

# Want to cruise the harbour? Get in line

It's been a ship of jewels for the "Queen" of Hamilton Harbour. The harbour cruises are a big success story as the popular new tourism adventure sails into its second year. It won the award for best new business and made a profit in spite of starting costs.

The Talk sat with Hamilton Waterfront Trust officials at last Thursday night's 8th annual Tourism Hamilton Awards and learned:

■ This year five more cruises have been added for a total of 11 a week. There were 169 cruises last season with more than 12,000 passengers. Demand was so high an additional six weeks was added to the schedule.

■ There are already more than 4,000 bookings this year. Board members expect a second vessel will sail the harbour within the next two years.

■ Four trolleys, which will carry 43 passengers, are being built by technicians assisted by machine, wood and auto shop students at Sir John A. Macdonald secondary school.

They will help disabled people to tour



TED BRELLISFORD, THE HAMILTON SPECTATOR

**Joan Balinson, Sue Vattay, David Adames, Linsay Coombes and Kathy Dunn at the Hamilton Tourism Awards.**

the 10-km waterfront trail.

■ A licensed, full-service restaurant, Williams Coffee Pub, will include a patio at Pier 8 where the Harbour Queen is located.

■ A free service (wheelchair accessible) will transport people from downtown Hamilton to the harbour by the end of this summer.

■ Size matters. Hamilton Harbour is five times the size of Toronto Harbour, according to Hamilton Harbour Queen's charming captain, **Brian Brooks**.

■ The first wedding to charter the whole vessel will be celebrated May 27. Calls are coming in for 2007 weddings.

■ A free barbecue to launch the new season will be held May 27 at Pier 8.