

79th Annual Business and Community Excellence Awards

Business of the Year Award *sponsored by Summerland Credit Union*

8th Generation Vineyard

8th Generation Vineyard is one of Summerland's busiest tourist destinations, especially with their newly expanded tasting room. They continue to be involved in numerous community groups such as Agur Lake Camp Society, SORCO and the Owl Rescue Centre, while also participating in Bottleneck Drive events such as the Grand Sommelier Express.

ABK Restoration Services Ltd.

In the Silver Anniversary year of starting ABK Restoration Services in Summerland, ABK sponsored the Steam Junior Hockey Team and contributed to various local causes including Neighbourlink and the Bathtub Races, all while employing the largest number of Summerland residents in the business's 25-year history.

Beadtrails Experience

BeadTrails Experience has grown exponentially in its 6 years in business. Acting as a tourism promoter for the entire Okanagan region, Karen and her team are consistently expanding into new businesses and regions, providing a better experience for their customers and stimulating the local economy.

Deputy Diesel Performance

Summerland's very own specialized diesel engine repair and service centre; Deputy Diesel Performance, has become a destination business throughout the entirety of BC. Mark and his team work to continuously develop their skill set while providing exceptional customer service to all of their clients.

Grasslands Nursery and Garden Supplies

Grasslands Nursery provides locals with fresh produce proudly grown by their staff, bulk landscape sales & deliveries, as well as a large selection of native plants to the Okanagan, with a focus on creating sustainable xeriscape gardens. Lauren and Mike are known for their wonderful customer service and expertise in landscaping.

IGA Summerland

In order to better serve their customers, IGA Summerland is continuously adding new products, updating their equipment, and looking for ways to increase their level of service. The company extensively supports non-profits including the Summerland Food Bank, Critteraid & Summerland Secondary School Dry Grad.

Maple Roch Pure Canadian Maple Syrup

Maple Roch Pure Canadian Maple Syrup is manufactured and produced right here in Summerland, with raw materials shipped in from all over Canada. Their new downtown location has helped them increase production and create a new level of sales. Roch Fortin and his team have recently begun expanding into international markets.

SIS Roofing and Exteriors

SIS Exteriors has been operating in Summerland since 2000, offering residential and commercial roofing services, and gutter installation. The company employs numerous Summerland people and supports multiple local charities, including Apex Freestyle Ski Club and the Summerland Action Festival.

Tones Hair Design

Owner Michelle Arnette, and fellow-hairstylists Angela Lucier and Yuki Sasaki have created a welcoming space and a professional service at Tones. They are consistently updating their skills through educational courses and are also keen supporters of Dry Grad and The One Person Project. The team also goes the extra mile and collects hair for the Canadian Cancer Society.

True Grain Bread

Winner of the Business of the Year award in 2015, True Grain Bread has become a local Summerland favourite. Their high value products and vibrant storytelling has resulted in True Grain drawing loyal customers from throughout the Okanagan. Todd and the team at True Grain also support numerous local charities through product donations and monetary contributions.

Citizen/Volunteer of the Year, sponsored by Nesters Market**Doug Holmes**

Doug dedicates his time to numerous charitable initiatives both through his work on council, and during his spare time. Doug is one of the key members of the Summerland Refugee Society, helping to raise funds and resources for global refugees before they make their way to Summerland. His commitment and dedication to the cause is well-known.

Nic & Shei Seaton

Nic and Shei are the creators and producers of The Test of Humanity Bike Race, a massive event that last year alone raised \$48,500 to support Canadian Humanitarian projects in Ethiopia and contributed thousands of products to the Food Bank. They also volunteer their time to maintaining all of the bike trail systems on Cartwright Mountain that they use during the event.

Grant Stone

Grant is not only the cheerful and friendly driver of the Handy-DART bus that so many locals use, but he also dedicates his time to helping out with displays and events at the Summerland Seniors Centre. Many of the residents enjoy listening to his famous 'Cowboy Poetry' readings that Grant performs for no cost on a regular basis.

