

Ralph T. Gould Award: I am pleased to announce that the newest recipient of the Ralph T. Gould Citizenship Award is Michael Ott.

While Mike did have tremendous help from a fine committee and would no doubt deflect much attention toward them, he would have to be identified as the driving force and figurehead of the effort to build Hannaford Field. His enthusiasm for the project and his foresight and vision of what it would mean to our community were instrumental in bringing this from concept to reality. To have a central outdoor gathering place and state-of-the-art facility like Hannaford Field will be an important part of not only our school campus, but of our entire town for many years to come.

Unfortunately the Otts left Cape Elizabeth a couple of months ago, due to a career move for Michael.

I have unsuccessfully tried to lure him back to Cape Elizabeth to receive the award, along with our accolades. His busy work schedule is not permitting this. We have been made aware of the fact that one of our councilors-elect, Jim Walsh, and his wife Kathy have plans to dine with the Otts later this month in NYC. And so I am suggesting, rather than to allow this presentation to hang in limbo indefinitely, that we designate Jim as our special emissary to deliver the Ralph Gould plaque to Michael, along with a declaration of our profound thanks and our best wishes.

I am perhaps the only member of the sitting town council to have actually known Ralph Gould. Ralph and Louise Gould lived at #31 Forest Road, behind the house where I grew up on Cottage Farms. Mr. Gould was both a wonderful and an interesting man. He was a real character in a good sense. He usually wore a beret and would drive a French Citroen automobile. He always had a friendly wave for us kids. He was a philanthropist. He was the donor of an incredible collection of ancient musical instruments, which I believe is still on display at the Bixler Art Building at Colby College. For many years, he sponsored a competition for area high school musicians, in which I had the honor of representing CEHS one year. He was one of those

rare individuals who, if you approached him with a well-defined and reasonable need, had the means and inclination to open his bankbook and help. If you need to have a picture accompany the definition of the word citizenship in the dictionary, you would be well served to have a picture of Ralph Gould there.

We are pleased to add Michael Ott's name to a long and growing list of those Cape Elizabeth citizens who have made a tremendous difference in our town. I know that Jim Walsh will do a great job at conveying that message to Michael when he sees him later this month.