

Incom named Charlton Outstanding Business of 2015

BY OLIVIA RICHMAN
NEWS STAFF WRITER

CHARLTON — Incom was named the Charlton Outstanding Business of 2015 during an Old Home Day ceremony, an award that the business was very excited to receive.

“It was very, very flattering,” said Incom President and CEO Michael A. Detarando. “If it were up to me, I’d have all 150 employees up there standing with me. I was very humbled and honored to receive it on behalf of Incom. We try to foster a strong community balance within our organization. I am proud of our employees and the work they do in the community. It’s important we have a strong community around us.”

Charlton has been presenting this award at Old Home Day for as long as Kathleen Walker can remember. The Old Home Day Committee chairman believes the award is extremely important, since a lot of companies contribute to Old Home Day in different ways. It’s one small way to thank the businesses and express their appreciation, said Walker.

The award is given to a business or company that the Old Home Day Committee perceives to be front and center, giving back to the community and has a lot of visibility in town.

Incom has a rich history when it comes to community service and charity work and 2015 was no different. Incom has a large presence in United Way in Sturbridge, Southbridge and Charlton. They serve on boards at Harrington Hospital, work with the Center of Hope and have also been deeply involved with the STEM Education Program through Quinebaug Valley Community College.

Said Detarando: “We want the Central Massachusetts area to take back the lead in manufacturing. Building a strong education base for people who want



Olivia Richman photo

From left, Sen. Anne Gobi, State Rep. Paul Frost, State Rep. Peter Durant and Michael A. Detarando, president and CEO of Incom.

to go into high tech manufacturing is what is viewed as a strong candidate to revitalize Central Massachusetts. We are very consistent with our vision for the future.”

It’s Incom’s constant involvement with the community that made them a great fit for the Outstanding Business award. Old Home Day Committee member Mike Lally believes it’s been a long time coming.

“Incom has been one of the cutting edge businesses in this region for years

in technology. They employ a lot of people. The employees are first class citizens who help out,” said Lally. “They have been helping around town for years. We thought they have more than earned the award.”

The Old Home Day Committee believes it’s important to recognize business’s



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volunteer efforts in the community because it’s a vital part of the community. According to Lally, without the business community Old Home Day wouldn’t even have been able to have their fireworks.

Director of Human Resources for Incom Maura Grossman said she is very proud to represent Incom.

“It makes me proud to be part of an organization where volunteering is encouraged and supported,” said Grossman. “As an employee I always feel that I have the opportunity and support to participate in the community. We do multiple donations to many local sports organizations for youth, partner closely with Bay Path and do co-op placement for students ... It’s just part of our values.”

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‘The Hunt for New England Vampires’ comes to OSV

STURBRIDGE — The very word “vampire” conjures such diverse images as the ghoulish creature in Bram Stoker’s Dracula portrayed in film by Bella Lugosi, to the young and sexy Edward Cullen of Stephenie Meyer’s “Twilight,” portrayed by Robert Pattinson.

However, at a special lecture at Old Sturbridge Village on Thursday, Oct. 1, author and folklore expert Michael Bell will explain yet another variety of “vampire” that stalked the remote areas of New England more than 100 years before Stoker’s tale appeared in print.

Bell has been on a 30-year quest to unravel the mystery of these little-known, so-called vampires, beginning with a family story told to him by an old Yankee from rural Rhode Island, which he described in his award-winning book, Food for the Dead (2001). Now, more than eighty vampire exhumations later, Bell is completing his second book on the topic, In the Vampire’s Grasp: Narrating America’s Restless Dead. At the Oct. 1 program, he will share both old and new exhumation stories in his illustrated talk.

The program begins at 6 p.m. with a reception and book signing with the author, followed by his lecture at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person, or \$8 for OSV members, and may be reserved

online at www.osv.org, or by calling 800-733-1830. Refreshments and a cash bar will be provided.

Michael E. Bell was awarded a Ph.D. in Folklore from Indiana University, Bloomington; his dissertation topic was African-American voodoo practices. He has an M.A. in Folklore and Mythology from the University of California at Los Angeles, and a B.A. in Anthropology and Archaeology from the University of Arizona, Tucson. Bell was the Consulting Folklorist at the Rhode Island Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, Providence, Rhode Island, for twenty-five years. He has also taught courses in folklore, English, anthropology and American Studies at several colleges and universities. Michael Bell and his wife, Carole, split their time between Rhode Island and Texas.

The third program in the 2015 Speaker Series takes place on Thursday, Oct. 22, featuring R. Nicholas Burns, Professor of the Practice of Diplomacy and International Relations at the Kennedy School of Government and former Ambassador to Greece and NATO.

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