



SAINT JOHN REGION

THE CHAMBER

CHAMPIONS FOR BUSINESS

Winners Announced for Three of the Prestigious OBA Awards

For Immediate Release
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SAINT JOHN, NB The Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce today announced the winners for three Outstanding Business Awards to be held on October 8th at the Delta Brunswick Hotel. Winners of the prestigious Chair's Award, Young Entrepreneur and Big Heart Award are all being officially announced today. Now in its 30th year, The Chamber's OBA's serve as one of the longest-standing and best recognized business excellence awards in Atlantic Canada. Past recipients can be viewed [here](#).

This year's Chairs Award has been awarded to **The YMCA of Greater Saint John**, for their ongoing work in our community and their efforts to bring a new Y to fruition. The YMCA of Greater Saint John building is well underway with the capital campaign nearly at completion. The new Y will be a place for families to come to be together, for young people to engage in healthy activity, for seniors to socialize and exercise and for people from all walks of life to find common ground and new interests.

The winner of the 2014 Big Heart Award is the **First Steps Housing Project**. First Steps opens its doors to pregnant and parenting young women who have no safe place to live. In addition to a 12 bed and 9 crib home with 24 hour support, women can access in-house and community programs that help with parenting, self-esteem, education, employment, mental and physical health, addiction, healthy relationships and budgeting.

Our Young Entrepreneur of the year is **Zack Spear**, co-owner of **ICS Creative Agency**. ICS started as a partnership in 2009 with a focus on web design. Since inception, the company has evolved into a full marketing agency focusing on all things digital. ICS now employs 6 full time staff and 1 part time employee all located in their space in the heart of Uptown Saint John.

Winners of the Business Excellence, Entrepreneurial Achievement, Emerging Enterprise, and the Passion for Change award will all be announced the night of the gala dinner. In the category of Entrepreneurial Achievement this year's finalists are: **Digital Products Limited, Mitchell McConnell Insurance and Revolution Strategy**. This year's finalists in the Business Excellence category are: **Base Engineering Inc., Bayview Credit Union and Shannex Parkland in the Valley**. The nominees for the Emerging Enterprise award are: **Bonfire Communications Inc., Ground Zero Entertainment Inc. and Peddlers Creek BBQ Steakhouse/Barrel's Head Gastropub & Winebar**.

For additional information or to purchase tickets to the Outstanding Business Awards please call The Chamber at (506) 634-8111.

The Saint John Region Chamber of Commerce is a nationally accredited business organization dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With more than 1,000 member businesses, representing the interests of 37,000 people, The Chamber is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. It offers a variety of programs, activities, services, and networking opportunities designed to enhance the business prospects of members and the overall business climate of the area.

For more information contact:

Patrick Beamish

(506) 609-1119

pbeamish@thechambersj.com