

Shelburne businesses rise to the top in Board of Trade nominations

By Brock Weir

Shelburne and area businesses have risen to the top, racking up several nominations in the 2016 Business Excellence Awards hosted by the Dufferin Board of Trade.

Entrepreneur Jamie-Lee Higginson received recognition in several categories for her Shelburne business Prim Pickins, which has been nominated for Business of the Year (Under 10 Employees). Ms. Higginson herself has been nominated for both Young Entrepreneur of the Year and Dufferin Business Citizen of the Year.

The Dufferin Business Citizen of the Year award is presented to the business person that has shown leadership and community involvement, along with serving as a pioneer and mentor in the business community.

"Supplying hundreds of stores across Canada for the past eight years, Prim Pickins has become a known name in the wholesale industry," reads the nomination. "Some of the big name stores Jamie Lee supplies include Sears, Amazon, Hallmark, Lawtons Drugs, and more. Recognized for her hard work and dedication, Jamie Lee successfully landed herself a deal with Michael Wekerle on last season's Dragon's Den. She has received many awards and nominations and has spent many hours volunteering and fundraising in her community.

"Her recent work with the Shelburne Street Festival helped grow the event substantially. She also fundraises for the Feral Cat Rescue, local schools and more."

Also nominated for Dufferin Business Citizen of the Year is Sam Young of Shelburne Golf and Country Club.

Among the Shelburne businesses vying for the Local Impact Award is KTH Shelburne.

According to the Dufferin Board of Trade, the Local Impact Award recognizes a business that has had "a significant impact on the local economy in the substantial or quantifiable creation of new, quality job opportunities; the recent or current expansion of an existing facility; the construction of a new facility; or the substantial investment in capital equipment; the continued education and training of their workforce leading to higher wages; and active, ongoing support or involvement in a broad range of community economic development activities."

While Ms. Higginson is flying the flag for smaller business owners, Shelburne's Home Hardware Building Centre is in contention for Business of the Year with 10 or more employees and the owners say they are "honoured" to receive the nomination.

"Shelburne Home Hardware Building Centre has been a staple of the community for over 40 years, starting as a hardware store and growing into the Building Centre of today," says the store in their nomination. "With the support of the local county and Shelburne community, the store has gained the reputation as #1 in customer service and satisfaction. We are bringing a new look to the store with modern home decor and current building products, innovative kitchen designs and a fresh look. We've got your lumber and, with that said, the store has honors to be in the top 10 rankings with Home Hardware Stores in volume lumber sales."

The 2016 Business Excellence Awards Gala will take place on Thursday, October 27, at the Best Western PLUS Orangeville Inn & Suites. The evening gala celebration includes a cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception, live music, a three course dinner, and the presentation of the awards.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for this annual celebration of business excellence.

The Dufferin Board of Trade will be sharing the nominated submissions with various Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across the province who will judge the nominees against the award criteria and select a winner in each of the respective categories.

"The nominations we received are truly remarkable," says Joe Andrews, Chair of the Dufferin Board of Trade. "These nominations are a testament to the quality of our business community and their level of commitment to Dufferin County. I give my sincere congratulations to all the nominees and wish them the best of luck in the award selection process."

For a full list of nominees, visit www.dufferinbot.ca.