

Virtual Dutch treat

When Hans Moor, right, came to Canada in May of 1998 to follow his Canadian partner in life, he was unemployed for a relatively brief period of time. But in that time, the sales and marketing expert taught himself HTML and the basics of setting up a Web site. "I tried new things, and then other new things, and read up and all of a sudden I was a specialist." So, when he became treasurer of the Ottawa-based Dutch Canadian Association, he was more than ready to accomplish a job it had.

The association served an aging local Dutch population and an atrophying membership. The community had an image of being stuck in the past, and the association decided to use information technology to spruce things up.

On his own, Moor revamped the association's Web site. It started to post Dutch news on passport regulations, and for new immigrants, networking information on jobs and interview tips. The site is updated twice a week and a special association e-mail was es-

tablished (gezelligDCA@hotmail.com), implying social good times and coziness. The site has become the first virtual newspaper for the Dutch in Eastern Ontario, and the association says there is no other Dutch community in the world with such an extensive and up-to-date Web site. The upshot: The social fabric among the Dutch is improving, people are coming out to events and renewing friendships. (The site is: www.cyberus.ca/dca)

For its work, the Dutch Canadian Association was named one of five award winners by SCOAP, an organization whose goal is to promote the use of intellectual capital (mostly IT) in the Ottawa area.

Other winners:

- Catena Networks, for its CNX-5 Broadband DSL and CN1000 Broadband Loop Carrier Systems;
- xwave for the Regionally Accessible Secure Cardiac Health Records (RASCHR) system which allows the faster capture and transfer of cardiac patient information between multiple facilities and the Ottawa



WAYNE HIEBERT, THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

Heart Institute;

- International Datacasting for SuperFlex for Distance Learning. Superflex has allowed Mexican students and teachers access to multimedia learning, even in schools without phones. IDC receivers are now deployed in every state in Mexico.

- EMS Technologies Canada, Ltd., for its project "HSD-128" Dual Channel Aeronautic High Speed Data Terminal. This product is on the leading edge of satellite communications.