Mary Trainer

Mary is passionate about sharing Summerland's history and is currently writing an in-depth history of Trout Creek, beginning with the First Nations. She sits on the Heritage Advisory Committee and the Trails of the Okanagans committee; is a branch editor for the Okanagan Historical Society; and volunteers for the Meadowlark Festival.

Trade Services Excellence Award, Sponsored by Alder Street Autobody

Deputy Diesel Performance

Deputy Diesel Performance is an automotive repair and service centre focusing on trucks and diesel engines. One of the only diesel repair locations in the Okanagan, they pride themselves on their expertise, transparency and commitment to exceptional work.

Integra Tire Auto Centre

Integra Tire offers extensive products and services for all automobile needs, from tires to transmission repairs. They also offer services for large-scale trucks and agricultural equipment. Every automotive tech is trained extensively and they ensure each client is treated with top-level customer service.

Selles Roofing Ltd.

Selles Roofing Ltd. offers residential and commercial roofing services throughout the Okanagan. The Selles team prides itself on their willingness to go above and beyond to exceed client expectations and showcase their commitment to craftsmanship.

SIS Roofing and Exteriors

SIS Exteriors has been operating in Summerland since 2000, offering residential and commercial roofing services, and gutter installation. The company supports multiple local charities, including Summerland Action Festival.

Verity Electrical Contracting

Trevor has been providing excellent service in commercial and residential electrical contracting and consulting since 2014. With projects ranging from solar panel installations to underground wiring, to large-scale commercial ground centres, Verity Electrical Contracting does it all.

Manufacturing/Industrial Excellence Award sponsored by Community Futures Okanagan Similkameen

Backyard Beans Coffee

Summerland based Backyard Beans coffee is a family owned and operated artisan coffee roastery. With every step of the roasting process done by hand and the use of ethically correct, "farmer friendly" beans, Backyard Beans prides itself on manufacturing sustainability. All but three of their bean varieties are either certified organic, UTZ certified, Rainforest Alliance or all of the above, with the other three varieties being organic but grown by producers unable to afford official certification.

Maple Roch Pure Canadian Maple Syrup

Maple Roch Pure Canadian Maple Syrup is manufactured and produced right here in Summerland, with raw materials shipped in from all over Canada. Their new downtown location has helped them increase production and create a new level of sales. Roch Fortin and his team have recently begun expanding into international markets such as Japan and the United States, with Williams-Sonoma recently ordering a shipment for its stores.

Technology & Innovation Award *sponsored by Accelerate Okanagan*

ElectroMotion Energy

ElectroMotion Energy designs, engineers and produces a unique combined cooling heat power (CCHP) electrical generation and software energy management system for residential homes, independent power needs and small-scale industrial development. The system has been named the Revolution and it replaces conventional heating, cooling and hot water systems with one complete unit.

ET2media

ET2media is a communications company specializing in video production and media training. They have produced several large-scale video projects in the Okanagan Valley, helping to market the region at home and abroad, and have expanded their use of technology with extensive use of aerial drones to capture a new perspective.

Farmsolutions.net

Farmsolutions.net offers unique products and services that provide effective solutions to farming challenges worldwide. New innovations include: new bird netting technology, the development of advanced forms of shade and hail fabrics to prevent orchard and crop damage, along with a wide range of specialized processing equipment.

Salubrious Seeds

Salubrious Seeds has been focusing on the conversion of local wine industry by-product into seeds, oil, flour, powders and other items since 2015. They have revolutionized their industry with a new fabricated seed extraction, pressing and drying process that has yielded exciting results. Salubrious shares their products many places throughout the South Okanagan.

Professional Services Excellence, *sponsored by Brown Benefits*

ABK Restoration Services Ltd.

ABK is celebrating its 25th year operating in Summerland as a family operated business that employs locals, supports local businesses and demonstrates their family values to every customer and colleague. They support a number of not-for-profit groups, including the OSNS Child Development Center and Neighbourlink in Summerland.

