

# The Westend Weekly

## Bringing Communities Together



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Serving the Rainy River District for almost 22 years! Read us on line at www.westendweekly.ca

### And the Business Award goes to...



Chamber Manager, Annelly Armstrong and Event Coordinator, Samantha Manty welcomed the guests to the 18th Annual Business Awards.



From l. Terry and Kathleen Mueller, Tina Roth, Brittany Hayes, Jamie Beasant and Sharon Wolframe were there on behalf of Sunset Country Ford who sponsored the dinner.



Miles Kupila of Kupila's Sound Centre received the Home Based Business Award from Mark Caron of M.L. Caron Electric.



Donna Lowey received the Individual Customer Service Award from Laureen Vandetti of Good Impressions Printing.



Debbie Zimmerman accepted the Business Customer Service Award on behalf of Tompkin's Hardware from Eric Blondin, the new Manager of TD Canada Trust.



Ben Morelli (pictured left), owner of From the Grind Up was named Entrepreneur of the Year. George Emes of the Rainy River Future Development Corporation presented the award.



Christine Krueger, a dental hygienist at the Fort Frances Dental Centre was named Employee of the Year and received her award from Teresa Hazel on behalf of The Westend Weekly.



Brothers and business owners of Betty's, Doug and Blair Anderson, received the award for Business of the Year from Leo Melanson of 93.1 The Border.



Kayne Shaw (pictured right) received the Tony Beyak Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award from Tannis Drysdale on behalf of the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce.

By: Teresa Hazel

La Place Rendezvous ballroom was filled with excitement last Thursday as individuals and businesses came out to celebrate the Chamber of Commerce's 18th Annual Business Awards.

Mark Caron, Chamber Presi-

dent welcomed everyone.

"We are pleased to honour all the individuals and businesses nominated tonight for their customer service and for the services they provide. We are delighted with the turnout", he said.

The musical sounds of En-

tirely Mac, made up of brother and sister duo Danette MacIntyre and Wayne MacIntyre gave the perfect ambience to the celebratory event. And the complimentary champagne served upon arrival was a nice touch courtesy of Gillons' Insurance. The room was deco-

rated beautifully thanks to Gibson Design and there was also a penny table and a beautiful door prize thanks to the generosity of local sponsors.

After a delicious meal prepared and served by La Place Rendezvous and sponsored by Sunset Country Ford, MC's Myles Kuharski and Ryan McMahon took to the stage to get the award ceremony started, but not before asking an individual from each of the tables to come up to the stage for a selfie (a picture taken with a cell phone for those who are not in the know) so that it could be tweeted on the Chamber's twitter account and hopefully obtain more followers. For those who watched the Academy Awards, you may remember that host Ellen Degeneres did this same stunt which garnered two million tweets.

Sponsor representatives presented the awards in each category and the winners were:

Small Business Trainer of the Year Award – Bobbie Parker, Mr. Sub

Home-Based Business Award – Kupila's Sound Centre, Miles Kupila

Business Woman of the Year – Jennifer Horton, Curvy Chick/Chick with a Camera

Customer Service Award (Individual) – Donna Lowey, Lowey's Greenhouse

Customer Service Award (Business) – Tompkin's Home Hardware

Entrepreneur of the Year –



Mark Caron, President of the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce welcomed the guests and congratulated all of the nominees.

Ben Morelli, From the Grind Up

Employee of the Year – Christine Krueger, Fort Frances Dental Centre

Business of the Year – Betty's of Fort Frances. This was the second time Betty's has received this award.

Tony Beyak Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award – Kayne Shaw

After the awards were handed out, Ryan McMahon gave a stand-up comedy routine that kept the audience in stitches.

Ryan was born and raised in Fort Frances. He is making his mark in comedy as one of the most dynamic Aboriginal comedians working in Canada and the United States today.

Ryan was one of the first native

graduates of the prestigious Second City Conservatory (Toronto) – the same place where comedians like John Candy, Martin Short, Mike Myers and Eugene Levy studied.

The crowd definitely showed their appreciation when they gave him a rousing standing ovation at the end of his show. A humbled McMahon, thanked the hometown crowd and shared his personal thoughts about the uniqueness and specialness of Fort Frances. "My heart will always be here", he said.

Congratulations to the organizers of the Chamber of Commerce's 18th Annual Business Awards sponsored by Tbaytel. Well done!

### Photographers' showcase



Either this Great Gray Owl is giving a thumbs up because he knows spring is coming or he's trying to hitch a ride. Whatever the case, he's been hanging around on Byrnes Rd. at Worthington Rd. 2 in Dawson Twp. The pic was taken Saturday morning.

Photo by Marie Kubera, Dawson Twp.



Martin Dufresne  
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