

Young chef recognized for business innovation

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Job Burns, owner and founder of Busy Day Chef, received the Young Entrepreneur Award from the Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce.

PHOTO: SUBMITTED BY JOB BURNS

SAINT JOHN • A budding chef is being recognized for his vision, creativity and innovation by the Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce after it announced Friday the recipients and finalists for the 2017 Outstanding Business Awards.

Job Burns, owner of Busy Day Chef catering company, won the young entrepreneur award.

"It's very rewarding to know that I was put up for this award and I am so grateful that I received it," the 24-year-old said.

The entrepreneur said he has been working on his business for some time, stemming back to his university years.

"It was my hobby through university. I used the business just as a way to pay my bills and make a little bit of extra money and slowly built it up a little bit more over every year of university," Burns said. "So I was lucky enough to graduate with a full time job and have the means to hire a full time employee.

For the young businessman, growth is the next step in his vision.

"What I'm focusing on as the owner of the business now is really just getting everything standardized. I'm hoping to turn Busy Day Chef into a franchise to bring across the province and then later to spread across the country," he said.

"In terms of prepared meals services and catering, we do things completely differently than the industry model. No one in Canada is doing what we're doing in terms of scale and bringing in these chefs. So I guess I've kind of found a niche in the market and I really hope to continue to grow it before too much else happens in the industry."

The Chamber also announced its finalists in the business excellence category: Fundy Honda, MCL Construction Ltd. and PSAV Presentation Services.

For the entrepreneurial achievement category, the finalists are: On the Vine Meat & Produce, River & Trail Outdoor Company and Shadow Lawn Inn.

Emerging enterprise award nominees are: Breakout Saint John, Create Over Cocktails and Foghorn brewery.

The "Passion for Change" award - which "exemplifies a person or persons that have decided to develop a business or businesses that fulfil their business and personal passion," the chamber said in a release - was given to Mike and Vanessa Duncan (Duncan's Electrical, Yoga Coop) and Yennah Hurley of KV Oasis.

The New Brunswick Museum received the chair's award for "demonstrating substantial long-term contribution to, or impact on, the economic progress and cultural fabric of the community," according to the press release.

Partners Assisting Local Schools received the big heart award for working to improve the community.

The Outstanding Business Awards will be held at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre on Oct. 12.