

Rafat General Contractor Inc. is Business of the Year



Rafat President Carlo Salim accepted his award from Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson, Caledon Chamber Chair Warren Darnley and Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones.



InerMotion Founder and President Jack MacDonnell accepted the Technology and innovation Award from MP David Tilson, MPP Sylvia Jones and Chamber Chair Warren Darnley.



Karin Heidolph-Bremner received the Outstanding Professional Award from MP David Tilson, MPP Sylvia Jones and Chamber Chair Warren Darnley.



Brenda Alderdice of Downsizing Diva was named 2016 Entrepreneur of the Year.



The Chamber of Commerce event last week allowed for recognition of long-time Chamber membership, including that of the Caledon Citizen, which was recognized for 30 years. Senior Account Executive Erin Luckett accepted the plaque from Sheldon Leiba, vice-president of network and membership relations with the Ontario Chamber of Commerce and Caledon Chamber Chair Warren Darnley.



North Hill Animal Hospital received the award for Professional Service Provider of the Year. Dr. David Kerr and Clinic Manager Cheryl Base accepted the award from Dufferin-Caledon MP David Tilson, MPP Sylvia Jones and Chamber Chair Warren Darnley.

By Bill Rea

Business plays a vital part in the economy of any community, and that needs to be recognized.

The Caledon Chamber of Commerce did just that last week when it hosted it's annual Business Excellence evening.

The 2016 Business of the Year award went to Rafat General Contractor Inc.

In making the presentation, Charles Bristoll, past-chair of the Chamber Board, commented the company was founded in 1988 by

Carlo Salim, who had a vision of creating a one-stop source for construction products.

“Mr. Salim established the company based on the foundation of trust, hard work and a dedicated team of managers, supervisors and employees,” Bristoll said, adding the company has grown into a conglomerate that employs 250 people.

“Rafat is exemplary in its concern for safety, taking extra steps to ensure the safety and health of their employees, clients and the general public,” he added. “They are equally committed to being mindful of the environment when performing work in the community.”

As well, the company is active in supporting a number of local activities, such as the Caledon Community Golf Tournament, numerous sports teams, charity events for the Davis Centre, etc.

The award for technology and innovation was taken by EnerMotion Inc., which was founded in 2008 with a commitment to developing energy-efficient products. Bristoll said they have worked on alternative fuels, rapid transit, vehicle hybrid conversions, electric vehicles, aerodynamics, fuel cells, battery development, etc.

The company has received the Top Energy Innovation Award from Popular Science and the Frost Sullivan Technology Innovation Leadership Award.

The Professional Service Provider of the Year award went to North Hill Animal Hospital.

“The doctors and staff at North Hill function as a team and that team strives to build relationships with their human clients so their animal patients can live longer and healthier lives,” Bristoll said. “The team is passionate about what they do and are always learning new and better ways to communicate, educate and maintain the health of pets.”

Outstanding Professional recognition went to Karin Heidolph-Bremner of Accurate (Peel) Appraisal.

“Over the past 18 years, Karin has successfully mentored over 10 candidate appraisers and employs many locals as supporting staff,” Bristoll observed. “Karin is described by her colleagues as a dependable and inspiring leader whose advice, experience and attention to detail are invaluable to the company.”

The Chamber also recognized Brenda Alderdice of Downsizing Diva as 2016 Entrepreneur of the Year.

Bristoll commented that she has trained in all aspects of senior move management and relocation.

“Benda is described as a ‘go-getter,’ ‘dedicated’ and ‘loving,’” he added. “She treats her clients as family, assisting them through a time of transition with compassion, care and flawless attention to detail because she believes everyone should have a positive beginning to their new phase in life.”