

Media Release

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Event: Chamber Business Awards of Distinction Winners

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Celebrating Business Excellence in Campbell River

Chamber Business Awards of Distinction Recipients for 2010
Announced at Community Celebration

Campbell River Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the award recipients of the 2010 Business Awards of Distinction. In response to the call for nominations, the community brought forward a distinguished group of nominees, representing the outstanding contribution that individuals, businesses and not for profit organizations make to Campbell River. An independent panel of judges, comprised of business and community leaders, evaluated the nominations resulting in the selection of Finalists and an award recipient in each of the award categories. The efforts of all the nominees and Finalists were applauded by a sold out crowd at the 2010 Chamber Business Awards of Distinction event held Saturday night at the Community Centre where the winners were announced.

"The Business Awards of Distinction recipients exemplify the qualities of business success. Each of the award recipients brings their entrepreneurial spirit, risk taking, ideas and innovation into our community to grow and shape a prosperous and healthy Campbell River. On behalf of the Chamber Board, Staff and our Members, we congratulate you and wish you continued business success." commented Andy Leitch, 2010 President of the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce

"This year's event theme, Success Beyond the Lemonade Stand is aligned with the principles of business success, says Colleen Evans, Chamber Executive Director. "The Lemonade Stand honors the foundation of best business practice and entrepreneurship. Many of our most successful companies began with the excitement of invention and the prospect of success, two of the most potent drivers of entrepreneurship. Promoting the valuable experiences that can be gained from operating a lemonade stand and learning financial and business literacy at an early age can become a powerful driver for invention, productivity and new ideas for small businesses today. It's often those same best business practices that are learned earlier in life through experiences like operating a lemonade stand, that have resulted in Campbell River's business leaders, businesses and organizations accomplishments and their success that we celebrated at this year's awards event."

Micro Business of the Year for 2010 is Two Hills Ventures Ltd. Two Hills Ventures prides itself on providing top quality design and renovation construction services to residential and commercial clients and their focus is on green renovations and design solutions. They have developed a template for transparent pricing and budgeting of projects this is unique to the renovation business and were able to increase sales by over 300% from 2008 to 2009. The Micro Business of the Year award is sponsored by 97.3 The Eagle.

Small Business of the Year for 2010 is Capacity Forest Management. A Forest Management Company who deals exclusively with First Nations clients, Capacity Forest Management is unique in managing forest licenses in concurrence with the values of First Nations. The First Nation retains ownership of their company and their profits while gaining experience and training necessary to manage a successful business. The Small Business of the Year award is sponsored by Pioneer Home Hardware.

Intermediate Business of the Year for 2010 is Ocean Pacific Marine Supply Ltd. Ocean Pacific is unique to the marine market in the area and has the only lift of its kind with the capacity to lift vessels up to 83 tonnes. They also offer dry land storage for the winter and attract vessels from the United States and Europe. Their workforce has grown from 4 to 16 full time positions in the yard and a total of 27 employees all together. In their current location they are now able to service a wider variety of vessels that previously had to leave Campbell River. The Intermediate Business of the Year award is sponsored by Glacierview Financial Services/Chambers Group Insurance Program.

Large Business of the Year for 2010 is Pioneer Home Hardware Building Centre. Pioneer Home Hardware is a local family owned and operated business and has seen 3 major expansions of their store, the most recent in 2008. These renovations have seen the business increase sales by 450% and increase their number of employees by 400%. Being a family owned business through three generations with the fourth generation now working in the store, they take pride in giving back to the community and were recently awarded the Home Hardware Public Relations Award. They were recently advised that they have been ranked in the top 15 stores by the Building Supply Industry Association of BC stores. The Large Business of the Year award is sponsored by Campbell River Mirror.

Not-for Profit Business of the Year for 2010 is Museum at Campbell River. Since opening in 1958, community support for the Museum at Campbell River has continued to grow and in 2009, 115 volunteers contributed a total of 3891 hours of volunteer support in all service areas. Accredited for 'Class A' status under the Cultural Property act of Canada, the Museum is recognized internationally and received the BC Museums Association Award of Merit for outstanding achievement. Open 333 days in 2009 the Museum saw 26,075 visitors. The Not-for-Profit Business Award is sponsored by Vancouver Island Insurance Centres.

