



Celebrating Excellence: 2025 Black Tie Award Nominees Announced!

We're thrilled to announce that nominations for the 25th Black Tie Awards are officially in! This year, an incredible **216 nominations** were submitted, recognizing **138 businesses, organizations**, and individuals from across the Cowichan Valley. These nominations celebrate the best in business, volunteerism, and community leadership—shining a light on the amazing people and initiatives that make Cowichan thrive.

Now, the Chamber begins its **trusted adjudication process** to carefully review each nomination. Over the coming weeks, nominators will be contacted to provide additional details about their submissions, and a dedicated panel will thoughtfully select three finalists in each category. Finalists will then have the opportunity to meet with the judges to speak to their nominations and share their stories and accomplishments. A winner in each category will be revealed at the **Black Tie Awards Gala**.

At the awards ceremony, we will also celebrate **Fatima Da Silva**, Executive Director & Executive Chef of Nourish Cowichan, as the **Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient** for her outstanding contributions to our community.

Mark your calendars! The **25th Black Tie Awards Gala** will take place on **Friday, April 11th, 2025**, at the Chemainus Theatre. Stay tuned as we announce this year's finalists, and congratulations to all nominees for making Cowichan an incredible place to live, work, and grow.

2025 List of Nominees

Exceptional Customer Experience

IslandSavings

A DIVISION OF FIRST WEST CREDIT UNION

- All Tied Up Wool & Fiber
- B Block Barbers
- Bayview Brewing Company
- Beyond The Usual
- Brunch On 3rd
- Carreiro Studio Salon
- Central Cowichan Animal Hospital
- Chiani Wellness Centre
- Colour Wheel Salon
- Cowichan Valley Pest Control
- Duncan Home Hardware Building Centre
- Edward Jones - Louis Bazinet, Financial Advisor
- Federal Fire Protection
- Gibby's Café & Catering
- Grooms by Em
- Hi Point Auto Care
- Host Bookkeeping Systems Inc.
- Level Up Fitness
- Lift Wellness
- Lighthouse Mortgage Corporation
- Market 2 All
- Öka Wellness
- Onsite Tree Services
- Outlooks Menswear Duncan
- Owl's Nest Bakery Bistro
- PrintCraft
- Raincoast Electric
- RE/MAX Island Properties - Michael Beaveridge Realtor
- Save-On-Foods Duncan
- Sheer Essentials Lingerie & Swimwear

Volunteer of the Year



- Carol Ann Rolls - Cowichan Green Community & Others
- Jackie Scott - Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association
- Jamie Gratten - Eagles Local 2546 & Others
- Jana Pederson - Cowichan Therapeutic Riding Association
- Kim Barnard - Rotary Club of Shawnigan Lake EcoClub
- Melanie Watson - Cowichan Station Area Association - The Hub
- Michael Lee - Providence Farm, Rotary Club Duncan & Others
- Orly Eby - Malahat Lions Club, Camp Shawnigan & Others
- Sharon Driscoll - Salvation Army, Cowichan Performing Arts Centre & Others
- Shelia Kitson - Maple Bay Community Association & Others
- Shelley Vaags - Special Woodstock

New Business



- Canadian Box & Paper
- Carreiro Studio Salon
- Doom City Records
- Federal Fire Protection
- Flourish Kitchen
- Island Bagel and Bannock

- Sheppard's Service Station
- Strong Electrical Systems
- Style Sense Furniture
- Thrive Now Physiotherapy
- United Floors Duncan
- Walk in Comfort Duncan
- WestIsle Mechanical Services

- Level Up Fitness
- Quattro Bambini Pizzeria
- Strong Electrical Systems
- TAOH Wellness
- Taylor'd For Taste Personal Chef Service
- VIP Property Restorations

Arts & Culture



- Cathi Jefferson Pottery
- Chemainus Theatre Festival
- Cowichan Performing Arts Centre
- Cowichan South Arts Guild
- Cowichan Valley Arts Council
- Custom Rocco Threads, TG Crafting Lounge
- Duncan Showroom
- Jock Hildebrand, Cowichan Public Art Gallery
- Shelley Vaags, Special Woodstock
- Warmland Dance

Business Excellence 1-5 Employees

Scotiabank

- B Block Barbers
- Chemainus Health Foods Store
- Cowichan Wastewater Plus Inc.
- Community Futures Cowichan
- DataStream Networks Inc.

Young Entrepreneur



COASTAL COMMUNITY

- Derick Santiago - 44 Collective
- Chancelor Bains - B Block Barbers
- Danielle Schmidt - Cowitan
- Dr Maria Unterberger - EagleView Optometry
- Kara Lucas (Tibbel) - Federal Fire Protection Inc.
- Shaun Cuglietta -FORGE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS
- Emily Uriostegui Dorma - Grooms by Em
- Aisling Goodman - Holocene Distilling Project
- Mckayla Vancoughnett - Jac's on Queens
- Connor Chrichton and Sean Gibson - Kaspas Construction
- Ailis Niven - Living Benefits Vancouver Island, Combined Insurance
- Cici Shen - Owl's Nest Bakery Bistro
- Patrick and Jessica Whelan - ReWild Homes Limited
- Sara Olson - Sipping with Sara
- Jessica Millman - TAOH Wellness

- DKI-Pro Pacific Duncan
- Ed's Coffeehouse
- Fabrications
- Federal Fire Protection
- Hometown Heating & Cooling
- PlumbX Plumbing & Mechanical
- Strong Electrical Systems
- Style Sense Furniture
- Supa's Mechanical

Business Excellence

6-19 Employees



- 89.7 Sun FM
- FORGE TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS
- Gibby's Café & Catering
- Hanks Bakery & Café
- Jollity Farm Shop & Cafe
- plentiFILL Refillery & Sustainable Living
- Sheppard's Service Station
- Vancouver Island Yoga School

Business Excellence

20+ Employees



- Best Western Plus Chemainus Inn
- C.W. Creative Woodcraft
- Purica
- Starbucks at Duncan Plaza

Environmental Excellence



- Canadian Box & Paper
- Holocene Distilling Project
- Inherit Designs Landscaping
- Mercury Refrigeration
- O.U.R. Ecovillage
- Outer Shores Expeditions
- plentiFILL Refillery & Sustainable Living
- Swordfern Boutique
- The Tube Shack

Community Builder



- 89.7 Sun FM
- Aaron Frisby - The Tube Shack
- Bob Bridger - Canadian Tire Duncan
- Chemainus Theatre Festival
- Danielle Bellefleur - Cow-Op
- Elizabeth Johnson - Original Udder Guys Ice Cream and Candy
- Island Savings, a Division of First West Credit Union
- Jason McKinny - Island Return It
- Judy Stafford - Cowichan Green Community
- Justin Pambrun - Island Ford Superstore

- The Old Farm Market Duncan
- Visionary Glass

- Libby Searle - Clements Centre for Families
- Mid Island Co-op & Mid Island Liquor
- Royal Canadian Legion Cowichan Branch #53
- Royal Canadian Legion Malahat Branch #134 in Shawnigan Lake
- SandiLea Gibson - Gibby's Café & Catering
- Tek Manhas
- Will Arnold - Experience Cycling