

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Louise Cooke recognized as Tourism Builder Award Recipient

BURLINGTON, May 09, 2008 - Louise Cooke of the Burlington Art Centre was recognized last evening at the Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards Gala by Tourism Burlington as the **2007 Tourism Builder Award Recipient**.

Tourism Burlington congratulates and applauds the volunteer efforts of Louise Cooke for her extensive contributions to cultural tourism including being a member of the Burlington Art Centre Board of Directors, Foundation Board, Corporate Partnership Committee, and Expansion Campaign. Louise has also been recognized as the 2007 Voices and Visions Woman of the Year.

Louise has volunteered for over 20 years at the Burlington Art Centre (BAC) and has been instrumental in establishing the centre as one of Ontario's leading public art galleries with a nationally significant collection of contemporary ceramic art. With over 100,000 people visiting it each year, the BAC has positively affected an estimated 1.75 million people over the first 30 years of operation and is one of Burlington's key tourist attractions.

The Tourism Burlington Ambassador Award, sponsored by IKEA Burlington, recognizes an individual or business that has shown exceptional vision in the development of tourism that will leave a strong legacy in Burlington and who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and been a tireless advocate in encouraging tourism product and service development in our city.

Tourism Burlington is the destination management organization for Burlington and operates a Visitor Centre that is open 7 days a week at 414 Locust Street just minutes from our beautiful waterfront. Contact www.tourismburlington.com for more information or call 905-634-5594.

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