



few thousand dollars for a plan unless until you can sustain the rent for an office.

2009 Business Excellence Award Winners Announced

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THE BUSINESS LINK STAFF

The 25th annual Business Excellence Awards were presented and celebrated, Thursday April 23rd at the Best Western Brant Park Inn. The Chamber of Commerce of Brantford-Brant and hundreds of guests were treated to great food, fellowship and the presentation of awards in four categories.

Town Crier David McKee opened the event with the introduction of the head table. The award finalists were then recognized, with the help of the Paris-Port Dover Pipers. Opening remarks by Chamber President Terry Collins lead into the announcement of the Bell Technology Award winner, Silo Wireless.

Silo Wireless was sited for their work in bringing affordable high speed Internet service to local rural communities. In less than two years, Silo has successfully connected over 700 subscribers. Silo’s name comes from their use of existing structures such as silos, grain elevators and communication towers to broadcast a signal over a 7 to 10 kilometer radius of the structure.

Dinner and door prize draws were followed by remarks from MPP Dave Levac, MP Phil McColeman, Brant County Mayor Ron Eddy and Brantford Alderman John Bradford. The next order of business was the Entrepreneur of the Year Award. For 2009, that prize went to Chantelle Shank of Kneaded Care Massage Therapy.

Kneaded Care began as a one room operation with a 5 year business plan, which lead to their current location on

The Kneaded Care staff not only stays on the cutting edge of technology, but they actively involved with a variety of community organizations, including the Food Bank and the Brant Community Healthcare System.

Apotex Pharmachem Incorporated was next honored as the Company of the Year. Dr. Keshava Murthy accepted the award on behalf of the 400 local employees. Apotex Pharmachem continues to strive for excellence in Research and Development, while creating a culture of innovation and growth.

Last but not least it was the presentation of the Outstanding Achievement Award to Bruce Hodgson. Bruce, a retired Vice-President and Chief Financial office of Gates Canada Inc., can boast a very impressive volunteer life. He has served as Treasurer, Vice Chair and Chair of the Brant Community Foundation, as well as being involved with the Brant County Cerebral Palsy Association, Brantford General Hospital Foundation, Board of Governors of Mohawk College and Rotary Club, to name a few. Arguably his most significant accomplishment in the community was co-chairing the fund raising campaign that turned the dream of a University in Brantford into a reality when Laurier located their initial campus in the former library building on George Street.

The grand prize draw and closing remarks brought the evening to an end. Charlene Nicholson and the entire staff of the Chamber of Commerce of Brantford-Brant were sited for the hard