



*Greater Nanaimo
Chamber of Commerce*

**2017
Business &
Community
Achievement
Awards**

MAY 4, 2017 • PORT THEATRE

2017 BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY

On Thursday, May 4th, 2017, the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce recognizes 'leaders and achievers' in the 16th Annual celebration of Nanaimo's business community for their achievements this year.

Last year, some four hundred people celebrated the nominees and winners in an 'Oscar-night' style event. Jazz in the lobby and a 10-piece band on stage welcomed winners, their families and friends during a fantastic evening.

"Awards Night" is the culmination of a process that starts with open, public nominations of over a hundred businesses chosen by their followers in the community. "The Awards" recognize a commitment to quality product development and service delivery by an individual or a group, and a sign of the community's appreciation. This year, there is a heightened emphasis on 'community', as indicated in the name change. This recognizes the many community activities that are an integral part of the business community. It also a reminder of our brand statement – "Better Community Through Better Business".

"The Awards" create local pride-of-place by inviting friendly competitiveness within the business community. If you have a friend in business or your network who deserves recognition – nominate them! Any business in the region can nominate themselves, colleagues, employers, or employees.

Plan to attend the 2017 Awards in the Port Theatre this coming May 4th, 2017

AWARD CATEGORIES

Micro Business of the Year

Up to 10 Employees

A big shout out to a company in any industry for excellence as a start-up, growth model or sustaining business with a vision, who engages in innovative practices, is outstanding in their professional field and offers a promising positive future. A business plan, vision, and solid growth are part of their success.

Small & Medium Enterprise of the Year

11 - 49 Employees

Awarded to a company in any industry for excellence as a business with a vision and demonstrated capacity for sustainable growth, engagement in innovative practices, demonstrating outstanding performance in their field who also consider their positive impact on the community.

Major Employer of the Year

50+ Employees

Recognizes a company in any industry for excellence, as a business who engages in innovative practices, is outstanding as a pioneer in their field and are focused on positively making a difference in the community. Shows promise for growth and increased positive stimulus for the community as an economic driver.

Hospitality Operator of the Year

Any hotel, motel, campground, or bed and breakfast can be nominated in this category. If they offer 'best-in-class' hospitality, can boast great testimonials and consistently receive top rankings... they deserve your nomination!

Dining Excellence

Presented to a restaurant/pub that consistently demonstrates excellence in food service, quality and presentation, is proactive with changing market trends, provides a variety of menu choices and gives good value. It pays special attention to making its customers feel special and comfortable while, at the same time enjoying exceptional food, atmosphere and service.

Retailer of the Year

Excellence in a retail environment through presentation of a unique concept, an intriguing environment, unique products and/or services and consistent delivery of high-value customer service. Could be a mall tenant, the local operator of a chain outlet or a franchise, a local independent -- anyone who stands out in this tough industry!

Downtown Business of the Year

Nominate a business with a reputation for excellence offering special or services from a location within the boundaries of the DNBIA. Known for excellent customer, employee and neighbor relations, this nominee shines among the competition, and adds to the reasons to visit downtown. Include the Old City Quarter businesses in your consideration of nominations here!

Professional Services Business of the Year

A Nanaimo area business in banking, legal, financial, investment, consulting services or other professional services recognized for their product and service range, industry knowledge, and expertise leading to consistent customer satisfaction. They are noted for their excellent customer, industry, and employee relationships and their contributions to the community overall.

Planning, Design, Architecture, Engineering Firm of the Year

High quality planning and design of our built environment creates enjoyable places and spaces that produce a more livable and 'successful city'. The changing look of our city is building forms and designs in the recent past ensure this category will be lively. Before it is built, who figures out what it will look like and how it will provide sustainability over time. Nominate for those you know.

Development / Construction Firm of the Year

Development and construction continues to drive a large part of Nanaimo's economy. Big or small, Nanaimo's contractors, trades, developers and builders shape a big part of our community. This award points to which company is doing the best job these days.

Technology-Based Business of the Year

Its time to recognize significant achievements locally in the unique development and/or execution of technology and innovation that shows market success. Creative business practices resulting in productivity growth, expansion of existing markets, opening of new markets, product research, development, and technological change are all tips to nominees.

Arts & Culture Business of the Year

Expressed in a broad range of activities and events that promote a vibrant Nanaimo by celebrating arts, culture, heritage, education, heritage and ethnicity. Support for cultural activities creates an opportunity to celebrate the gifts and talents of a broad cross-section of Nanaimo's population while promoting the creative economy. Award nominees may include an individual, a business, group, organization or event.

Sustainability Excellence of the Year

In recognition of a local business that is a leader in environmental and sustainable practices. Business sustainability is about creating more goods and services with less use of resources, waste and pollution.

Best Customer Service by an Individual or Business

Nominees have a reputation for excellence and creating memorable customer experiences through product knowledge and an innate understanding of their customer's needs. They offer an inviting atmosphere in their business and extend a wonderful customer experience.

