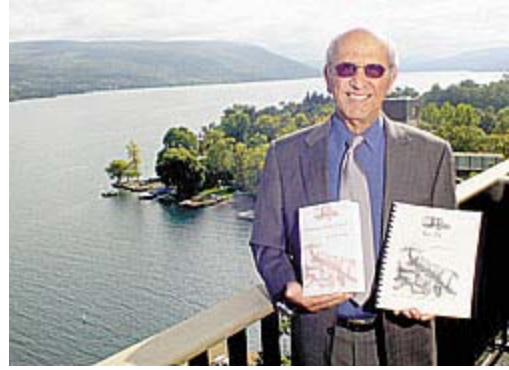


Entrepreneur, author is year's No. 1 citizen

By JULIE SHERWOOD
Messenger Post Staff
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CANANDAIGUA — Nearly 300 community and business leaders joined in honoring Frederick W. Sarkis as the 2003 Citizen of the Year last night at Steamboat Landing Banquet Center.



"I really coveted this award," said an emotional Sarkis, who launched two of the area's most successful industries, Bristol Mountain Winter Resort and Bristol Harbour. Referring to challenges he faced bringing the projects to fruition, he joked, "It was an uphill battle all the way."

He was honored at an annual meeting and recognition dinner of the Greater Canandaigua Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sarkis, 77, is credited with brokering peace between the developers of Bristol Harbour resort and Canandaigua Lake Pure Waters, a Canandaigua Lake environmental protection group of which he later became president. Sarkis also forged the way for the thriving Bristol Mountain ski resort, getting it off the ground using fledgling snowmaking and ski trail lighting technology.

Sarkis said his most rewarding profession yet is his current one, however, that of a motivational author and speaker. He uses stories and lessons from his life experiences to influence and inspire children and adults.

"Service to humanity is the best work in life," he said. "I am having the most fun in my life."

Many of Sarkis' family members surprised him by appearing in the back of the room as he received his award.

"We are very proud of him," said his son, Fritz Sarkis.