

## **Michael Gordon named Orillia's 2018 Citizen of the Year**

**For immediate release (Jan. 21, 2019)** – Michael Gordon was named Orillia's 2018 Citizen of the Year at tonight's Council meeting.

Gordon, who has been actively involved in the Orillia community for more than fifteen years, had a stand-out year in 2018. As Chair of the Community Foundation of Orillia and Area (CFOA), he oversaw a growth in the organization's assets to over \$6 million, enabling the disbursement of more than \$260,000 in grants to local charities and initiatives in 2018. As treasurer for the Channel Cats, he spearheaded a large Trillium Grant application, and he acts as treasurer on the Regent Park parent council. Gordon also led fundraising efforts for St. Paul's Centre, which enabled a million-dollar renovation of the Great Hall and backstage area into a great performance facility for a myriad of events in the heart of the Orillia community.

"On behalf of Orillia City Council and the Citizen of the Year panel, I'd like to congratulate Michael Gordon and thank all of our wonderful nominees for their incredible dedication and contributions to our community. Orillia is a better place because of your efforts and commitment to making our community healthier and happier," said Mayor Steve Clarke.

Gordon received multiple nominations for the award, with nominator Carol Benedetti noting, "I believe the thing that makes Michael stand out is his 'big picture' thinking. His efforts on a high-level trickle down to impact many individuals and organizations and it's incredible." According to Benedetti, his work with both St. Paul's and the CFOA ensures that "Orillia is alive with culture as a result of Michael's efforts."

Nominees for the 2018 Citizen of the Year Award included Gordon, as well as Jeremy Clark, Noel Cooper and Patricia Beecham-Cooper, Laura Dickson, Ted Dongelmans, Kevin Gangloff, Jaimin Mahant, Sue Morris, Steve Orr, Elvis Ouimette and Eleanor Tinney.

The 2018 Citizen of the Year panel included winners Anderson Charters, Gill Tillmann, Gini Stringer, and Bruce Waite, as well as OrilliaMatters community editor Dave Dawson, reporter Nathan Taylor, and Dr. Linda Rodenburg of Lakehead University's Office of Community Engagement and Lifelong Learning.

The City of Orillia is a city of 31,000 people in the heart of Ontario's Lake Country on the shores of Lake Couchiching and Lake Simcoe. Visit our website at [orillia.ca](http://orillia.ca).

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Mayor Steve Clarke  
City of Orillia  
705-325-2447  
[mayor@orillia.ca](mailto:mayor@orillia.ca)

Jennifer Ruff  
Manager of Communications  
705-325-8929  
705-238-9209 (cell)  
[jruff@orillia.ca](mailto:jruff@orillia.ca)

**Photo Cutline:** Mayor Steve Clarke and Coun. Ralph Cipolla present Michael Gordon with the 2018 Citizen of the Year Award on Jan. 21, 2019.