

Business Definition of Business:

A business, as defined by the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, is a company or other entity that is engaged in the purchase and resale of goods or provision of services for the purpose of generating a profit for its owner(s).

Definition of Not for Profit:

A Not for Profit, as defined by the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, is a registered non-profit and/or charitable organization or an organization not seeking profit which does not distribute excess income to its members, in the form of dividends or otherwise.

NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF THE YEAR

Award Criteria:

- A Not for Profit organization that demonstrates outstanding contributions to the community;
- Is registered as a non-profit and/or charitable organization;
- Demonstrates how their service provides benefits to others and how they differentiate themselves;
- Show Quantitative and qualitative results.

TECH & INNOVATION AWARD

Award Criteria:

- Demonstrates advancement in their business utilizing technology, which better drives efficiency and productivity.
- Proven use of an innovation that addresses a need and solves a problem
- Implemented an innovative opportunity that opened the business to new markets has improved/grown their business exponentially and/or
- Developed an innovative product which satisfied an existing need or desire, demonstrated its uniqueness and provided tangible advantages for its clients.

FAMILY FIRST AWARD (formerly EMPLOYEE'S CHOICE AWARD)

2015 was the first year this award was presented.

This award is presented to an employer who is recognized by his or her employees and customers as creating a culture that supports work/life balance.

Award Criteria:

- Has demonstrated support and care for employee's parental needs such as job sharing, option to work from home or flexibility when family matters arise
- Demonstrates support for local children's initiatives or fundraising campaigns
- Staff and owners demonstrate an inclusive attitude towards families with young children both as employees and customers
- May provide additional resources such as children's play area, children's menu, child friendly or unisex washrooms and/or change tables in both men and women's washrooms and/or a comfortable place for nursing infants

FOOD & FARM AWARD

Award Criteria:

- The Food and Farming Award recognizes a significant business in the food and farming industry; a business in arable, livestock, pigs and poultry, fresh produce, vineyards and food production.
- demonstrates innovation in production, processing and/or marketing
- has demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship
- demonstrates outstanding community / industry leadership
- contributes to Agri-food awareness and education in the local community
- demonstrates the ability to create employment and generate income and potential for continued growth
- demonstrated investment in new technology, in people, and is a highly competitive business in the marketplace
- has operated for a minimum of 2 years

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Award Criteria:

Business Leadership honors an individual who:

- Demonstrates leadership and inspiration
- Makes a positive contribution to the community and/or the environment, or as a mentor
- Serves as a positive role model in the community

HERITAGE RECOGNITION AWARD

Award Criteria:

- Recognizes an organization or business that has operated continuously in the Comox Valley for 25 years or longer
- Special consideration in this category will be given to the organizations or businesses that have contributed significantly to the community

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

Award Criteria:

- Recognizes an individual who exemplifies the principles and practices of excellence in customer service including:
 - Demonstrating exceptional service with each customer interaction.
 - An established reputation for going above and beyond expected service.
 - Must provide three reference letters or recent testimonials.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

Award Criteria:

- An individual under the age of 25 or a group/organization whose key members are under 25
- Must have made significant contributions to the community over a period of time
- Demonstrates strong leadership, ingenuity and initiative in any endeavour(s) that improve the lives of others, the community as a whole, or the environment.

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award Criteria:

- Recognizes a business which has been operating for less than four years and, within that time, has made outstanding contributions to the Comox Valley.
- Demonstrates outstanding potential for continued growth.
- Has the willingness to employ locally and is community-minded.

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Award Criteria:

- An individual, who has achieved remarkable business success before the age of 35
- Type, size or age of business is not limited
- Must be involved with the community
- Shows a willingness to employ locally
- Demonstrates commitment to the Comox Valley

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award Criteria:

- Recognizes a business that is community minded and demonstrates outstanding contributions to the community
- Employs more than 10 people
- Well-established, long-standing and has a sound reputation of service in the Comox Valley
- Demonstrates outstanding achievements throughout the years in business
- Creates employment, generates income and promotes economic welfare.

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award Criteria:

- Recognizes a business that is community minded and demonstrates outstanding contributions to the community
- Employs 10 or fewer employees
- Must be well-established, long standing and have a sound reputation of service in the Comox Valley
- Demonstrates outstanding achievements throughout their years in business.
- Has the ability to create employment, generate income and promote economic welfare

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Award Criteria:

- Presented to the individual in recognition of outstanding voluntary service who has demonstrated a lifetime of achievement with over 20 years in the Comox Valley
- Must be a fulltime resident of the Comox Valley
- The voluntary service can be of an individual nature or through their work with community clubs and organizations
- Individuals who receive wages for the services for which they are being recognized are not eligible for this award.

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Award Criteria:

- Presented to an organization or business that has an environmental and social sustainability embedded in their business model or strategy.
- Practices environmental responsibility and sustainability with clearly defined goals and actions that reduce impact on the environment and benefit the environment.
- Practice social responsibility that benefit their employees, customers, community and other stakeholders
- Demonstrates measurable results in environmental and social responsibility that provide an advantage for their overall success.

PRESIDENT'S MERIT AWARD

The Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce has been presenting the Professional Merit Award since 1994 with the first recipient being Mr. Fred Bossom.

The Professional Merit Award is in recognition of an individual, group or organization that has made a significant contribution to the development, ethical stature or recognition of their area of professional endeavour. This award is open to, but not restricted to, practitioners in any of the following categories: Accounting, Law, Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Surveying Insurance, Stock Brokerage, or any field which is generally recognized as a profession.

This award is chosen by the chamber board and announced on the awards night. Nominations are not accepted for this award.

