



Chamber Announces 2010 Business Achievement Award Winners

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 28, 2010

(Niagara) – In a stunning room packed to capacity at the **Quality Inn Parkway Convention Centre** the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce announced the winners for its **7th Annual Business Achievement Awards**. The Business Achievement Awards, sponsored by **Meridian Credit Union**, was hosted by Jack Peets of **105.7 EZ-Rock**. The event’s key note address was delivered by Dr. Philip Kitchen the Dean of the Faculty of Business at **Brock University**. It was his inaugural address to the Niagara business community.

“The Business Achievement Awards recognize the pursuit of business and professional excellence in our community,” says Walter Sendzik, CEO of the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce. “Celebrating the success of our finalists and winners demonstrates how proud we are of them and the community that they serve.”

This year’s lead sponsor was Meridian Credit Union. “As a leading company in Niagara, Meridian’s involvement in this year’s Business Achievement Awards allowed the Chamber to produce an event of such a high caliber.” explains David DiFelice, Chair of the Board of Directors of the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce. “Through sponsors like Meridian, these awards can continue to be a marquee event in Niagara celebrating excellence and achievement in the business community.”

This year’s winners were selected from over 50 nominations and 24 finalists. The winners in each category are:

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

sponsored by Meridian Credit Union

Front Row Sports

YOUNG PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

sponsored by Herman’s Building Centres

Mr. Wade Stayzer, Meridian Credit Union

OUTSTANDING NEW BUSINESS

sponsored by Niagara College

Niagara Electronics Re-Use & Recycling Depot (NERRD)

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS – 10 EMPLOYEES & UNDER

sponsored by St. Catharines Economic Development and Tourism Services

Sun Collision Centre

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For A Stronger Niagara



EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS - 11 – 50 EMPLOYEES

sponsored by Deloitte

Pen Centre

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS - 51+ EMPLOYEES

sponsored by DAG – Disability Advocate Gerard (Gerard Solutions Inc.)

Horizon Utilities

TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

sponsored by Brock University

Hy-Grade Precast Concrete

ECO-ACTION

sponsored by Horizon Utilities Corporation

Keefer Developments

In addition to the nominated awards category, the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce also bestows four signature awards of recognition. The **Builder Hall of Fame Award**, presented to an individual or family that has had a historically significant impact on the economic prosperity of the community, was awarded to **Beatties Basics**.

The **Community Leadership Award**, presented to an individual whose leadership, impact of work and inspiration of others has made a significant impact on the community, was awarded to **Mr. Steve Butz CEO of YMCA Niagara**. This is the inaugural year for the award; it was sponsored by Henley Honda.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award**, presented to an entrepreneur who has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to entrepreneurial success and community leadership, was awarded to **Mr. John Henderson, owner of Henderson's Pharmasave** in Thorold.

Finally, the **Volunteer Business Person of the Year** recognizes an individual whose spirit of community involvement and commitment has made a positive difference for the community. The recipients this year were **Chuck and Doug Smith, C.R. Smith Financial**.

The St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce would like to congratulate all the finalists and winners of the 2010 Business Achievement Awards. The Chamber would also like to thank all the sponsors that made the event possible.

With over 1,155 members representing more than 28,000 employees, it is the largest chamber in Niagara, and one of the largest in Southern Ontario.

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For more information and interviews please contact:

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