

BUSINESS

▼ KELOWNA

Small Business Week award winners

The 2009 Business Excellence Awards were handed out last week at a gala banquet hosted by the Delta Grand Okanagan Lakefront Resort.

The 20 finalists, their guests and community leaders helped to celebrate 22 years of business excellence in Kelowna.

Robert Fine, executive director of the Central Okanagan Economic Development Commission, was honoured as the 2009 Business Leader of the Year, sponsored by UBC Okanagan.

Kelowna Regional Fertility Centre, owned by Jason Broome, was the recipient of the 2009 Rising Star award sponsored by the FortisBC.

This award is for new companies that have been in business less than three years.

Other finalists were S2 Innovative Products Group Ltd., Vineyard Networks

A panel of judges selected three outstanding Kelowna area businesses as the 2009 recipients of the following Business Awards:

For the Small Business Award (1-10 employees), sponsored by TD Canada Trust, the winner was Modern Pur Air Inc., owned by Don and Lane Martin.

Other finalists in this category were Interior Tax & File Small Business Services, Orchard & Vine

Magazine, Platinum Personnel & Business Services

The recipient of the Mid-Size Business Award (11-30 employees), sponsored by BDO Dunwoody LLP, was JDS Energy & Mining, owned by Jeff Stibbard.

The other finalists were CBD Network and the Vedanta Academy

Winner of the Large Business Award (31+ employees) sponsored by MacKay LLP was CTQ Consultants Ltd., owned by Matt Cameron.

The other finalists were Expert Hearing Group and Paragon Pharmacies

The Community Impact Award sponsored by

Urban Systems went to the Kelowna Art Gallery, operated by Dona Moore.

The other nominees were Big Brothers and Sisters of the Okanagan, Women's Enterprise Centre, United Way of the Central & South Okanagan

Young Entrepreneur of the Year (individual under 34 years of age) sponsored by Prospera Credit Union went to Mark and Todd Regier, co-owners old Prestige Collision.

The other finalists were Raegan Hall, Blonde, and Angela Reid, Tigress Ventures

"We salute those who have recognized a business opportunity, seized

it and prospered," said Norm LeCavalier, Kelowna Chamber of Commerce president.

"The accomplishments and dedication of all the finalists honoured last evening are impressive and their stories inspire us all. We are proud of the contributions these exceptional business leaders have made in our community."

Presented by the Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and Gold Sponsors the Business Development Bank of Canada, and Farris, Vaughn, Wills and Murphy LLP, the popular Kelowna event was part of the annual Small Business Week activities, Oct. 18 to 24.