

NIAGARA ENTREPRENEUR

of the Year Awards 

presented by



For what matters.

2010 PRELIMINARY NOMINATION FORM

What are the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards?

Since 1994, the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards (NEYA) have been honouring enterprising people whose businesses have made significant differences in the community, and in our lives. The awards are a symbol of achievement for those innovative entrepreneurs who provide inspiration, exemplify excellence and carry out their unique vision.

The NEYA program celebrates and honours the entrepreneurial spirit, the successes and accomplishment of Niagara's best and brightest business leaders. The men and women who have been recognized through these awards

exemplify the true spirit of entrepreneurship. Through hard work, determination, creativity and resourcefulness, they have established new ventures or lead existing ones into renewed growth. Last year, we celebrated the sixteenth anniversary of this program. Our goal is to continue to spotlight Niagara's best, and to help them become more widely recognized in the Canadian and international business community.

Since the program's inception 652 nominees have been recognized and 215 local entrepreneurs have received awards.

Who may be nominated?

All nominees must live or work in the Niagara Region. The entrepreneur must be the key person responsible for the success and growth of a Niagara-based company. Partners who are equally responsible for entrepreneurial achievement may be named as co-nominees, provided each meets all criteria. Nominees must indicate the categories in which they would like to receive consideration. The nominations vetting committee will make the final decision regarding the category best suited to the nature of the application.

No company or individual may win a specific award more than once; however previous award recipients may compete in other categories for which they qualify.

An entrepreneur may not be nominated more than twice in any one particular category within a 5 year period (eg. if you were nominated in the Innovative Small Business Category in 2004, and 2005, then a nomination cannot be submitted in this category again until 2010).

What are the benefits of participating?

As a nominee, you will benefit from:

- regional media coverage
- opportunity for editorial profile
- certificate of nomination
- recognition and networking opportunities at the Nominee Breakfast in November and at the Gala Awards Evening in February
- you will be profiled in our multimedia presentation during the Gala Awards evening

Additionally, as an award recipient, you are rewarded with:

- recognition in post-event regional newspaper advertising and profile on the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year website and link to your website
- opportunity to address guests during our Gala Awards evening
- historical record of your achievement and public recognition of your company and employees
- inclusion in the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year alumni group
- opportunity to advance to regional and national awards

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Nomination Deadline: Monday, September 13, 2010
Please return by fax to: 905-688-3502
Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards
P.O. Box 116, Thorold, ON L2V 3Y7

What is the nomination process?

1. **Complete this Preliminary Nomination Form and return by fax 905.688.3502 as soon as possible.** Once we receive your preliminary nomination form we will mail you a nomination package with full instructions on completing and submitting your nomination package.
2. Return the completed Nomination Package to our office at the above address by **September 13, 2010**. Incomplete entries cannot be considered.
3. After Nominations close on September 13, 2010, a vetting committee will review all nominations for completeness and verify data where required before submitting packages to our independent Judging Panels.
4. All Nominees will be invited to attend our Nominees Reception in November 2010 and an announcement listing all Nominees will be released to the Media. During the judging period, NEYA actively works to garner media coverage for the pool of nominees. You may be contacted by the media for interviews, comments, etc.
5. Award Recipients are selected by our independent Judging Panels made up of past Niagara Entrepreneur of The Year Award Recipients and leading figures from the business and academic communities. Some of the judging criteria include annual sales and employee numbers, together with such factors as degree of innovation, development of creative and ingenious product and production, marketing and selling techniques, extent of expansion into national and international markets, and commitment to the community.
6. All Nominees will be recognized at our Awards Gala in February and all Award Recipients will be announced and presented with the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Award in their category.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NOMINATION PROCESS, PLEASE CALL 905-688-5757

Is my application confidential? Who has access to financial information?

All information provided in the nomination form or otherwise will be reviewed by the vetting committee of the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards and forwarded to the independent judges. A confidentiality agreement is in place and will be signed by the vetting committee and the judging panels of the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards.

In our promotional material, we may refer to your participation in the program and include the location and brief description of your business which you have provided. Any other public disclosure of information will not be made without your consent.

Only the following financial data will be required:
Annual Sales, Total Assets and Total Equity.

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2010 Award Categories

Emerging Entrepreneur Award

Nominees for this award will be entrepreneurs of successful companies two to five years old (established between January 1, 2005 and January 1, 2008) who have demonstrated entrepreneurial success with excellent prospects for continued growth.

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Established Enterprise Award

This award will recognize the individual who best represents the characteristics of a successful entrepreneur including, creativity, initiative, dynamic growth, and sound management. The company must be at least five years old (established before January 1, 2005).

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Family Enterprise Award

This category comprises family-owned business of two successive generations or more. Nominees will have demonstrated initiative and enterprise in giving their company a new face, sustaining or renewing its vigour and competitiveness and/or taking it to new dimensions of success.

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Innovative Small Business Award

This award will be presented to an individual who has demonstrated innovative activity resulting in a successful small business venture with less than 10 employees. The nominee's company or enterprise must be at least two years old as of January 1, 2010.

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International Trade Award

This award acknowledges successful entrance into the international marketplace or significant increase in export sales through entrepreneurial activity. The nominee's company or enterprise must be at least two years old as of January 1, 2010.

Technological Innovation Award

The recipient will be an individual who is responsible for the exceptional performance of a company, based in the sciences or technologies (eg. health care, environmental, manufacturing, electronics); or who has innovatively used new technology to benefit the enterprise. The nominee's company or enterprise must be at least two years old as of January 1, 2010.

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Tourism Enterprise Award

This award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated outstanding entrepreneurial achievement within the tourism sector. The recipient will have demonstrated innovation, commitment and leadership resulting in the success of a tourism enterprise in the Niagara Region. To qualify for this award, you must fall into one of these business categories: dining, travel, accommodations, winery and/or tourist attraction or service. The nominee's company or enterprise must be at least two years old as of January 1, 2010.

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Agriculture Enterprise Award

This award acknowledges outstanding entrepreneurial achievement within the agricultural sector. It is open to established producers within the Niagara Region, including farmers, ranchers, greenhouse and grape growers, as well as producers of raw commodities such as crops, beef, hogs, poultry, dairy, or fruits, vegetables, and alternative livestock. The nominee's enterprise must be at least three years old as of January 1, 2010.



If you are interested in submitting a nomination package for the 2010 Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year awards, please complete this Preliminary Nomination Form and fax to 905.688.3502 as soon as possible.

A full Nomination Kit will be sent to you upon receipt of your Preliminary Nomination Form with further details on submitting a complete nomination package.
Nomination Deadline: **Monday, September 13, 2010.**

2010 Preliminary Nomination Information

Nominee's Name _____ Nominee's Title _____

Phonetic pronunciation of first and last name (eg. Luczkiw = Luch-KEY) _____

Company Name _____

Phonetic pronunciation of company name (eg. Cirque de Soleil = SEERK doo so-LAY) _____

Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____ Business Phone _____ Website _____

Briefly describe products or services in 25 words or less. (This description may be used in our media and print materials.)

Please indicate the Category(ies) for which the nominee **meets the criteria** and would like to be considered for.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging Entrepreneur Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Established Enterprise Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Enterprise Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovative Small Business Award | <input type="checkbox"/> International Trade Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Technological Innovation Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism Enterprise Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Enterprise Award | |

Nominator (if other than self) _____

Address _____ City _____ Postal Code _____

Email _____ Phone _____