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NEWS RELEASE

May 29, 2018

Mayor Announces Community Senior Award Recipient

GRAVENHURST, ON – Gravenhurst resident, businessperson and philanthropist John Cooper has been selected to receive the 2018 Ontario Senior of the Year Award in Gravenhurst.

During the 34th Annual Mayors Tea, held Tuesday afternoon at the Gravenhurst Opera House, Mayor Paisley Donaldson shared the exciting announcement with attendees.

The Ontario Senior of the Year Award gives each municipality in Ontario the opportunity to honour one outstanding local Ontarian who after the age of 65 has enriched the social, cultural or civic life of his or her community.

“I’m thrilled for John, he is a true ambassador for our community who cares about the well-being of our citizens. John is a shining example of the incredible contributions that seniors continue to make in Gravenhurst,” said Mayor Paisley Donaldson, who was also acknowledged by the audience as she explained that this would be her final Mayors Tea as the Mayor of Gravenhurst.

John Cooper has been a Muskoka cottager for nearly 60 years, a permanent Gravenhurst resident for over 12 and an active pilot for 49 years. He has demonstrated a passion and commitment to the economic health of Muskoka in a multitude of ways. Prior to retirement, John was the CEO of Cooper Canada, the largest sporting goods manufacturer in the country at the time and the world’s largest manufacturer of ice hockey equipment.

He is a tireless supporter of the efforts to improve the telecommunications infrastructure for high-speed INTERNET in Muskoka. John’s passion lies in attracting more year-round jobs that pay a fair wage to the region. He is an extremely active member of the Gravenhurst Rotary Club, PROBUS Gravenhurst, the Seniors Centre, and a Director of the Sparrow Lake Association. When the proposal of initiating; a “Founders Circle” group of local business leaders, who would invest in a fund to support innovation in Muskoka, John was immediate in his response to be part of it. John has volunteered both his time and energy on the economic development advisory board for the Town of Gravenhurst for several years. At any given opportunity he is a staunch supporter and promoter of the arts and cultural attractions in Muskoka.

A community member describes John as “a local icon, a true moral character, and an inspiration for all who come to cross his path. He is a great person, an inspirational leader and an absolute asset to this community.”

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For more information, please contact:

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