

ACHIEVEMENT

Musicians honoured at gala

After a weekend packed with musical showcases, seminars and a songwriting circle, the 2005 MusicNL awards were handed out at a gala at Exploits Valley high school in Grand Falls-Windsor Nov. 6.

Modern folk group The Cormiers, featuring Gordon Cormier and Loretta Johnson and their children Mallory Johnson, 15, and Randall Cormier, 13, performed at the show and also took home the most awards: Group of the Year, Folk/Roots Group of the Year, and Steele Communications Album of the Year for their self-titled CD.

A single from the album, Not Me, Not Now, was named SOCAN Song of the Year.

Singer/songwriter Kelly-Ann Evans of St. John's, who released her debut CD, You Decide, this year, took home two awards: Female Artist of the Year and Molson Pop/Rock Artist of the Year.

Country singer Rod Jackson of Grand Falls-Windsor, also garnered two awards: Male Artist of the Year and Country Artist of the Year.

The award for Entertainer of the Year went to Jason Greeley, who shot to fame after he reached the Top 4 spot on Canadian Idol last year.

Awards were also presented to The Novaks as the CBC's Galaxy Rising Star; Sandy Morris for Instrumental Artist of the Year; Celebration for Gospel Group of the Year; Colleen Power for Alternative Artist of the Year; Kevin Kelly for Media Person of the Year; O'Brien's Music Store for Outstanding Company of the Year; Rick Hollett for Industry Professional of the Year; Lyle Drake for Volunteer of the Year; and Sonny Hogan for Music Educator of the Year.

Lifetime achievement

The MusicNL Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dick Nolan, a singer/songwriter from Corner Brook who is best known for Aunt Martha's Sheep, a comical song which was a huge hit in 1972.

The MusicNL Industry Builder award went to MusicNL president John Hutton.

MusicNL was previously known as the Music Industry Association of Newfoundland and Labrador (MI-ANL), until last month, when it adopted the MusicNL brand.