Avery Law Office

The recipient of the 2015 Summerland Professional Services Excellence Award, Avery Law Office provides friendly and professional in service in an easy to understand way in a number of legal areas including trade-marks, wills & estate planning and corporate law with a focus on small to mid-size private businesses and real estate conveyance.

Beauty & the Brit

Di of Beauty & the Brit offers cheerful and efficient spa services providing a peaceful setting and friendly and professional service. She regularly attends esthetics courses to upgrade her skills and has built a strong client base. Dianne donates to a large number of fundraising events and established the networking & information-sharing 'Summerland Women Who Mean Business' group.

Beauty Box Studio Inc.

The Beauty Box is a charming little studio with a relaxing atmosphere and very professional staff, who specialize in colour and cuts from the traditional to the innovative. Their professionalism, expertise and friendliness are often cited by their customers as the reason they return.

Lakeshore Fitness + Health

Huan is the owner operator of Lakeshore Fitness and Health. He is a highly professional, dedicated personal and group trainer who has greatly improved the health and fitness of many Summerland residents, including myself. He also works with young people in our community in various sports.

Morpheus Graphix

Morpheus Graphix prides themselves on supporting the promotion of local businesses in addition to their graphic design work. They produce an annual visitor's guide/ coupon book and calendar for the area that is used as a fundraising tool for charities, non-profits, schools, sports teams, and more.

Patrick Murphy – RE/MAX Orchard Country

Whether it is a young family moving to Summerland to start a business or an active retiree couple moving here, Patrick takes real pleasure in helping people to make good real estate decisions. Working in Real Estate for the last 4 decades, Patrick gives the client the best service to his full abilities every time.

Providence Funeral Homes Summerland

Clients say that the difficult nature of the business does not stop the staff from taking time to become personally involved with each person. Each staff member is courteous and compassionate, as well as contributing members of our community.

Terry Sedawie – RBC Royal Bank

Terry is a senior account manager with RBC Summerland, and is known for her award winning service, whether she is helping businesses collaborate or volunteering for local youth organizations. Terry is known for regularly going above and beyond in both her professional and personal life and has received RBC's highest honor, the "Leo Award" twice.

Spokes Clinical Naturopathy

Spokes has built a good reputation over the years with clients coming from all over BC and AB to see Dr. Bentham for his expertise, easy going and warm disposition and ability to combine both mainstream medicine and a natural holistic approach to care and health promotion efficiently.

Mike Stohler – RE/MAX Orchard Country

Mike Stohler provides superior services to his clients and customers and supports a diverse number of not-for-profit groups. He achieved Top 14th agent in RE/MAX Network of Agents in Western Canada for number of sales in September and November 2016.

Summerland Family Chiropractic

Dr. Shane Carlson's mission is to help patients attain optimal physical and mental health as quickly as possible. As chiropractors they are passionate about helping patients avoid surgery and unnecessary medications. Dr. Carlson is registered to treat ICBC and Work Safe patients.

Summerland Credit Union

The SCDU is a co-operative financial institution built on trust, integrity, good service, and community involvement. They provide ongoing training for staff and board members to improve service. Their community support is extensive with their Comfort for a Cause campaign donating to a number of local not-for-profits.

Retail Excellence Award sponsored by *The Summerland Review*

Cherry Tree Quilts

Cherry Tree Quilts is a full service quilt store offering everything you need for quilting, sewing, embroidery and fibre art. Cherry Tree is a popular destination store throughout the valley, contributing to the success of the downtown by bringing in new shoppers to the area.

IGA Summerland

In order to better serve their customers, IGA is continuously adding new products, updating their equipment, and looking for ways to increase their level of customer service. The company supports non-profits including the Summerland Food Bank, Critteraid & Summerland Secondary School Dry Grad

Pharmasave Summerland

The Stahls opened Pharmasave Summerland in 1993, and the company now employs 20 people and runs a full service Canada Post outlet. They continuously add new products, invest in staff training, and support a number of local organizations, including the Summerland Food Bank.

