

# Chamber honours three local businesses

By Ashleigh Viveiros

Three local businesses were honoured for their contributions to the community at the Winkler and District Chamber of Commerce annual business award banquet.

At the April 17 banquet, the Chamber presented awards to WBS Construction, Moonlite Auto Body, and Star-7 International Inc.

The three firms were chosen based on how well they fit the Chamber's achievement awards criteria, which looked at things like achievement and growth, volunteer service, and overall positive impact on the community, said Chamber president Ken Thomas.

"These were the (nominees) we felt were very deserving of recognition," he said.

Accepting the fourth annual P.W. Enns Business Excellence Award on behalf of WBS Construction was Harv Thiessen.

"It's truly an honour and a privilege to be acknowledged in this way," he said.

Thiessen thanked the Winkler community for its continued support over the years, starting back in 1979 when the company was first getting started.

"You've helped us make this company successful," he said.

As construction in Winkler has boomed, WBS has kept pace every step of the way, Thomas said.

"We see their work in every aspect of our community," he said, pointing to such projects as the new Winkler Library, the new MPI building, and numerous other residen-

## WBS Construction, Moonlite Auto Body, and Star-7 International take home P.W. Enns Business Awards

tial and commercial buildings. "They're a major player, and they give back in many ways."

### Two new awards

New this year were the P.W. Enns Business Builder Awards, created to honour the work of smaller businesses in town, said Thomas.

"I think there's been a tendency in the past to just recognize the larger companies," he said. "But everybody contributes to the success of our community."

Taking home the award for companies with fewer than 10 employees was Moonlite Auto Body. Steve Freund accepted the award on behalf of his family's business, which is celebrating 25 years of operation this June.

"The thought of getting an award for doing something that we love best never really crossed my mind," Freund admitted.

The automobile body repair and paint shop was started by Freund's parents - Cecil



Ashleigh Viveiros/Winkler Times

**From left: Harv Thiessen of WBS Construction, Steve Freund of Moonlite Auto Body, and Adele Dyck of Star-7 International received P.W. Enns Business Awards from Ken Thomas, president of the Winkler & District Chamber of Commerce.**

and Fran. In recent years, the company has enjoyed increased sales, and has given back by supporting a range of local events and organizations, including the Stanley Ag Society, minor hockey, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and others.

Accepting the award for businesses with more than 10 employees was Adele Dyck of Star-7 International.

Continued on p.7



**CLAC**  
Christian Labour Association of Canada



## International Day of Mourning

### April 28

CLAC invites you to join us on this day to remember all those who have lost their lives or have become injured or ill in their workplace.

In Canada, some 786 employees die from work-related incidents each year, averaging more than 2 deaths every day.

May this day be used to renew the commitment to improving health and safety in our workplaces.

[www.clac.ca](http://www.clac.ca)

*Remembering injured and lost lives in the workplace*

## M&M Meat Shops in Winkler!

M&M Meat Shops recently announced that it hopes to open a new store in Winkler in 2008. The company is actively seeking a franchisee to join its award-winning franchise team.

As Canada's largest specialty frozen food chain, the Kitchener, Ontario-based company offers hundreds of meal ideas in just one aisle. M&M Meat Shops opened its first store in 1980 and currently has over 465 locations across Canada, including 14 stores in Manitoba, with plans to open in Thompson as well. Each store carries more than 400 products offering convenient, home style and healthy meal alternatives for today's busy families.

"After much review, we feel that the Winkler/Morden area is ideal for M&M Meat Shops," says John Wissent, V.P. of Development for the company. "With names such as Wal-Mart, Tim Hortons, McDonald's and Boston Pizza in the market, we are not alone in having faith that this market will support a national brand such as ours."

According to Mr. Wissent, "the type of person who makes a great franchisee is someone who is community-minded, knows the value of excellent customer service, and enjoys interacting with other people. M&M Meat Shops takes great pride in the fact that as part of the team you are in business for yourself but not by yourself. Extensive training, support and the prestige of owning a respected business with a reputation for quality, consistency and value that is second to none is just the beginning."

**The Winkler store will be an M&M Meat Shops SELECT® store with a lower overall cost, lower breakeven and reduced financial commitment for a potential franchisee than a standard-sized store.**

If you would like to learn more about becoming an M&M Meat Shops franchisee, contact Laurel Rounds at 1-800-461-0171 Ext 313 or visit their website at [www.mmmeatshops.com](http://www.mmmeatshops.com).

Paid Editorial