



Chamber Awards Award Nomination Procedure

NOMINATING AN INDIVIDUAL, ORGANIZATION, OR BUSINESS:

Chamber award nominations open in September and close in November each year.

You are entitled to nominate any member or non-member business, except your own. Self-nominations are not permitted.

Nominations must fit with category criteria. For example: If nominating for the Business of the Year category, the business must be in operation for more than two years and have more than 10 employees. If your nominee does not fit in the category you have chosen but meets another award's criteria, Chamber staff will contact you.

You do not have to be a Chamber member to nominate a business, person, or organization for an award.

AWARD NOMINEES & FINALISTS:

Businesses do not have to be a Chamber member to be nominated for an award or to become a finalist.

The Chamber may contact nominees for further information.

Award recipients may not be nominated in the same category for three years following their win but can be nominated and awarded in other categories.

The Comox Valley Chamber reserves the right to limit the number of selected nominees in each category.

JUDGING AND NOTIFICATION

After nomination deadline all submissions are forwarded to a judging panel comprised of business leaders from the community. Upon reviewing and researching the nomination submissions the judging panel narrows the nominations to three finalists. A ballot for each category is then received from each panel member. Identity of the award recipients are kept confidential until the night of the awards.

Once finalists are selected notification is sent to all nominees. Finalists are contacted by the film crew or Chamber staff to book their video which is presented the night of the awards.

Members of the judging panel, their employees, or their families may not be nominated.

Sponsors of an award cannot be nominated in their sponsored category.

Award finalists and nominees are contacted in late November/ early December.

Chamber Awards Criteria

Definition of a Business:

A business as defined by the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, is a company or 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). The business must have a business licence in the Comox Valley.

Definition of a 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 and an organization that does not seek profit or distribute excess income to its members in the form of dividends or otherwise.

BUSINESS LEADERSHIP AWARD

Honours a person who:

- Provides leadership and inspiration among their peers
- Made a positive contribution to the community and/or business sector, or as a mentor through volunteerism during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Serves as a positive role model in the community and for local businesses or organizations for at least five years

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD (10 or more employees)

Honours a business that:

- Is community minded and demonstrated and/or continues to demonstrate outstanding contributions to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Employs more than 10 people
- Has a sound reputation of exemplary customer service in the Comox Valley
- Demonstrates outstanding achievements for at least two years in business
- Creates employment, generated income and promotes economic welfare

CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD

Honours an individual who:

- Exemplifies the principles and practices of excellence in customer service
- Demonstrated and/or continues to demonstrate exceptional service with each customer interaction during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Has established a reputation for going above and beyond
- May provide three reference letters or recent testimonials

FAMILY FIRST AWARD

Honours business that:

- Creates a culture that supports work/life balance
- Demonstrates 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
- Provides assistance and support to employees with aging seniors that the employee supports.
- Has gone above and beyond to support their employees and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic

HERITAGE RECOGNITION AWARD

Honours a business that:

- Has operated continuously in the Comox Valley for 25 years or longer
- Has contributed significantly to the community

INNOVATIVE BUSINESS AWARD (formerly Tech & Innovation)

Honours a business that:

- Demonstrates advancement in their business utilizing technology which better drives efficiency and productivity
- Used and/or uses innovation to address a need or solve a problem
- Implements and/or implemented an innovative opportunity that opened the business to new markets that has improved/grown their business during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Developed an innovative product which satisfied an existing need or desire, demonstrated its uniqueness and provided tangible advantages for its clients
- Using and/or used technology to reach their clients and/or customers during the COVID-19 pandemic

LAND OF PLENTY AWARD (formerly Food & Farm)

Honours a business that:

- Is in the farm to table industry such as cheese maker, wine, cider, beer, or liquor producers, farmers, meat producers, aquaculture and restaurants whose menu supports locally produced ingredients
- Demonstrated and/or continues to demonstrate innovation in production, processing and/or marketing during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship
- Is an outstanding community and industry leader
- Contributes to Agri-food awareness and education in the local community
- Creates employment, generates income, and has potential continue growth
- Invests in new technology, in people and is a highly competitive business in the marketplace
- Has operated a minimum of 2 years

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (formerly Citizen of the Year)

Honours an individual who:

- Provides outstanding voluntary service in the community
- Demonstrated a lifetime of achievement over 20 years in the Comox Valley
- Is a fulltime, long-term resident of the Comox Valley
- Voluntary service can be of an individual nature or through their work with community clubs and organizations
- Note: this individual does not receive a wage for the services for which they are being recognized for which they are being recognized

NEW BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD

Honours a business that has:

- Operated for less than two years and, within that time, has made outstanding contributions to the Comox Valley
- Demonstrated outstanding potential for continued growth despite the COVID-19 pandemic
- Demonstrates the willingness to employ locally and is community minded

NOT FOR PROFIT AWARD

Honours an organization that:

- Demonstrated and/or continues to demonstrate outstanding contributions to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Is registered as a non-profit and/or charitable organization
- Demonstrates how their services provides direct benefit to the community and how they differentiate themselves

PRESIDENT'S MERIT AWARD

Honours an individual or organization that:

- that has made a significant contribution to the development, ethical stature or recognition of their area of professional endeavours
- The award is awarded to a Chamber member only
- This award is chosen by the Chamber board and is announced on the awards night. Nominations are not accepted for this award

SMALL BUSINESS OF THE YEAR AWARD (less than 10 employees)

Honours a business that:

- Is community-minded and has demonstrated and/or continues to demonstrate outstanding contributions to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Employs fewer than 10 employees
- Is well-established, long standing and have a sound reputation of service in the Comox Valley
- Demonstrates outstanding achievements for no less than two years in business
- Creates employment, generates income, and promotes economic welfare

SUSTAINABILITY AWARD

Honours an organization or business that:

- Has environmental and social sustainability measures embedded in their business model and strategy
- Practices environmental responsibility and sustainability with clearly defined goals and actions that reduce impact on the environment and the benefit the environment
- Practices and/or continues to practice social responsibility benefitting their employees, customers, community, and other stakeholders
- Demonstrated measurable results in environmental and social responsibility which provide an advantage for their overall success despite the COVID-19 pandemic

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR AWARD

Honours an individual who:

- Has achieved remarkable business success before the age of 30
- Must be 30 and under to be eligible for nomination
- Is actively involved in the community
- Shows a willingness to employ locally as owner, CEO, or founder of business
- Demonstrated and/or continues to demonstrate commitment to the Comox Valley during the COVID-19 pandemic

#YouRock YOUTH AWARD (Youth Leadership Award)

Honours an individual or organization that:

- Has made a significant contribution to the community and/or their school during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Demonstrates leadership, ingenuity and initiative in any endeavour(s) that improve the lives of others, the community, or the environment
- Is under the age of 25 or whose key members are under 25

COVID BUSINESS RESILIENCY AWARD

Honours a business or organization that:

- Adaptability in the wake of COVID-19
- Adapting business models to suit COVID-19 restrictions, IE offering take out or online ordering
- Moved to work from home models where applicable
- Creating an efficient customer journey across all contact, sale, and service points virtually and in person
- Launched a new service or product to meet COVID demands and maintain business in the community
- Collaborating with other business to help boost sales for both companies