Rock Star District

Since opening in 2014, Rock Star District has grown to employ 5 people and provides a stellar youth focused retail experience for Summerlanders. RSD also focuses on expanded e-commerce offerings and creative marketing.

The Peach Pitt of Summerland

Opening in 2015, The Peach Pitt has gained traction with its fresh, local produce and homemade items for sale. They have expanded their offerings year after year and developed themselves into a Summerland experience.

SASS Boutique

SASS has been a local favourite for many years. With fantastic clothing and accessories along with impeccable customer service, SASS is a destination retail location for many in the Okanagan wanting to get great style locally.

Tourism/Hospitality Excellence Award sponsored by *Sumac Ridge Estate Winery*

8th Generation Vineyard

The team at 8th Generation strives to provide an amazing experience for all guests who visit them. The winery's back story, location and award winning wine bring people in from all over the world.

BeadTrails Experience

The BeadTrails is a fun, affordable cross marketing and branding service created to promote communities and business brands, while creating a unique experience for visitors globally.

La Punta Norte

La Punta Norte is known for its gorgeous views and wonderful hospitality. Owners George and Colleen offer each guest a memorable and comfortable stay and are

Local on Lakeshore

Local on Lakeshore provides world-class dining right on the shores of Okanagan Lake. An exciting menu and great service combine to make Local one of the Okanagan's must-eat restaurants.

Saxon Estate Winery

In addition to their fantastic wines, Saxon Estate Winery also hosts "Sax Fest" each summer, one of the Okanagan's only Medieval Faires. Offerings even include trebuchet launching and sword fighting.

Summerland Waterfront Resort

A favourite of local's and guests alike, the resort is known for its luxurious accommodations and amenities along with its continuously expanding activities offerings for guests.

Zias Stonehouse Restaurant

With great customer service, ever-changing menu and a beautiful location downtown, Zia's is known throughout the Okanagan as a go-to place for an exceptional dining experience.

Rising Star/New Business Award sponsored by RBC Royal Bank

Back Door Winery

A popular new winery, Back Door is consistently holding community and arts-based events at their location and also plays host to other small partner businesses, engaging in great cross-promotion. With a unique brand and story, Back Door is looking to increase its offerings in the coming years and develop its reputation as an award-winning winery and tourist destination.

Canines & Co. Okanagan Dog Obedience School

Owner Mya Kondor has created a new and different approach to dog training at this great new business. Mya uses innovative new tools and games to train and develop each dog in their own style, while making it easy for dog owners to learn as well. A punch-card class attendance system is another unique feature of Canines & Co.

Carls Flower Company

Carl's Flower Company prides itself on creating beautiful floral arrangements for every occasion. Since their brand new store opened up on Main St. in 2015, Owner Sheryn has ensured that the store windows are always bringing a bit of lovely to the sidewalk and that each customer is treated with outstanding service.

Dominion Cider Co.

The Dominion Cider Co. team is off a great start. With consistently delicious products that are raved about, fantastic branding and brilliant photography, partnered with their professional website, the Dominion team has made an impact during their first year in business.

Eyes 4 You

Eyes 4 You provides a different approach to a mobile business. With an extensive collection of lens and frame options, customer service that is raved about, and the ability to reach customers throughout the valley directly in their homes, Eyes 4 You offers an alternative service to traditional retail.

Golden Wrench Contracting

A company that specializes in bathroom and kitchen renovations, all service plumbing and any type of home improvement, Brad Nilson's Golden Wrench Contracting does it all. With professional expertise and fair pricing, Golden Wrench looks to continue on its path to success in the next few years.

Main Street Yoga

It has been a busy year for Main Street Yoga. After changing owners in January 2016, Sarah and her team have been consistently expanding, with a collection of new retail products and creative new classes based on customer demand. A brand new professional website was also launched earlier this year to great fanfare.