Family Friendly Business of the Year for 2010 is Coastal Eyecare Centres. Coastal Eyecare Centres is the longest serving eyecare clinic on Northern Vancouver Island, opening 62 years

ago. Their family friendly employee practices include Family Fun days, Team building days, flexible work schedules to accommodate family needs and a flexible environment for their staff during the work day. In addition, they provide \$100 donation to each employee to donate to a group of their choice in order to support them and their families in their community involvement. The Family Friendly Business of the Year Award is sponsored, and adjudicated by Success by Six.

The Environmental Sustainability Business Award for 2010 went to Pioneer Home Hardware Building Centre. Pioneer Home Hardware has a store policy that what ever can be recycled will be recycled. Their interior lighting was custom designed so that it uses the least amount of electricity possible and in areas that are not in use, the lights are turned off. Their air exchange units were upgraded to be highly environmentally friendly and are all on sensors to manage energy efficiency. Environmentally safe products are part of their green philosophy and they have taken progressive steps to reduce and eliminate waste associated with their products and service. The Environmental Sustainability Business Award is sponsored by BC Hydro.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year for 2010 was awarded to Stacey Larson of Ladybug Greenhouse. Stacey started Ladybug Landscaping, a landscape consultation, design and installation company in 1997 and in 2001 opened Ladybug Greenhouse, a seasonal, retail garden centre. The greenhouse has been expanded from it's original 850 square feet to a 7,000 square foot space. The business has established a reputation and name based on honesty, determination, perseverance, creativity and a true passion. Involved with Campbell River's Communities in Bloom since inception, Stacey is involved in supporting numerous local not for profits and acts as a judge for local and commercial gardening contests. During the downturn, she continued to diversify adding flat deck delivery service, floral design and promoted the zero mile diet strategy to shop local and grow your own produce by increasing their inventory in fruit trees, vegetables and berry producing shrubs. The Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award is sponsored by BC Hydro.

Not for Profit Business Leader of the Year for 2010 is Mary Ellen Walling of BC Salmon Farmers Foundation. Mary Ellen Walling has been the Executive Director of the BC Salmon Farmers Association since 2002 but has also spent a significant part of her career as Director of Industry Training and Community Development at North Island College.

She is a founding member of the Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences and is involved several research committees and industry groups including the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance. In 2004 she returned to school at Royal Roads University where she achieved a Master of Arts in Applied Communication and recently served as moderator of Aquavision a seafood conference in Norway and last year spoke at the Soy Farmers of America conference which resulted in 60 people coming to Campbell River to learn about sustainable farming practices.

Her peers had this to say about Mary Ellen – She has earned a well-deserved international reputation for fairness, thoughtfulness, and commitment to the industry and people she represents. She brings a strong commitment to collaboration and forging partnerships.

She is highly respected by corporate leaders, politicians, bureaucrats and workers alike. Real leaders are rare. Mary Ellen is a real leader.

Business Leader of the Year for 2010 is Gary Thulin of Pioneer Home Hardware Building Centre.

As Owner and General Manager of a four generation family run hardware business, Gary Thulin has been in the family business for the past 26 years, starting while he was still in high school and increasing the value of the business over 400% in the past ten years. He is also President of two property and development holding companies and recently purchased the Campbell River Hyundai/Subaru dealership with his son-in-law.

His business expertise, leadership and management style are nationally recognized and demonstrated through the admiration of his peers who state that Gary has the qualities we try to foster throughout our organization. He is a true entrepreneur enthusiastic, innovative and committed to success as an independent business owner. Gary's dedication to Campbell River is enormous, he gives countless hours to numerous charities and associations in our community and as a Leader, Gary leads by example. When he makes the commitment to get something done you can be assured that it will be done and done well. As noted by a fellow business leader – When I think of Gary, three characteristics come to mind – Commitment to the community and to be a cornerstone business in Campbell River; Attitude of his staff as a direct reflection of the attitude of his leadership; and Contribution, giving relentlessly of himself, and always with a kind heart and a gentle smile.

Campbell River and District Chamber of Commerce congratulates the award recipients in each of the categories and extends a sincere thank you to all of this year's Finalists whose efforts contribute so significantly to the quality of life in Campbell River. A special thank you to our Business Awards of Distinction Presenting Sponsor, Meyers Norris Penny and all of the award sponsors, volunteers and special event sponsors who contributed so generously of their time, talent and finances to make this year's event a resounding success.

Thank you!

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Photos available upon request