



******PLEASE NOTE For Release:
Wednesday, March 3 at 10:30 p.m.**

MEDIA RELEASE

Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce announces 2010 Business Excellence Award Recipients

Kitchener, ON – On Wednesday, March 3, over 750 people honoured the exceptional contributions of 72 individuals and organizations who were nominated for Business Excellence Awards at the Chamber’s annual gala. Kyle Christie from CTV was the evening’s master of ceremonies for the event held at Bingemans. Ten recipients were announced.

2010 Business Excellence Award Winners*

- Young Entrepreneur of the Year Kurt Wissent, Premier Homecare Services
- WRIEN Award Christie Digital
- Volunteer of the Year Mandy Dennison, Research in Motion
- Non Profit/Charitable Award Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation
- Workplace Training Award Grand River Hospital
- Environment Award Stemmler Meats & Cheese
- Innovation Award University of Waterloo, School of Pharmacy
- Business of the Year
 Under 20 Employees Anytime Fitness
- Business of the Year
 Over 20 Employees Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP
- Michael R. Follett
 Community Leader Award Gerry Remers, Christie Digital

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***Recipient details attached**

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Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce 2010 Business Excellence Award Recipients Details

Young Entrepreneur of the Year Kurt Wissent

Kurt Wissent is the managing director and owner of Premier Homecare Services. His personal support workers provide non-medical homecare - including companionship, homemaking and personal care - to those wishing to live independently in the comfort of their own home. Premier Homecare Services is an accredited homecare company which has made quality, professional service a priority. They serve Kitchener, Waterloo, Cambridge, Guelph and the surrounding areas.

WRIEN (Waterloo Region Immigrant Employment Network) Award Christie Digital

Christie Digital recognizes the need for international credentials and education and knows the value of transferable experience. Christie Digital partners with WRIEN to educate employers and increase job opportunities to new Canadians in the KW area. They encourage employers on the benefits of hiring internationally-educated individuals and have several employees involved in WRIEN's Mentorship Program. Christie endeavors to hire the brightest and best to meet the challenges of a growing global workforce and a global market.

Volunteer of the Year Award Mandy Dennison

Mandy brings a positive energy to all that she does. She is the Vice Chair of the Chamber Young Professionals Committee. Mandy is an excellent leader and through this leadership she has demonstrated the need for a social media strategy which she has helped to implement. Mandy is a dedicated volunteer and her commitment and passion for the Chamber is contagious. Mandy's work with the Chamber is wholeheartedly supported by her employer, Research in Motion.

Non-Profit/Charitable Award Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation

The Kitchener and Waterloo Community Foundation improves the quality of life in Kitchener, Waterloo and surrounding area, by building community endowment, addressing needs through grant making and providing leadership on key community issues. They help make a lasting difference in our community by providing local organizations with funds for new programs, capital needs, student awards and much more.

Workplace Training Award Grand River Hospital

Grand River Hospital identifies the training that is needed to promote skills, knowledge and safety in their organization. Within Organizational Development, they launched a Learning Management System which is an online portal for in house courses. Workshops offered on weekends and week days help to further workplace training. The Leadership Training started after a needs analysis identified four key areas that managers wanted training on. Both hard and soft skills are offered at the hospital.

Environment Award Stemmler Meats & Cheeses Inc.

Stemmler Meats & Cheeses Inc. has demonstrated their commitment to sustainable environmental development through the use of new world technologies with regards to their refrigeration, recovery systems, HVAC system, environmental water treatment, a complete recycling program, as well as with food safety.

Innovation Award University of Waterloo, School of Pharmacy

The University of Waterloo is creating a knowledge powerhouse with the new Health Sciences Campus, anchored by the School of Pharmacy. It is positioned to become an innovative centre focused on medicine and health that will bring together education, diagnostics, treatment, research, and commercial applications in dramatic new ways. The School of Pharmacy, which is the first new school in Canada in 20 years, will help to fill the urgent demand for more pharmacists across the country.

Business of the Year (under 20 employees) Anytime Fitness

Anytime Fitness is the world's largest 24-hour, 365 days a year, co-ed fitness franchise. The Kitchener location has been a leader within the 1,300 club organization with respect to club design, marketing, community involvement and business strategies. Anytime Fitness is in the business of improving their member's lives through fitness and they have created a convenient, comfortable, affordable fitness centre with state-of-the-art facilities.

Business of the Year (over 20 employees)
Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP

Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP is one of Canada's largest law firms, with offices across the country, offering a diverse range of services to assist Canadian and international property. They provide dedicated industry expertise in the resource, infrastructure, life sciences, government, financial services, technology and manufacturing sectors.

Michael R. Follett Community Leader Award
Gerry Remers

Gerry Remers is the CEO of Christie Digital Systems. Christie has been recognized as one of the top 10 places to work in Canada. Gerry is a member of Leadership Waterloo Region Advisory Council. He is the executive Campaign Chair of the United Way of KW, co-chair of Communitech, a member of the Arts Dean's Advisory Council at U of W, is a supporter of the Creative Enterprises Initiative of the Prosperity Council of Waterloo Region. Gerry has played a major role in the City of Kitchener's transformation through involvement in the reinvigoration project.