Black Community Resource Centre, Mr. Akute Azu; Mr. John Cruickshank representing the Cote Des Neiges Black Community Association; Local Grenadian businessman Theodore Blaize of Grenada Market- Montreal; and various Committee Members of A Taste of the Caribbean Festival.

Many other guests included Dr. & Mrs. Victor Goldbloom, members of the QCGN, Government Representatives and Community Leaders. Entertainment was provided by The Grenada Ensemble who showed off the culture of the Caribbean with their colourful costumes and Caribbean folksongs.

“I am humbled by this award. Why?... Because I am standing on the shoulders of all my committee members, volunteers and supporters. It is not me alone. No, it is because of their efforts too, over the years that have made it possible for me to receive this wonderful award, the Sheila and Victor Goldbloom Award for Distinguished Community Service,” said Raeburn-Baynes in expressing her gratitude to the gathering.

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