

UPCOMING EVENTS!

Tuesday, December 2, 5-7 pm
Business After 5
Hosted by Inniskillin Wines
1499 Line 3, Niagara-on-the-Lake

Wednesday, December 12, 7:30am
Wednesday Morning Business Breakfast
Keefer Mansion,
14 St. Davids St. W., Thorold
Sponsored by Bell

Tuesday, January 8, 5-7 pm
Business After 5
Host TBD. If you are interested in hosting
this event please contact Heather De Cal
at 905-684-2361.

Tuesday, January 15 - 7:30am
Business Breakfast Before 9
Heritage Family Restaurant,
123 Geneva Street, St. Catharines
Sponsored by Kelly Services

Thursday, January 17 - 12:00 - 1:30 pm
Global Experience @ Work
Luncheon Seminar presented by CAIPS
Four Points by Sheraton,
Schmon Parkway, Thorold

Thursday, January 24-11:30am
State of the City - St. Catharines
Club Roma, 125 Vansickle Road
Luncheon with presentation by Brian
McMullan, Mayor, City of St. Catharines
Sponsored by The Verge Insurance Group

Tuesday, January 29 - 6:30 to 9:30 pm
Brock Leadership Seminar
"Social Networking Strategies for Success"
Chamber Conference Room
1 St. Paul St., St. Catharines

Wednesday, March 5, 2008
2nd Annual Chamber Bonspiel
St. Catharines Golf & Country Club

Events subject to change.

To register for all events call the Chamber
Office at 905-684-2361 or visit our web site:
www.sctchamber.com

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2007 BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



A Night to Remember

On Thursday, October 25, 2007, the St. Catharines – Thorold Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the 4th Annual Business Achievement Awards at the Quality Hotel Parkway Convention Centre. More than 250 people attended the event at which David Paterson Vice President of Corporate and Environmental Affairs, and a member of the Board of Directors for General Motors of Canada Limited delivered the keynote address. Mr. Paterson enlightened the crowd with an energetic and informative presentation outlining how GM is working to maintain competitive while pursuing new “green” technology. A special introduction to the awards ceremony was delivered by President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, Len Crispino.

“The finalists demonstrate a dedication to business excellence that goes well beyond minimum standards,” states Al Simpson, President of the Chamber of Commerce. “As a Chamber, we are proud of the achievements of our members. This year’s finalists are a reflection of the depth of the Chamber membership.” The recipients of the 2007 awards are:

YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR



*Joe Jones, Symetric
Productions*

Joe Jones, with his partner Ryan Trinder, developed Symetric Productions in St. Catharines as a graphic and web development company just over five years ago.

Their client base is diverse in

size from small business to large corporations,

to celebrity figures and motion pictures.

NEW BUSINESS AWARD



Personal Optical

Seeing a need in the eyewear sector to provide clients with easier access to eyewear needs, Rachel Hill-Campbell launched a unique venture that brings optical services to the customer. Rachel visits

clients in their homes or businesses to present a wide range of eyewear. It’s convenient, and for those with limited mobility, it has allowed people to make informed choices without the worries of transportation and parking.

EXCELLENCE IN BUSINESS AWARD



*Perry's Auto Shop
(10 or less employees)*

Perry’s Auto Shop has demonstrated with great success the ability to meet the diverse challenges of today’s business environment. His mandate is to stay current with the

changes in auto technology, and training his employees to provide the best service possible to his customers. Perry’s Auto Shop has a surprising number of out-of-town customers, especially with exotic vehicles, high-end cars, and racing cars and rods, and has clientele who have followed him from 3 different locations, staying with him when he branched out on his own 15 years ago.

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Lincoln Fabrics
(11-50 employees)

Founded in 1955, Lincoln Fabrics has continuously evolved to the challenges of an expanding global market. With operations in St. Catharines, and Alabama, the company manufactures products for the Canadian and American military; and it is a leading producer of emergency response equipment made of Kevlar, Twaron, Zylon and other fabrics that protect workers in highly explosive and dangerous environments. The company achieved QS9000 certification demonstrating its abilities to produce consistent top quality products for its clients and continues to lead its sector – and maintain its position in today’s competitive marketplace.