Nailed-It! Projects

Nailed-It! Projects specializes in irrigation, retaining walls, patios and landscape design. Craig and his team have over 25 years of experience and have been continuously complimented on their consistency, quick response time and ability to stay within project parameters.

Ogopogo Valley Tours

Ogopogo Valley Tours Inc. was launched in the fall of 2015 by directors Darren and Adonica Sweet. They offer wine and attraction tours while striving for customer service excellence at all times. Ogopogo also helps out the community by donating shuttle services for special events, including the Christmas Market and Feast of Farms.

Synergy Home Inspections

Over the past 2 years Synergy Home Inspections has become synonymous with both positive customer service and professional, understandable expertise from Cody and his team. With enhanced certification, Synergy also provides one of the only Radon testing services in the Okanagan Valley.

Sustainability Leader Award sponsored by SummerGate Winery

8th Generation Vineyard

8th Generation has focused on sustainability in their recent renovations, by reusing most of their former building and incorporating it into their new location. By installing a new high efficiency/low energy HVAC system, keeping all of the contractors and suppliers for the renovation local, and implementing a recycling procedure, 8th Generation continues to strive for sustainability in every aspect of business.

Grasslands Nursery and Garden Supplies

Grasslands Nursery has focused on promoting sustainable plants and ecosystems. All plant material at Grasslands Nursery is carefully selected to be sustainable. It must either thrive in a xeriscape with minimal water requirements or produce food. Multiple demonstration gardens throughout the nursery show how self-sustaining water and soil are when they work together to create beautiful landscapes.

Hunters Hill Holdings Ltd.

Hunters Hill Holdings Ltd is a local housing complex currently in development, that is focused on sustainability and nature based living here in Summerland. Hunters Hill will be combining 82 acres of carefully chosen land with an 86 acre nature preserve dedicated to keeping the natural eco-system intact and thriving while also helping create development.

Okanagan Crush Pad Winery

OCP is an organic, Salmon Safe Summerland winery where the aim is to produce distinct, terroir-focused super-premium wines using sustainable methods. OCP is a major tourism and agricultural/viticulture destination in Summerland and the Okanagan, contributing to both an increase in tourist dollars and awareness of the community itself.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award *sponsored by IGA Summerland*

Corinne Inman (Founder, Morpheus Graphix)

In addition to all of her print and graphic design work, Cori prides herself on supporting the promotion of local businesses throughout the Okanagan. This year she began printing the new Visit Our Okanagan publication series consisting of Okanagan Calendars, Fundraising Coupon Books and Tourist Guides.

Kari Harding (Owner, Rock Star District)

Opened in 2014, Rock Star District is a downtown Summerland boutique, specializing in everything related to teens and young adults. It has since added a new online shop and has become a destination store for those in the Okanagan looking for some of the most sought after brands in a local setting.

Huan Pham (Owner, Lakeshore Fitness + Health)

Huan opened Lakeshore Fitness + Health after enjoying visits to Summerland during his youth taekwondo tournaments. When the opportunity to own and operate a fitness training facility in Summerland surfaced, he jumped at the chance to share his knowledge and passion for fitness and training here.

Mark Sherriff (Owner, Deputy Diesel Performance)

Mark opened Deputy Diesel Performance, an automotive repair centre focusing on trucks and diesel engines, a new niche in the Okanagan. With clients coming to see him from all over BC for his expertise, workmanship and customer service, Mark has created a destination business here in Summerland.

Award for Excellence in Agriculture - *sponsored by Bottleneck Drive Winery Association*

Brarstar Orchards

Brarstar Orchards is a local farm that features many varieties of fruit and spray-free vegetables. They have also recently planted a large pumpkin patch that has drawn many families to the orchards during fall. Owner Sukhdeep is devoted to Summerland and plans to continue to promote the local agriculture industry through an Executive role on the BCFGa and by continuing his family's farming legacy.

