By Mable Hastings

It was on April 8 that I received the email informing me that I was one of the recipients of a medal and certificate of honour being presented by Denis Paradis, our Member of Parliament to recognize the work of locals who have contributed to the betterment of various communities in the Brome-Missisquoi area. With a variety of categories, I was being honored alongside, Yves Grandmaison (Fantastiques de Magog), for our community involvement. I was, to say the least, both surprised and touched by this special recognition and to be named alongside an impressive list of amazing and accomplished individuals instilled an abundance of pride.

On Friday, May 17 at the Auberge West Brome, a ceremony was held to recognize honourees in the following categories:

Social involvement:
Doreen Page, President of the Sutton Valley Weaver’s Guild in West Brome.

Innovation:

Environment:
Robert and Gisèle Benoît (Memphrémagog Conservation Inc.)
Jacques Landry, Action Lac Champlain
Jean Simard, Conservation Nature Canada

André-Lise Méthot, for her exceptional contribution to fostering an environment conducive to establishing a thriving clean tech sector in Quebec;

Agriculture:
France Demers et Serge Bovais, Ferme Magolait.
Caroline Pelletier, Fromagerie Missiska.

Culture:
Jacques Allard, President and Founder of Les Correspondances d’Eastman.

Hélène Jalbert, President of the Théâtre Lac Brome.

Sports:
Nicolas Legault, Centre National de Cyclisme de Bromont.
Lyne Bessette, cyclist and Olympic medalist.

Community involvement:
Mable Hastings, CAB Mansonville.
Yves Grandmaison, Constance Langlois Foundation in Magog.

Tourism:
Jérémy Fontana and Julie Zeitlinger, Au Diable Vert.
André l’Espérance, founder of Orford Express Train and d’Escapades Memphrémagog cruises

Community involvement/Health:
Dr. Robert Fincott
Dr. William Barakett.

With a personalized tribute to each person, presentation of a medal and certificate and the opportunity for each recipient to say a few words, the event was inclusive, celebratory and touching. The efforts of Denis Paradis and his amazing staff were to be applauded. The spirit and joy in the room provided by family, friends, community members and recipients made for a beautiful evening.

On a personal note, to be honored with the likes and accomplishments of those listed above was, for me, a tremendous joy indeed. I congratulate all of the very deserving recipients and extend a big thank you to Denis and his team.