

BENJAMIN

Michael Benjamin

4 Bogart Close Dingley Village

Photos: D001832, 33, 34

Nomination – 2007 - Citizen of the Year
Michael Benjamin

Michael and his family, wife Peta and 3 children have lived in Dingley Village for 25 years. Michael was a policeman for 15 years and completed his law degree while with the Police Department.

When Dingley's local bank closed in 2000, members of the Chamber of Commerce which included Michael, were gravely concerned for the financial support of both the retailers in Dingley Village and the families.

A steering committee was formed and first met on 13/3/2001. Michael was elected Chairman, he has been growing the Bank and supporting the community since that time.

A feasibility study regarding the bank was commissioned and Dingley Village emerged as one of the strongest sites studied.

A public meeting was held and incredible support resulted.

Lengthy negotiations followed until the bank opened in April 2002.

Michael's commitment and concern for Dingley Village has not waned since that time.

The Bank is growing in financial terms, as is the involvement with the community. The Bank purchased a bus for the Dingley Village Community in 2005 and it is used extensively by Dingley Village groups.

As a group heavily involved with the 44 community organisations in Dingley Village, we will continue to work with Michael and his team over the coming years.

We strongly recommend him for the 2007 City of Kingston Citizen of the Year.

Dingley Village Neighbourhood Centre