

For Immediate Release

January 31, 2012

## THE CAMBRIDGE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNOUNCES NOMINEES FOR THE 2011 BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Cambridge, ON –This year we are pleased to announce that 60 nominations were received for the Business Excellence Awards. All submissions are based on the achievements of these businesses and individuals for the year 2011. These prestigious awards will be awarded for Business of the Year – 49 Employees and Under, Business of the Year – Over 50 Employees, Personal Business Achievement Award, New Venture of the Year Award, Environment-Excellence in Energy Conservation, Keith Taylor Memorial Award, Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award, Wowcambridge.com Customer Service Award, The Rotary Scholarship Award and Lifetime Achievement Award. These awards recognize businesses and individuals achievements that have made an important contribution to the economic and social well being of the City of Cambridge.

Nominees will be honoured and recipients announced on Thursday, March 22, 2012 at the Armenian Centre, 15 International Village Drive, Cambridge. On this evening we recognize the contribution of local businesses and individuals to the continued growth and success of our community. This program offers high visibility within the business community for all involved. A group of 10 Chamber members from different industries are part of the judging committee.

*Nominees for the 2011 Business Excellence Awards are as follows:*

### **Business of the Year – 49 Employees and Under – Supported by RBC Royal Bank**

- Applebee's Neighbourhood Grill & Bar
- Blue Lizard Productions
- Dr. Takhar's Cosmetic Clinic
- Homewood Suites by Hilton
- RTI Cryogenics Inc.
- Xylotek Solutions Inc.
- Franklin Medical Centre

*Criteria for the Business of the Year (49 Employees and Under) - This prestigious award is given to a good corporate citizen who exhibits a competitive edge through technological innovation in one or more of three following areas: Customer Service, Workplace Environment, Products and Services, Growth in Business, Employee Retention.*

### **Business of the Year (Over 50 Employees) – BMO – Bank of Montreal**

- Bennett Chevrolet Cadillac
- Canadian Tire (Pinebush)
- Eclipse Automation Inc.
- Innovative Steam Technologies
- Langs
- Langdon Hall Country House Hotel & Spa
- Septodont-Novocol Pharmaceutical Division

*Criteria for the Business of the Year (Over 50 Employees) - This prestigious award is given to a good corporate citizen who exhibits a competitive edge through technological innovation in one or more of three following areas: Customer Service, Workplace Environment, Products and Services, Growth in Business, Employee Retention.*

#### **Personal Business Achievement Award – Supported by Cowan Insurance Group**

- Marc Chiarenza, UNIGLOBE Donaldson Travel
- Scott Clevely, Blue Lizard Productions
- Ron Dowhaniuk, United Way of Cambridge & North Dumfries
- Barb Fiddler, Saint Luke's Place Foundation
- Gary Hauser, Hauser Law Office
- Wes Hodgson, World Gym Tri Cities

*Criteria for the Personal Business Achievement Award -This award recognizes an individual who makes a sacrifice of time, shares talent towards improving the betterment of the Cambridge community through their corporate involvement. This is a person who is an outstanding volunteer and visionary leader.*

#### **New Venture of the Year Award - Supported by Pavey, Law, & Witteveen LLP**

- Braun's...is Bicycles
- Cambridge Mill
- The Conestoga College Institute of Technology and Advanced Learning
- Dynamo Gymnastics Inc.
- Eaton Family Health Care
- Eclipse Sports Inc.
- Heartwood Place
- Symposium Café
- Tiny Cakes Inc.

*Criteria for the New Venture of the Year Award - This award is presented to a new or existing business that through innovation of design and technology has significantly improved the esthetics and functionality of their operating environment.*

#### **Keith Taylor Memorial Award - Supported by Scotiabank**

- Cathy Buchanan, Re/Max Real Estate Centre Inc.
- Gary Foran, Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank, Board of Directors
- Dale Howatt, Community Support Connections...Meals on Wheels & More
- George Szczepski, Embree & Co. LLP
- Eva Vlasov, Argus Residence for Young People
- Chris Ziemski, Cambridge Santa Claus Parade
- Mary Zilney, Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo Region/Haven House

*Criteria for the Keith Taylor Memorial Award -*

- *Should be an employee or volunteer of a Cambridge based Non Profit or Charity*
- *Should have served the organization in extraordinary fashion*
- *Should have made a difference in the organizations annual outcomes*
- *Should be acknowledged for effort, ingenuity, creativity, and service above and beyond*

**Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award – Supported by Graham Mathew Professional Corporation and Parkwood Computer Services Inc.**

- Erin Boston, TD Canada Trust
- Sarah Colvin, Cambridge & North Dumfries Hydro Inc.
- Cliff Rego, Cliff Rego Team – Re/Max Real Estate Centre Inc.
- Roxana Stanciu, United Way of Cambridge & North Dumfries

*This award is presented to a person 35 years of age or younger who has demonstrated initiative and innovation in business. (Business does not have to operate year round.) The recipient will have done so in any or all of the following areas:*

