

Chamber of Commerce Awards

By Maurice Rees

The Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce not only handed out 2018 Small Business winners, and without long speeches confined opening talks about small business successes from Mitchell Johnston, owner of 360 Bin Cleaning who was the 2017 Truro & Colchester Chamber of Commerce Start-up Legacy Award and an interesting outline of a successful community initiative in Yarmouth, Community Residential Option, which has help people with disabilities to seek employment and how the success of the initiative has resulted in establishment of several businesses, including one which turns broken hockey sticks into useful furniture and other products.

"The Chamber received more than 30 nominations from the community to recognize the many small businesses in this region deserving of an award," said Chamber President Joanne McRae. McRae said Business Growth was one of the seven categories that stood out for receiving the greatest number of nominations.

The award recipients of 2018 are: New Small Business of the Year, Levels Game Loft; Small Business Achievement, Blenkhorn Auto Recyclers Ltd.; Small Business Innovation, Ditch Doctor Atlantic Ltd; Export Achievement, PURE Paint Laboratories; Excellence in Community Development, Aggregate Equipment Atlantic Ltd; Small Business Growth, Coldstream Clear Distillery; and Agriculture/Agri-Small Business, Searle's Gardens and Florals. The seven awards are sponsored by Community Credit Union, PWC, RBC, Nova Scotia Business Inc., Town of Truro, BDC and MNP LLP, respectively.

The chamber also presented its second annual Legacy Start-Up Award at the luncheon to Cheryl Meyers, whose business, Peaceful Places has found its niche. The award includes a \$2,500 cash prize along with more than 20 hours of mentorship from member award partners. This year's award partners are: Alliance HR Consulting Services, Atkinson Accounting Ltd., Burchell MacDougall Lawyers LLP, Caldwell Roach Insurance, CBDC-NoBL, Colchester Printing Company Inc., Hub Now, White Leblanc Wealth Planners.



Michelle Bursey representing BDC, award sponsor, presents Riley Giffen, Coldstream Clear Distillery, Stewiacke with 2018 Small Business Growth Award. Joanne McRae, chamber president assisted.

Business Growth Award

This award recognizes a business that has been in operation for more than two years demonstrating growth in a measurable way such as expansion, increased customers, new employees, new products, etc. The award is sponsored by BDC.

Coldstream Clear Distillery was selected by panel of judges as the 2018 Small Business Growth Award.

Coldstream Clear Distillery in Stewiacke has been in operation for nearly three years, growing exponentially during that short period of time. The distillery employs 21 people and has been able to grow revenues by more than 2 1/2 times from 2016 to 2018 and have plans to do the same

from 2018 to 2020.

The business was initially started as a Craft Vodka Distillery and increased its product line to include flavored Vodka, Rum and Vodka Liqueurs. It expanded its operations in 2016 to include a retail store location at Mastodon Ridge and acquired canning production equipment in early 2018 for its newest ready-to-drink (RTD) product - a Vodka Lime Soda. This product was launched at the NSLC in May 2018, and is currently selling at over 50 NSLCs across the province. The Distillery prides itself on using local ingredients, coupled with their own natural pure spring water (located onsite), to provide products genuinely superior

2018 Legacy Award

Peaceful Places, a unique start-up owned by entrepreneur Cheryl Meyers was chosen as the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce 2018 Legacy Award winner.

For the second consecutive year, the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce is investing in the development of local business by providing funding for a Legacy Award Investing in Entrepreneurs.

The vision for the award is to assist a start-up business located within Truro and Colchester region. To be selected, applicants must demonstrate how their business is unique to this region, as to not compete with current members, and how in time it could be developed into a thriving scalable operation.

The Chamber is continuing its commitment to offer financial support of \$2,500 and a Chamber membership, as well as to seek in-kind partners to offer mentorship and serves to benefit a new growing enterprise.

Legacy Award partners who have committed to providing more than 20 hours of mentorship, along with products and services allowing the Chamber to offer this award include: Alliance HR Consulting Services; Atkinson Accounting Ltd; Burchell MacDougall Lawyers LLP; Caldwell Roach Insurance; CBDC-NoBL; Colchester Printing Company Inc; Hub Now and White Leblanc Wealth Planners

After a month-long call for submissions, three finalists were interviewed by

to what is typically available.

Just 18 months ago, they built a 1,200 square foot warehouse which they have now outgrown.

The production, manufacturing and bottling/canning facility for Coldstream Clear is approximately 1,950 square feet. This facility has been expanded with production and canning equipment several times and is now completely at full capacity. This summer they were the #1 Ready-To-Drink product sold for the entire month of August at the NSLC. Overall from May-October they were the 2nd top selling RTD product in Nova Scotia, despite being sold in less than half of all NSLC retail locations.

The purchase of canning equipment allows them to produce 30,000 cans per week. This RTD equipment expansion allowed for the addition of two full time production jobs. From January 2017 until present they have added 55 new licensee accounts, and that number is continually increasing.

They have had a presence at many events across the province, have hosted special occasion parties in Stewiacke and at their location, a stopping place for many visitors in this rural community.

Coldstream Clear has the potential to grow far beyond Nova Scotia. With its planned expansion they will be able to increase employment in a rural area of the province inspiring further growth.

a panel of judges from the Chamber and our award partners. The presentations were exceptional and the judges had a tough decision to choose a winner.

The 2018 winner is Peaceful Places, a unique start-up owned by entrepreneur, Cheryl Meyers. As a registered nurse, Cheryl recognized a void her business could fill in support of the silver economy. Her business is to assist elders or infirmed in developing their own goals for housing, then help make a plan with the individual and work on achieving safety in their home.

Her mission statement is "Life's transitions made easy; organizing, downsizing, relocating or aging in place, compassionate providers help you complete the process."



Cheryl Meyers, is shown accepting the 2018 Legacy Award from Sherry Martell and Joanne McRae, chamber president. (Rees Photo)

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