



**MEDIA RELEASE | February 27, 2025**  
**Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce**

## **Finalists Announced for the 25th Black Tie Awards**

The **Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce** is thrilled to announce the 27 Finalists for the 25th Black Tie Awards, presented in partnership with **The Cowichan Valley Citizen**. This year, the Chamber received an outstanding **216 nominations** from the community. Nominators were interviewed using a standardized set of questions, and their responses were scored. A round-table panel then reviewed the results to select this year's finalists.

A huge congratulations to all the nominees! The selection process was incredibly challenging, as each nominee demonstrated dedication, excellence, and a positive impact on our community. The Chamber is honoured to continue the Black Tie tradition of recognizing businesses, entrepreneurs, and volunteers who go above and beyond.

Each of the nine award categories, including **Exceptional Customer Experience, Volunteer of the Year, New Business, Arts & Culture, Environmental Excellence, Young Entrepreneur, and Business Excellence for 1-5, 6-19, and 20+ Employees**, has three finalists. All finalists have been notified and have enthusiastically accepted this well-deserved recognition.

With the finalists now decided, the Chamber is excited to move into the next stage of the Black Tie Awards—getting to know the remarkable people behind the nominations.

Over the next month, each finalist will sit down with two adjudicators—one from the category's sponsor and one from the Chamber Board—for a personal conversation about their journey, impact, and achievements. Insights from these interviews, along with input from nominators, will help determine the winner. To ensure fairness and transparency, a representative from **Vancouver Island University** will independently review the process.

The winners will be revealed in true Academy Awards style at the **Black Tie Awards Gala** at the **Chemainus Theatre Festival on Friday, April 11, 2025**—a night where the community comes together to celebrate its best and brightest. Tickets will be available soon, so stay tuned for your chance to be part of this unforgettable evening!

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.duncancc.bc.ca](http://www.duncancc.bc.ca), email [chamber@duncancc.bc.ca](mailto:chamber@duncancc.bc.ca), or call 250-748-1111.

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## BLACK TIE AWARDS 2025 Complete List of Finalists by Category

### Exceptional Customer Experience sponsored by Island Savings

The Exceptional Customer Experience Award honours a business or organization that consistently delivers exceptional customer service, going above and beyond to meet and exceed customer expectations, and going beyond what is expected within the scope of their normal business operation. NOTE: This award is for the whole business, not just an individual.

**IslandSavings**

A DIVISION OF FIRST WEST CREDIT UNION

#### **Brunch on 3rd**

**Central Animal Hospital**

**Outlooks Menswear Duncan**

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### Volunteer of the Year sponsored by Peninsula Co-op

The Volunteer of the Year Award celebrates an individual or community group that has provided extraordinary service, making a significant difference in the lives of others. These nominees provide support to individuals, families, non-profits, charitable organizations, community service groups or events, or local humanitarian causes.



**Michael Lee - Providence Farm, Rotary Club Duncan, Cowichan District Hospital Foundation & Others**

**Shelley Vaags - Special Woodstock**

**Carol Ann Rolls – Cowichan Green Community, Networking for Nonprofits & others**

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### New Business sponsored by Redline Management Services Inc.

The New Business Award recognizes a newly established business (within the last 3 years) that has demonstrated outstanding achievements, early success and significant growth. This award is open to both start-ups and existing businesses that have undergone a transformation, such as being purchased and rebranded (within the last 3 years), leading to a fresh identity and renewed market presence.



**Flourish Kitchen**

**TAOH Wellness**

**Vancouver Island Professional Property Restorations Ltd.**

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**Arts & Culture sponsored by Downtown Duncan Business Improvement Area**

The Arts & Culture Award recognizes an individual or business or organization that consistently has a significant impact on arts and culture in the community. It may be a business who sells forms of art or works tirelessly to promote the cultural vitality of the community. Successful nominees will demonstrate innovative business practices, influence and leadership in the arts, and community commitment.



Downtown Duncan  
Business  
Improvement  
Area Society

**Jock Hildebrand – Cowichan Public Art Gallery**  
**Chemainus Theatre Festival**  
**Cowichan Valley Arts Council**

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**Environmental Excellence sponsored by Economic Development Cowichan (CVRD)**

The Environmental Excellence Award recognizes a business that has implemented outstanding environmentally sustainable practices and made significant contributions to reducing environmental impact and promoting environmental awareness. This green business goes beyond what is expected within the scope of their normal business operation.



**Holocene Distilling Project**  
**The Tube Shack**  
**Inherit Designs Landscaping**

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**Young Entrepreneur sponsored by Coastal Community Credit Union**

The Young Entrepreneur Award recognizes Business Owners under 40. Nominees demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit and have excellent prospects for continued growth.



**Patrick & Jessica Whelan – ReWild Homes**  
**Cici Shen – Owl's Nest Bakery & Bistro**  
**Kara Lucas (Tibbel) – Federal Fire Protection Inc.**

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**Business Excellence 1-5 Employees sponsored by Scotiabank**

The Business Excellence Award recognizes the operation of a successful business or social enterprise that demonstrates exceptional business management as well as growth, innovation, leadership and/or community involvement. This is for the 1 to 5 employee category.



**Cowichan Wastewater Plus Inc.**  
**Fabrications**  
**Style Sense Furniture**

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**Business Excellence 6-19 Employees Sponsored by Nanaimo Airport**

The Business Excellence Award recognizes the operation of a successful business or social enterprise that demonstrates exceptional business management as well as growth, innovation, leadership and/or community involvement. This is for the 6 to 19 employee category.

**Hank's Bakery**

**Jollity Farm Shop**

**plentiFILL Refillery & Sustainable Living**

**Business Excellence 20+ Employees Sponsored by MNP**

The Business Excellence Award recognizes the operation of a successful business or social enterprise that demonstrates exceptional business management as well as growth, innovation, leadership and/or community involvement. This is for the 20+ employee category.



**Creative Woodcraft Ltd.**

**Old Farm Market – Duncan**

**Best Western Plus – Chemainus Inn**

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**The Duncan Cowichan Chamber of Commerce** has been representing business since 1908. The Chamber provides professional development, networking, cost savings and advocacy for over 600 members. The Chamber also operates the Cowichan Regional Visitor Centre that serves over 25,000 visitors annually, providing information and referrals for all that Cowichan has to offer.

**For more information contact:**

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Marketing and Membership Engagement

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