

# MEDIA KIT

2009 Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce Annual Community Awards



## **2009 New Business of the Year**

*Sponsored by: Presley & Partners*

### Background information

The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce has been presenting the new Business of the Year award since 1987 with the first recipient being Images School of Beauty.

Nomination criteria for the New Business of the Year award is as follows: must be less than four years in business, have shown outstanding potential for continued growth, demonstrates a willingness to employ locally and be involved in our community.

The 2008 recipient of this award was *BodyNetix*.

The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce and Presley & Partners are pleased to present the 2009 award to **Berwick Comox Valley**.

### **Background**

Berwick Comox Valley, a senior's retirement residence offering Independent Supported Living, opened in May 2006 in the Comox Valley. Berwick's growth will continue, not in the expansion of its physical structure, but in the services, amenities and programs it offers the seniors who choose to live there. Berwick employs 60+ staff, all hired from the Comox Valley, to operate the building and its services and programs 24/7. The Food Services department allows Comox Valley students in Grades 11 & 12 to apply for work alongside seasoned professionals. Berwick's Licensed Care Unit has facilitated educational opportunities for 36 nursing students from North Island College, Excel Career College and Sprout Shaw College. Since opening, Berwick residents and staff have been actively involved in the community, supporting local charities, and promoting seniors' health and safety with a number of initiatives. It is the company's policy to actively "go out to the community" and "welcome the community in". They worked in partnership with the RCMP and hosted the valley's first Scooter safety program and other safety programs. Berwick has a very active group of knitters who have been busy knitting for local and overseas charities. Berwick has donated approximately \$6,000.00 to Comox Valley Charities including the Comox Valley Therapeutic Riding Society, Hospice, St. Joes Palliative Care Unit, YANA and the Food Bank. In addition, Berwick is sponsoring two children to attend school in Zambia. "If you haven't any charity in your heart, you have the worst kind of heart trouble" - Bob Hope

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