

Leading EDG Awards Winners

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The Economic Development Group (EDG) would like to congratulate the recipients of the 5th annual Leading EDG Awards, which were announced on October 15 at the Coast Bastion Inn.

EDG provides leadership and a collective voice for economic development issues impacting Nanaimo. Many businesses, organizations, and individuals follow Nanaimo's Economic Development Strategy and work together to build a community of social and economic opportunity, and on October 15 they were recognized with a Leading EDG Award.

Bill McGuire took home the award for Committed Leadership. For more than 30 years he has been working to make Nanaimo a great place to live, work and play. His commitment to the Loyal Nanaimo Bathtub Society has helped shape this community. To him, it has been "a labour of love." "The bathtub festival has with an international flavour," he highlights. This year, the festival will attract tubs from as far away as New Zealand and England.

Winning the Committed Leadership, Business award was Atlas Truss. United Way, Child Development Centre, Juvenile Diabetes, Bell-Kids Help Phone, Big Brothers and Sisters, and the VI Raiders are some of the many organizations that benefit from the leadership of this company. "We are honoured to receive an award from EDG and to be recognized for our involvement in the community," says Craig Cookman of Atlas Truss. "We are only as strong as the community we are in."

The recipient of the Excellent Foundation award was BOSA Properties. It has taken years of hard work, patience and vision to transform Harewood Mall into the soon-to-be University Plaza. Euan Carnie, Director of Property Management for BOSA Properties emphasizes that "it's gratifying to invest in such a fine community, and I'm sure this recognition will continue to encourage BOSA to work very hard and do our part to contribute to Nanaimo's ongoing success."

Taking home the Quality Infrastructure award was Monica Briggs, on behalf of Kristo Zorkin. Years ago Kristo recognized the unique attributed of the Fitzwilliam Street area and started purchasing properties. Basing his vision on the Robson Street model of Vancouver he felt it was time to move away from the "Mall Syndrome" as he calls it. Today the Old City Quarter is renewed and growing with thriving businesses and residents thanks to his vision.

The award for Positive Image went to Bill Robinson. Bill's dedication to the Hidden Heroes of Nanaimo has contributed to a positive image among local residents and has increased Nanaimo's positive reputation outside the region.

WildPlay Element Parks received the award for Positive Image, Business. Since the change in ownership in 2006, WildPlay has invested in facility upgrades and has developed a strong marketing campaign that is drawing visitors to Nanaimo with their unique activities.

On behalf of EDG and this year's sponsor, Nanaimo Airport Commission, congratulations to all of the award winners, but also to each of the finalists for doing their part in making Nanaimo one of the most desirable, livable small cities in North America.