



CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF CHATHAM-KENT

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

FEATURE INDUSTRY

Parks Blueberries and Country Store

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent recognize the contribution that corporate citizens have made and are making to enhance the economic health of this community;

AND WHEREAS Bill & Diane Parks currently own and operate Parks Blueberries and Country Store, located at 14815 Longwoods Road (Highway #2); the business originated with the purchase of Lots E & F, Concession 6 in Zone Township in 1979 and then, in 1983, the business expanded when they purchased the store location;

AND WHEREAS the business sells u-pick and already-picked blueberries and raspberries, they also offer a wide selection of jams, sauces, kitchenware and related products in a large store that provides customers the opportunity to purchase numerous types of baked goods and food items – all made fresh in their large kitchen – along with the opportunity to relax in their large eat-in dining area;

AND WHEREAS Parks Blueberries and Country Store has a staff of 20 people, which includes both full-time employees and summer students and, during peak harvest times in the summer, their employee workforce grows to 40 people, including 12 workers from Mexico;

AND WHEREAS in 2001 Bill Parks was selected as the Chatham & District Chamber of Commerce's "Agriculturalist of the Year", and in 2008 the business was selected as the Chatham-Kent Chamber's "Entrepreneur of the Year", and Bill Parks has been made an Honourary Member of the Canadian Seed Trade;

AND WHEREAS the business owners/operators are a part of numerous organizations, including the Ontario Fruit and Vegetable Growers, the Ontario Berry Growers, the Ontario Highbush Blueberry Growers, etc. and, in some instances have held positions on the Boards of those organizations;

AND WHEREAS Bill and Diane Parks feel that the secret to the success of their business is that they and their staff always ensure that they are nice to everyone, and that they always present a smiling face;

NOW THEREFORE I, Randy Hope, Mayor and CEO of the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, proclaim that Parks Blueberries and Country Store is hereby designated as "Feature Industry" for the month of June, 2009.

PROCLAIMED at Chatham-Kent, Ontario this 5th day of June, 2009.

Randy R. Hope
Mayor/CEO, Municipality of Chatham-Kent

Rob Browning
Chief Administrative Officer

On Behalf of Chatham-Kent Council:

Jim Brown, Don Clarke, Marjorie Crew, Joe Faas, Bryon Fluker, Anne Gilbert, Karen Herman,
Brian King, Tom McGregor, Sheldon Parsons, Steve Pickard, Steve Pinsonneault,
Larry Mansfield Robbins, Art Stirling, Doug Sulman, Frank Vercouteren, Bill Weaver.