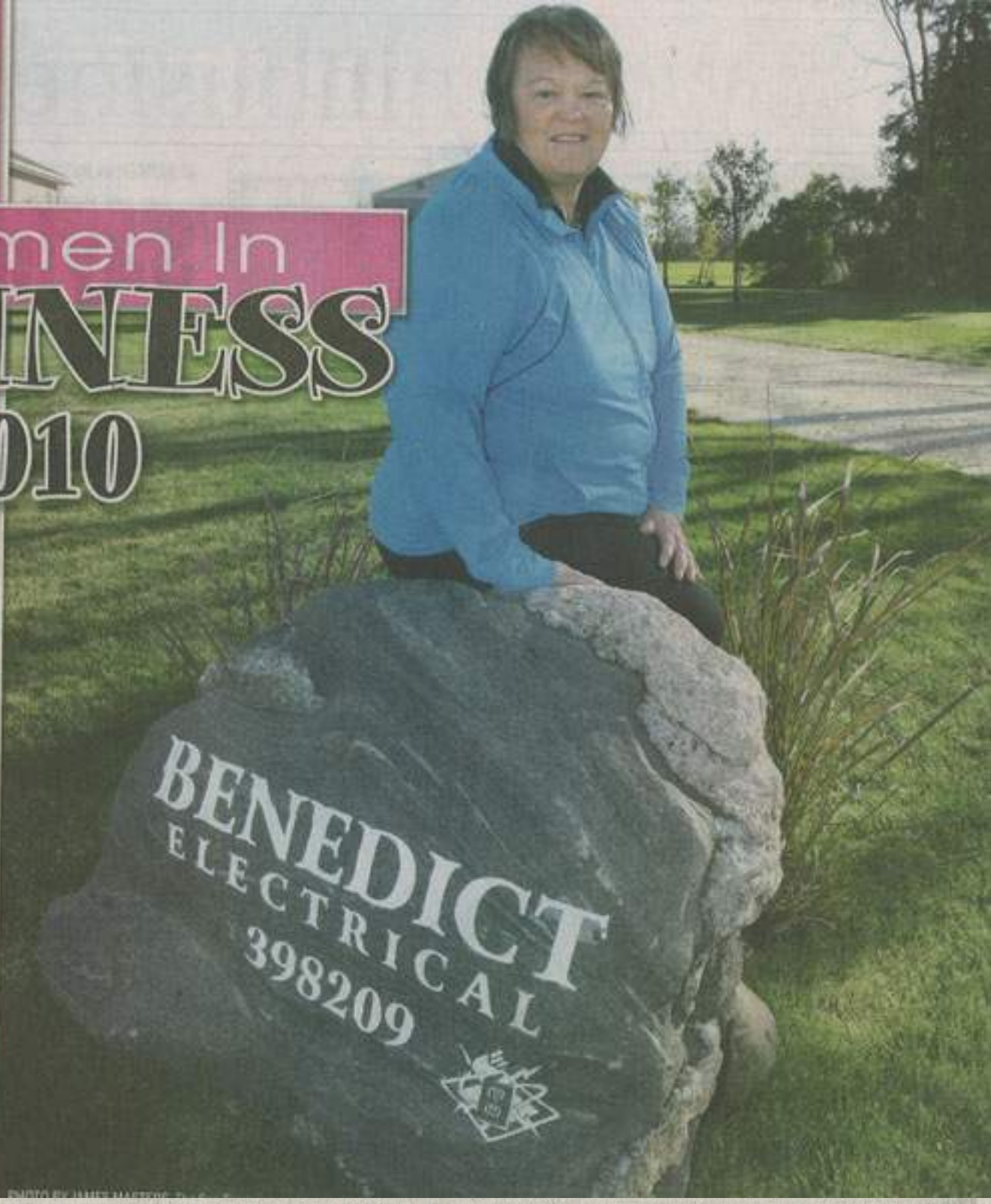


Women In BUSINESS 2010

MARG BENEDICT
Business Woman
of the Year



Special feature of
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WOMEN IN BUSINESS: The list of volunteer and charity work that Marg Benedict is involved in goes on and on...

Business woman of the year

BY LORI LEDINGHAM
QMI Agency

Marg Benedict has really managed to do something special. She has reached the pinnacle of her profession and been named Business Woman of the Year, and she has done so in a business - electrical contracting - that is traditionally male dominated.

As you begin to talk about Benedict Electrical with Marg, the word family crops up a lot.

"We started the business in February 1998 - my husband and I," says Marg. "We did it as a family because our son Stephen was in an apprenticeship to complete his five-year certification as an electrician."

"We were always a home based business and always will be a home based business."

Marg sees many positive aspects

to the home based business.

It's here, we're right on location. If there's a really bad storm, we can still answer the calls and give customer service - in winter and summer because we've had quite a few summer storms that have knocked out power.

"We don't use an answering service. We answer the phone ourselves and it really surprises people that we pick up the phone on a Saturday or a Sunday... We also do a lot of our legwork on the weekends because that is when it's convenient for the customer if they are building a home."

Marg describes the business as split between residential, commercial and industrial work.

"We're very fortunate because Wayne had built a reputation for himself as a journeyman electrician working for two other companies in Owen Sound. For the

first couple of years, I worked as a nurse and ran the office as well and then about 2001, I stopped nursing and ran the office full time.

Marg agrees that the electrical contracting business is a male dominated one, and notes, "That's why it is such a shock to win an award of this esteem."

She is quick to credit the entire organization of Benedict with the company's success.

"We have a really great staff in this company and they enhance our business every time they go on to a job site, they really do. They carry everything that we expect them to carry with them from the start of the job to cleaning up the site to make it perfectly wonderful for the clients to come back in. They all have brooms in their vans!"