Employee of the Year

The Employee of the Year is recognized as a superior supporter of staff and management in the workplace. They are often referred to as 'the glue'. Nominees are staff who make exceptional contributions to their place of employment, their customers and the Nanaimo community at large. Could be retail, hospitality, home-based, institutional, government – whomever!

Real Estate

Recognizes a firm or individual from the real estate industry who demonstrates initiatives that advance the professionalism of that sector. The award celebrates the achievements of the mixed-use real estate industry and associated businesses. Awards criteria focuses on results, skills and values. We recognize outstanding individuals, teams and organizations for their commitment to excellence.

Healthcare & Medical Service Business of the Year

Nanaimo is home to hundreds of businesses in the health care and health sciences field, mainly thanks to NRGH. Our medical professionals and care specialists service a very broad geographic area. Whether it's a favourite clinic that seems to always go above and beyond, a retailer – eye care, pharmaceutical, supplements outlet (to name a few examples) -- with service second to none.

Automotive Business of the Year

We are looking to honour new and used auto dealerships as well as associated businesses like auto repairs, parts and service outlets, body shops, and recognize their professional accomplishments, community involvement and contributions to the auto industry. In fact, any business that touches on transportation in our car-centric city.

Young Entrepreneur

Presented to an outstanding individual who exemplifies entrepreneurial spirit, is of age 40 or under, who has distinguished themselves by building their own business or contributing significantly to another. **This award symbolizes the achievements of the innovative entrepreneur who** inspires others with their vision, leadership, and achievement.

Youth Spirit & Initiatives – High-School Students - 1 Award per High School

Individuals who, through their spirit, enthusiasm and dedication, are clearly making extraordinary contributions to the community at an early age.

Not-For-Profit Organization of the Year

This award is presented to a not for profit organization that exemplifies excellence and innovation in their programs, services and projects and their efforts to serve the community. Their commitment to fulfilling community need through volunteer involvement and leadership.

Business & Community Achievement Awards 2017 Rules of Nomination & Entry

Eligibility

- Nominees do not need to be members of the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce
- A business may be a sole proprietorship, a partnership or a corporation
- A business/individual may submit nomination forms for more than one business
- A business may be nominated for more than one award but no more than three
- A business or individual is not eligible for nomination in a category if they have won an award in that category in the past 3 years.

What information must the nomination package contain?

- A description of the nature of the business
- A bullet point list of the key achievements of the business. For example: customer service, workplace environment, employee retention, growth in staff and/or facility size, awards, innovative approach to marketing or product development, media coverage, specialized aspects and achievements of the business.
- Supporting materials must be kept to a maximum of 5 single sided pages

What is the process?

- Nomination submission must be submitted by March 17, 2017
- Vetted nominees will be contacted by the Chamber to explain the process and invited to submit their complete award application by March 24, 2017
- The nomination committee is required to base their decision solely on the nominee's accomplishments as documented on the nomination and nominee's submission
- The judging committee will meet as a group and a vote will be taken with each committee member ranking each nominee in the areas of criteria
- MNP will provide an official vote count, tally and total
- The nominee with the most committee votes is named winner in each category
- In case of a tie the committee will take a second round of votes
- Winners will be announced at the annual Chamber of Commerce Business Achievement Awards gala event in May 4th, 2017 at the Port Theatre Nanaimo
- Members of the selection committee are not eligible to be nominated
- Nominators are not eligible to serve on the selection committee
- All entries will remain the property of the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce.

Additional Information

- Letters of support reflecting the nominee's initiatives and achievements are helpful
- Articles or other media pieces portraying the nominee's efforts
- Any other materials (e.g. company reports) illustrating the nominee's commitment to developing their business in Nanaimo.

Helpful Hints

- Applicants are judged using a points system. Detailed answers typically trigger more points; therefore, make your application as complete as possible
- The Selection Committee consists of individuals who will not be familiar with your business, please be clear about what you do and avoid the use of abbreviations and jargon
- The judging criteria for all Awards takes into account the relative size of the business and the relative impact of their activities

NOMINATION FORM

CATEGORY: _____

Nominee Information:

Nominee Name: _____

Nominee Company: _____

Nominee Phones: _____

Nominee e-mail: _____

- Please see the "2017 Rules of Entry" for complete rules.
- A business or individual cannot be nominated in more than three categories. Separate nomination forms are required for each category.
- In an attachment, give five bullet point reasons for nominating this individual or business. Cite specific examples of achievements and accomplishments, other awards and recognition, instances of excelling in service or other relationships, stories of innovation, influence on industry, and positive impacts on the community.

Nominator Information:

Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

E-mail address: _____

Do you wish to remain anonymous? _____

Forward to: renee@nanaimochamber.bc.ca
Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce, 2133 Bowen Road, Nanaimo, BC V9S 1H8

Award nominations close Friday, March 17, 2017

Gala Event, Port Theatre - Friday, May 4th, 2017