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## From the Executive Director

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## From the Executive Director

The Historic Huntsville Foundation's annual awards banquet, held on May 17, 2002, was a celebration for the Foundation in so many ways. Most important to many, we had enough food. Second, we had enough places for everyone to sit. We usually plan for 80 to 100 attendees at these events.

The award winners are our guests, so we ask our members to bring a little extra. This year, one of our award winners was Kids Architectural Press at Chapman Elementary School. We invited principal, Deborah Baker, and teacher, Amy Smith, to receive the award on behalf of last year's class members for their project "Doors of Historic Huntsville."

A few days before the event, Award Chair Judy Perszyk received a call from Amy Smith with an RSVP for 54 representing Kids Architectural Press. Judy Perszyk and Billie Grosser, Program Chair, worked out a very satisfactory seating arrangement and called on reserves to supplement the buffet. All attendees were seated and amply fed. Everyone even was invited back for seconds.

After many months of evening meetings made more enjoyable by Judy Perszyk's delicious snacks and entertaining cats, after an exhaustive Sunday afternoon drive-by of all nominated properties, after untold hours spent on research and script-writing, after much masterful PowerPoint work by Richard Perszyk, members enjoyed the most balanced, professional awards presentation in the Foundation's history.

It was personally and professionally gratifying to see the wide range of projects, the geographic distribution, and the broad spectrum of individuals represented: from the tiny *Shepherd Cottage* in Old Town to *Poplar Grove*, Alabama's mansion showplace in Twickenham, from a Five Points cottage to Dallas Mill village homes, from builders to craftsmen to a Congressman, from school children to the U.S. Army, from Cindi Record's tears for her friend the late Diane Weston to the New Market Presbyterian Church minister's heartfelt recognition of his members' years of hard work.

The awards committee, Judy and Richard Perszyk, Linda and Ralph Allen, Susan Fambrough, Marc Goldmon, and Lynn Jones, took this event to a new level on May 17. They are to be commended for their selection, their riveting and educational presentation, and their delightful creativity. My heart swells with pride when I remember this night.