Abitibi Consolidated
(51 or more employees)

With a newsprint and recycling facility in Thorold, Abitibi Consolidated is a global leader in newsprint and commercial printing papers as well as a major producer of wood products, serving clients in over 70 countries from its 45 operating facilities.

INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY AWARD



Tersano (Canada) Inc.

Founded by Steve Hengesperger, Tersano Canada developed the Lotus Sanitizing System in 2001. After five years of waiting for government approvals, The Lotus was launched in 2006. Since its launch, the Lotus has received a number of accolades and awards including Time Magazine’s Best Invention of 2006.

BUSINESS VOLUNTEER PERSON OF THE YEAR



Mark Sherk,
The Verge Insurance Group

In addition to managing 65 employees located in 6 offices across Niagara as president of the Verge Insurance Group – Mark Sherk is an active volunteer in the community. He is currently the co-chair (St. Catharines) for the It’s Our Time Niagara

Health System campaign – helping to raise \$20 million for the new hospital and regional cancer care clinic from the private sector. Mark is also an executive member of the Joint Executive Committee of the Niagara Health System, Chair of the Board of Governors of the St. Catharines Family Physicians Clinic, and Trustee for the Niagara Health System. He is also a board member for the St. Catharines Community Foundation. Over the past ten years, Mark has raised millions of dollar for healthcare - not including the It’s Our Time campaign.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR



Andrew Panko
Associated Brownfields

With his business partner Tony DiFruscio, Andy saw an opportunity in 2004 when the provincial government created the Brownfields Act. Designed to smooth the way for redevelopment of abandoned urban industrial areas, the legislation offered development incentives in neighbourhoods designated by municipalities under the community improvement plan.

With a proven track record in environmental engineering – Andy is a graduate of Brock University in geological science and he holds a Masters degree at the University of Waterloo and a PhD at McMaster in geology, Andy co-founded Associated Brownfields Inc with Tony DiFruscio in 2005 – a rare and successful company specializing in the environmental restoration of abandoned urban centres.

This year saw the introduction of two new awards – Builder Hall of Fame Award and Lifetime Achievement Award. As we celebrate 140 years of the Chamber of Commerce in our community, it is a fitting time to begin to recognize companies and individuals who have been an important part of building prosperity in our community.

BUILDER HALL OF FAME AWARD



Walker Industries
Acknowledging a company that has had a historically significant impact on our community, the inaugural recipient of the Builder Hall of Fame

Award is Walker Industries.

Founded in 1875, the Walker family has been a part of the social and economic fabric of our community for more than 125 years.

In addition to the economic impact that Walker Industries has had on Niagara, the Walker family has been generous with its support of community organizations, and charitable institutions. The Walker family has donated extensively to Brock University, and most recently, the family made the largest single donation in the history of Niagara (\$5 million) towards the building of Niagara’s first Cancer Care Clinic.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Ken Fowler
From small beginnings with a paper route at 11, a photography business at 18 and a successful real estate career, today Ken Fowler Enterprises is a private equity firm

with investments worth more than \$100 million with annual revenue exceeding \$1 billion from real estate companies such as Maracay Homes, SIR Corp (owners of a roster of restaurant chains including Jack Astors, Alice Fazooli’s and Canyon Creek) to retailers such as West 49 and J. Michaels. Amongst all his business ventures, Ken Fowler still calls St. Catharines home. With his offices located just off the QEW, he has always been committed to the community that provided him with the first opportunities to become successful. The Fowler family’s charitable foundation supports several organizations, and causes in St. Catharines and has been a major booster in funding for Brock University.

He is a recipient of a honorary doctorate in law from Brock University and he is past Chair of the Board of Trustees of Brock University.

Congratulations to Walker Industries and to Ken Fowler for their respective contributions to business excellence, and to the greater prosperity of Niagara.

Events like the Business Achievement Awards, to be successful, are dependant upon the many sponsors, including this event’s title sponsor, The Burke Group. Thank you to all the sponsors, who are also valued members of the Chamber. Your investment into this event has made it one of the most anticipated events in Niagara.

See page 9 for more pictures from the 2007 BAA