

Windsor-Essex Business Excellence Awards adds new categories

By Dave Hall, The Windsor Star

December 14, 2011 10:05 AM



In this file photo, several members of the local business community listen in during the Business Excellence Awards nomination announcements at the WFCU Centre in Windsor on Tuesday, January 25, 2011.

Photograph by: Tyler Brownbridge, The Windsor Star

WINDSOR, Ont. -- Three new categories have been introduced for this year's Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards and all are designed to reflect fresh new thinking, said awards chairperson Sharon Coburn.

In adding Taste of Windsor, Go Green and Rising Star awards, Coburn said the chamber is hoping to reflect the changing demographics of its membership.

"When our committee started looking around the room during meetings, we realized we needed to add new awards to remain representative of our membership," said Coburn of Sylectus.

Coburn said the new awards recognize the importance of environmentally-friendly businesses, up-and-coming entrepreneurs and individuals as well as wineries, restaurants and their promoters throughout the region.

The theme for the 22nd annual event is Windsor 2.0: Re-versioned. Upgraded. Available Now.

The nominees were announced Tuesday evening at Citrine Restaurant and Lounge at Devonshire Mall.

Among the repeat nominees from last year are Kingsville Golf & Country Club, Red Piston, Clarke Chevrolet Buick GMC, Xanadu Health Club, Home Instead Senior Care and Cheung's Trading Co.

The event will be held April 25 at the Ciociaro Club.

THE FINALISTS

Entrepreneur of the Year: Frank Abbruzzese, AlphaKOR; Kim Lewis, Liqui-Force Services and Thanos Zikantas, 3Gyros.

Rising star of the Year: Fabio Costante, Gary Kalaci, Denny Timm.

Professional of the Year: Peter Hrastovec, Dr. Zoia Sherman, William J. Willis.

Small company: Cheung's Trading Company, Clarke Chevrolet Buick GMC Ltd., FastSigns.

Mid-size company: Motion Specialties, Unconquered Sun Solar Technologies, Windsor Cardiac Centre.

Large company: Kingsville Golf & Country Club, Home Instead Senior Care, Vistaprint North American Services.

Taste of Windsor: Thai Palace, Viewpointe Estate Winery, WindsorEats.com.

Startup of the Year: Red Piston, Sweetheart Diapers & More, Xanadu Health Club Inc.

Go Green Award: Devonshire Mall, Essex Energy Corporation, Unconquered Sun Solar Technologies.

Previously announced: Athena Award Chantal Vallee, head coach, University of Windsor women's basketball team.

Believe Windsor Essex Award - Dr. Fouad Tayfour, Windsor Laser Eye Institute.