

Celebrating Community Champions

Nanaimo News Bulletin EDG Column Thursday, August 28

Residents and newcomers alike are continuously impressed with the positive business climate and superior quality of life for residents in Nanaimo. A lively harbour, revitalized downtown and vibrant arts and cultural scene are just some of the results of the work done by the city's dedicated citizens who deserve to be recognized with a Leading EDG Award.

The Economic Development Strategy was developed by community stakeholders in 1999 to provide leaders and decision makers with the framework of common economic development goals that set priorities for action, with an ultimate vision of having a community of social and economic opportunity that is an attractive place to live, work and play. The Leading EDG Awards recognize individuals, businesses and organizations that have taken actions that support the goals of the strategy, contributing to make Nanaimo one of the most desirable, livable small cities in North America.

With the 2008 awards approaching, EDG is now seeking the community's help to identify any local businesses or community leaders who contribute to Nanaimo's future and would make an excellent nominee for the 2008 Leading EDG Awards, in any of the following six categories: Committed Leadership Award - Individual, Committed Leadership Award - Business or Organization, Excellent Foundation Award, Quality Infrastructure Award, Positive Image Award - Individual or Positive Image Award - Business or Organization.

Nominees for each award category can come from a broad cross section of the community, including small business, finance, real estate, transportation, local government, arts and culture, education and training, labour market services, social and community development, and First Nations. Organizations, institutions, businesses and individuals that work to ensure Nanaimo is a community of social and economic opportunity will also be considered for nomination.

We are counting on the community to help us recognize all of those who have been contributing to growing the Harbour City's economy. Nomination forms are now available electronically on the City of Nanaimo website at www.nanaimo.ca, under the "What's New" section. You will also find on the forms a more detailed description of each of the award categories. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday, September 16, 2008. For more information, contact Katie Ferland at 250-755-4465 or katie.ferland@nanaimo.ca.

To help celebrate the tireless efforts of this year's finalists, join us for the Leading EDG Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, October 15 at the Coast Bastion Inn. Individual tickets are \$30, and tables of ten may also be purchased. Last year, more than 200 attendees enjoyed the sold-out award presentations and celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Nanaimo Economic Development Group.