



# Hansard Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

38th Parliament

## JOHN YAKABUSKI, M.P.P. - RENFREW-NIPISSING-PEMBROKE

December 20, 2006

Member's Statement

### **Muriel Verch – Country Woman of the Year Award Winner**

Speaker, I rise today to recognize a constituent of mine, Muriel Verch, who was just recently named Country Woman of the Year by Country Woman Magazine, an international publication based in the United States.

Muriel was chosen from hundreds of applicants which were narrowed down to three finalists late last summer.

She was nominated by her daughter, April, who besides being a devoted daughter is one of the Ottawa Valley's most talented and accomplished musicians.

It has been said of Muriel, "you couldn't pay Muriel Verch to serve her community." She insists on doing it for free. As April said, "she's the most generous and selfless person I know." Muriel is a community leader who has been organizing children's Christmas parties, youth events, dinners for seniors, and the winter carnival for over 25 years.

She was Chair of the Rankin fire station support group which raised over \$70,000 to establish a fire station where none existed.

She is active raising funds for valley heritage radio, serves as an elder and treasurer in her church and a director of the annual Knights of Columbus Irish play. In addition she has of course taken care of her family in a most admirable fashion.

Muriel was chosen Country Woman of the Year by virtue of receiving the most votes among the three finalists. I want to thank the good people of my riding for taking the time to ensure that a fine Valley woman would receive this honour. I was pleased to encourage them to do so when Muriel was chosen as a finalist.

To Muriel, her husband Ralph, and her entire family, congratulations, it is well deserved.

To everyone everywhere, may the love of Christ be with you this Christmas and always.