*This award is presented to an individual that has demonstrated innovation through the establishment of a new business, product or idea or has introduced new concepts or strategies within an existing organization helping it to be successful. This individual has shown Enthusiasm, Motivation, Growth Oriented, Creativity, Originality, Dedication, and Vision during the year.*

**Wowcambridge.com Customer Service Award – Supported by Bradley Gaskin Marshall Financial Services Limited (BGM)**

- Allan Bilton - C.A.S. Power Marine Ltd.
- Linda Defoe - Cambridge Hotel & Conference Centre
- Cathy Durham - Sunrise Mill Natural Choice
- Jane Gage - Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank
- Vivian Gomez - Holiday Inn Cambridge
- Dawn Grinstead - Langs
- Garbis Haneshian - Taleen Jewellers
- Jim Kaitting - GeoSmart Energy Inc.
- Maria Kong - Zen Gardens
- Amy Peters - FABUTAN Sun Tan Studios (Westgate Studio)
- Elisabete Raposo - Sears Watch & Jewellery Repair
- Tammy Saunders – Langs

*Criteria for the Wowcambridge.com Customer Service Award – Each month we have recognized an individual, who has gone above and beyond, providing extraordinary service in everyday situations. These individuals and the businesses they work for exemplify service excellence, and most are completely surprised to be awarded, for what they believe is merely "doing their job".*

*These stories are inspiring and heartfelt, with the customers and clients unable to say enough about how well they were treated. Our Grand winner and all award nominees are raising the bar, and increasing the standard of service in our community.*

**Environment Award – Excellence in Energy Conservation – Supported by Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro**

- AMEC Environmental & Infrastructure
- ATS Photowatt
- Comcor Environmental Limited
- Langs
- Shred-Tech
- Suds/Jiffy Lube
- Vertex Environmental Inc.
- Water Refined Inc.

*Criteria for the Environment Award – Excellence in Energy Conservation - This award recognizes a business that embraces sustainable best practices and outstanding programs designed to maintain, protect and promote a healthy environment.*

*The nominee demonstrates success in the areas of energy use reduction, energy alternatives, and/or the adoption, implementation or adherence to environmentally friendly business practices on a company wide basis.*

*Within the parameters of this nomination, the judges will be looking in particular for a company of strength:*

*·Engaged in specific best practices to promote a healthy environment through reduced use of energy in business operations.*

*·Embracing a systematic program of improvements and procedures to promote a conservation culture.*

*·Evidence supporting active engagement of employees in cultivating good energy saving habits at work, at home and in their community.*

*·Demonstrating environmental stewardship and innovation in the past year.*

### **Sunrise Rotary Scholarship Award for Academic Excellence – Supported by CIBC**

The Rotary Club of Cambridge Sunrise established The Rotary Scholarship Award which will be awarded annually to post-secondary students in the Region who have demonstrated a combination of academic merit, exemplary humanitarian service and established financial need.

The pre-selected student will be presented with a \$1000 scholarship from The Rotary Club of Cambridge Sunrise on the evening of the awards ceremony.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizes an individual that has contributed significantly to the ongoing prosperity, vibrancy and economic growth of our community. This can be through their service to the community through many avenues, including committee work, development investment, contribution through the Chamber's or City's various opportunities for economic development.

Our future prosperity will be measured by our ability to grow, attract and bring added value through employment and entrepreneurial opportunities.

This prestigious award is presented to an exceptional nominee chosen by the Awards committee. This award have been supported by **TD Canada Trust Small Business Banking and TD Commercial Banking**

The **Chair's Award** recognizes an outstanding organization or individual who makes an exceptional effort which goes above and beyond the call of duty in any area of business and/or community development.

This prestigious award is presented to an exceptional nominee chosen by the Awards committee from any of the categories outlined below. Sponsored by: BDO Canada LLP, Chartered Accountants & Advisors

### **Information about the evening:**

The awards will take place at the Armenian Centre, 15 International Village Drive

5:30 pm - Cash Bar, 6:15 pm - Call to Order, 6:30 pm – Dinner

Tickets for the Business Excellence Awards can be purchased on-line at [www.cambridgechamber.com](http://www.cambridgechamber.com) or at the Cambridge Chamber of Commerce, 750 Hespeler Road, Cambridge, ON N3H 5L8

*The Cambridge Chamber of Commerce is committed to the enhancement of economic prosperity and the quality of life in Cambridge. A non-partisan organization, funded solely by memberships, the Chamber works hard to address concerns of business, provide access to information resources and represent members at the municipal, provincial and federal levels of government. With more than 1800 member firms, the Chamber's strength is clearly in its hardworking volunteers and committees addressing issues affecting local business and providing practical solutions.*

For further information, contact  
Greg Durocher, President & CEO  
Cambridge Chamber of Commerce  
519.622.2221 Ext 2223.