

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada Announces Annual Award Recipients

September 28, 2010 – The Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada announced its annual award recipients at its recent conference in Gatineau. The awards are intended to recognize outstanding performance by Chamber of Commerce executives.

Executive of the Year – 100,000 + Category

Two Executive of the Year awards were presented. The first was to an executive in a community with a population in excess of 100,000. The Executive of the Year recipient in this category was Garry McDonald, CEO & President of the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce (ON).



*Valerie Roy, 2010 CCEC
President, Garry McDonald and
Kent Smith-Windsor*

McDonald joined the Sarnia Lambton Chamber in 2000. Over the past ten years, McDonald's leadership has contributed to a growth in membership from 600 to 1000 members; a strengthened financial position; and a more visible and credible role as the voice of business.

According to Katherine Walker, 2010 Chair of the Sarnia Lambton Chamber of Commerce, "Every once in awhile, someone comes into your life who leaves an indelible impression you. Garry McDonald is one of those people . . . The level of respect this Chamber has reached in our community, among municipal, provincial and federal representatives as well as labour and construction associations, is a direct result of Garry's eloquent style and ability to balance board goals with the many diverse and sometimes controversial situations within our community."

McDonald's leadership is recognized beyond his Chamber. In 2005, he was awarded the B.W. Gillespie Award by the Ontario Chamber of Commerce. He has been the catalyst in having his Chamber recognized nine times by both the Ontario and Canadian Chamber of Commerce. He is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada and the Chamber Executives of Ontario.

Executive of the Year – under 100,000 Category

The Executive of the Year recipient in a community with a population under 100,000 was Debra Scott, CEO of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce (ON).



*Valerie Roy, 2010 CCEC
President, Debra Scott and
Kent Smith-Windsor*

Scott joined the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce in 2005, following a 28+ year career with Bell Canada. Under Scott's leadership, the Chamber has been reinvented and its profile significantly raised in the community. Scott has guided a 45% net growth in membership from 520 members in 2005 to 750 members in 2010, and has been instrumental in restructuring and introducing programs to enhance member value and maximize profitability.

An innovator, Scott developed the successful Business Knowledge Initiative Program, which has provided members with guidance and support in the area of information and communications technology. She has positioned the Chamber as a key contributor and strategic partner for the long term planning and economic development of the Town of Newmarket. According to Board member Steve Hinder, "Local and regional government organizations now turn to the Chamber to lead critical initiatives, largely driven by Debra's vision, insight and successful track record of building successful community collaborations."

Scott has been active in the regional Chamber community and she also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada.

Staff Person of the Year



*Valerie Roy, 2010 CCEC
President, Jennifer Hagen
and Kent Smith-Windsor*

The recipient of the CCEC Staff Person of the Year was Jennifer Hagen of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Hagen is the Director, Chamber Network Services and in that capacity is responsible for programs and services that facilitate the work of community chambers. Her efforts have contributed to the success of the Chamber Discussion Group, Chamber Accreditation Council of Canada and numerous affinity programs. She serves as a main conduit between the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and its community chamber members and has earned the respect of all due to her professionalism and genuine interest in building the Chamber network.

Hagen has been on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce Executives of Canada since 2005 and served as Conference Chair in 2009. She recently achieved her CAE from the Canadian Society of Association Executives.

The CCEC awards program is open to all CCEC members and their staff, which includes 125 Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade across Canada.

-30-

Contact: Shelley Morris, Executive Director, CCEC, (204) 795-2000, shelley.morris@mts.net.

About CCEC

Since 1967, CCEC has been working to promote effective and professional Chamber management; encourage the exchange of information and ideas among its members; and facilitate professional development opportunities for Chamber/Board of Trade executives.