LocalMotive Organic Delivery

LocalMotive Organic Delivery is a farm-based company located in Summerland's Garnett Valley which strives to connect consumers with local and BC farm products in a viable manner. Services include Organic Home Delivery, where farm fresh local and organic veggies and fruits are delivered to your door, and the Farm Bag Fundraiser Program where bulk quantities of seasonal produce are delivered to schools and non-profit organizations.

LocalMotive Organic Delivery & Okanagan Crush Pad Winery

Since 2015, LocalMotive has farmed on 8 acres of Okanagan Crush Pad's 320+ acre ranch in Garnett Valley. The entire property is farmed (certified) organically and includes wildlife corridors and other ecologically minded attributes. The values of the two businesses align to create an ideal business partnership. LocalMotive farms for their home delivery program and OCP farms on the same ranch to produce premium wines.

What the Fungus

What the Fungus is a local ag-tech company that produces fresh, seasonal indigenous and exotic mushrooms that are locally and economically grown using environmentally sound growing practices. They have recently developed Summerland's first laboratory facility to undertake research and development activities related to the growth and propagation of both local and exotic species.

Award for Excellence in Customer Service sponsored by Re/Max Orchard Country

Laura Avdich & Norma Bradley - Summerland Credit Union

Having both worked at the credit union for several years, Norma and Laura know almost every member by name and take pride in making every member feel special and well-taken care of. They are always there with a genuine smile, a big hello and friendly service whenever anyone walks in.

Hedy Chen - Hagen's Travel & Cruises

Hedy goes above and beyond to ensure that every client gets exceptional service and feels both prepared and excited about their travel arrangements. She takes the time to understand the client and works hard to find the best deal every time.

Sam Cheveldave - Summerland Waterfront Resort

For the past 10 years, Sam Cheveldave has been the welcoming face at the Waterfront Resort's front desk each evening. With his friendly demeanor and expertise in all things Summerland, Sam is truly an ambassador for the community.

Tara Hollas - Summerland Food Bank & Resource Centre

As the only full-time employee of the Centre, Tara has significant responsibility for the welfare of its clients and their partner agencies. She is always willing to do a little extra to make a client's day more pleasant or to make them laugh.

Retha Marsden - Edward Jones (beside Nesters)

Between offering exceptional customer service each day, to picking up clients that are unable to get into the office, to helping out clients with computer issues and buying birthday cheesecakes, Retha exceeds expectations and goes above and beyond every day.

Johanne Roy - Nesters Market Summerland

Johanne greets each and every one of her customers with cheer and friendliness. She makes everyone feel like she is always happy to see them and this in turn makes the customers excited to see her working their lane at the checkout counter.

The Arts Award sponsored by the Summerland Waterfront Resort & Spa

Maureen King

Maureen has been the president of the Summerland Art Club for many years. She works tirelessly to promote the club and welcome new visitors. Maureen also cheerfully and singlehandedly took on the leadership of the Summer Arts Program for the Summerland Community Arts Council last year, along with being a key supporter of the new Arts Centre.

Susan Scott

At a transitioning time in the history of the Summerland Community Arts Council, Susan has cheerfully and competently stepped into the role of temporary office manager. With a welcoming, warm, and cheerful good nature, and unflagging optimism and energy, she has embraced the role of cultural ambassador in Summerland.

Sophia Zang

Sophia created a great and memorable piece of public art during the holiday season which may set a high standard for possible future installations for the Summerland Arts Council. Presents/ce on Wharton St. (The Light-up Presents) was a huge undertaking and Sophia stepped right in and donated hours of her time to make it happen.

Ryga Festival

2016 was the Ryga Festival's inaugural year and was hugely successful. They created buzz up and down the valley, honoured the memory of one of Canada's great playwrights, and brought a Grammy-nominated jazz musician to town to play a sold-out concert. The second festival is already gearing up for this September.