"We have the clients come back to us and say, 'Wow. They

cleaned up after themselves.' That goes for commercial as well as residential jobs. It you see any of the panels we install, customers will say it look like artwork - it's so neat and meticulous. I'm very proud of the way our staff handle themselves."

Beyond tackling the job of running Benedict Electrical with her husband, Marg has also been very active as a volunteer in the community including work with Habitat for Humanity, Big Sisters, and the North Grey Women's Institute, as well as sponsoring high school scholarships at OSCVI, St. Mary's and West Hill.

Marg describes her involvement with Habitat for Humanity:

"My son Stephen decided he wanted to do something for the community so we got involved with Habitat and we decided we would do it as a mother and son. We wanted to share something

that was related to work, but that was outside the business."

"In 2006 and 2007, we cochaired the skilled trades committee for the six homes built in Owen Sound for six families. It was a really big project and we had a great committee with terrific people on it. And I don't believe there are any better built homes than those six homes there."

She also helped the local Big Sisters organization at a critical time.

"Big Sisters were folding - they had a very difficult year in 2004 - and it's such a needed organization. They needed someone to help with sponsorship so I came on to help see if we could get it back on its feet."

"That first year I think we raised about seven or eight thousand dollars and it just went on from there."

Today, Marg reports, the Big Sisters organization is very financially healthy.

The list of volunteer and charity work that Marg Benedict is involved in goes on and on. She supports the Owen Sound Little Theatre, Western Ontario Drama League Festival, the Catholic Women's League and the Georgian Bay Garden Club fundraising tour.

For the past three years, Marg was a key organizer of the Grey Bruce Electrical Mechanical Annual Golf Tournament which has raised over \$18,000 for the following: Habitat for Humanity (2007), Juvenile Diabetes (2008) and Multiple Sclerosis (2009).

Marg's nomination papers include the following comments by Lori Parkinson, "Marg is always friendly with a 'Come In'

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THE SUN TIMES WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010

Women in business

WOMEN AND BUSINESS: Business Woman of the year 2010

Benedict, an active volunteer

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when one visits the home based office. This is a busy place with Marg likely on the phone, Wayne and Stephen working over blueprints, and daughter Mary Ann completing some detail on an offer that needs to get out. In the mix, two grandchildren are busy playing in this loving environment. This home office atmosphere is every family's dream. It is the great care of family which

We believe in giving back to the people in our area, being active by volunteering with many different organizations. It's just part of who I am.

Marg Benedict,
Business Woman of the year

includes husband Wayne as well as the two family staff, Stephen and Mary Ann, that overflows to the company's strong relationships with customers and other business partners."

Reflecting on the Business Woman of the Year Award, Marg is grateful to her supporters, nominees and to the award sponsor - The Sun Times - and publisher Cheryl McMenemy and sales manager Louise Kazarian-Hodder.

"We live in a wonderful community. Benedict Electrical is very proud and honoured to live here. We believe in giving back to the people in our area, being active by volunteering with many different organizations. It's just part of who I am."

Two prestigious awards won by Benedict Electrical Contracting Limited



Marg Benedict at work in her office at Benedict Electrical. Marg won the Sun Times Women in Business Business Woman of the Year Award recently. JAMES MASTERS, The Sun Times

May 2006 - won the Award for Excellence in Apprenticeship Training and Building Jobs and Growth presented by the Honourable Chris Bentley, Minister of Training Colleges and Universities Ontario. The award reflects the constant commitment the company makes with the hiring of apprentices and the constant training and tracking that such an undertaking requires to guide these young apprentices to become knowledgeable in the electrical trade.

October 2006 - won the Owen Sound and District Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year Award - Under 15 employees.

BUSINESS: 150 turn out for annual event

Benedict business woman of the year

LORI LEDINGHAM
QMI Agency

Margaret Benedict of Benedict Electrical was named 2010 Business Woman of the Year at the Women in Business Awards Wednesday.

Ann Milne of Ann Milne School of Dance received the 2010 Heart and Soul Award at the seventh annual awards, which are sponsored by The Sun Times.

Sun Times publisher Cheryl McMenemy read from the judges comments about Benedict.

"Learning the business from the ground up, Marg Benedict has become not only an expert in her field, but has become a person well respected in her industry," she said. "Marg gives continuously to everything she becomes involved with. It doesn't end at the door of her homebased office either - it spills out into the community: Habitat for Humanity, Georgian College, an annual golf tournament, Big Sisters, the Women's Institute, and the list goes on."

"I'm quite speechless right now," Benedict said. "There are so many women who deserve this more than I do. I look forward to seeing your names on this award in the future, and I wish you good luck in the future with your businesses."

Milne was recognized by the judges with the following comments: "For many years now, Ann has made a wonderful business around nurturing, coaching and training young people - all of this with passion and commitment. The last few years, she has taken her gift to a new level and has given it back to the community at large through her Dancing for Life initiative, raising thousands of dollars for community needs."

Milne thanked the Sun Times for the honour and said "it has been great to move back to Owen Sound and reconnect with so many terrific people. You all make me want to be a better person."

The afternoon event attracted more than 150 women from around Grey and Bruce.



Heart and Soul award winner Ann Milne, Sun Times Publisher Cheryl McMenemy, Business Woman of the Year Margaret Benedict and Sun Times sales manager Louis Kazarian-Hodder at the Women in Business Awards.

Prior to the awards Canadian comic Kristeen van Hagen entertained with her offbeat social commentary.

"Let me ask you this, with all of you here, who's running the businesses in Owen Sound? You didn't leave the men in charge, did you?" she quipped.

LORI LEDINGHAM QMI Agency