

NEWS RELEASE

BC CHAMBER OF THE YEAR AND HONOURABLE MENTION ANNOUNCED

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vancouver, May 31, 2010 - Business leaders from communities across BC gathered in Vancouver May 27-29th for the BC Chamber of Commerce Annual General Meeting and Conference to set the policy agenda for the coming year and recognize those chambers who have made exceptional contributions to the business community this past year.

The Chamber of the Year Award is the most prestigious award presented to a member chamber of the British Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

Chamber of the Year Honourable Mention

Under the leadership of the Board of Directors and General Manager Val Trevis, the Greater Vernon Chamber of Commerce (www.vernonchamber.ca/index.php) was involved in over a dozen advocacy initiatives in 2009. Successfully submitted policies include: Skills training for a New Economy and Economic Recovery through Innovation. With a leadership team, volunteers, and a monthly newsletter the "Business Buzz", a weekly events reminder with press releases, website postings, and regular outreach meetings by the very active GVCC Board, people know what the chamber is and does.

Chamber of the Year

The BC Chamber of Commerce is very proud to award the Chamber of the Year award to the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce (www.comoxvalleychamber.com/). Some of the major initiatives from this growing and exciting chamber have been to: introducing the "bagless" philosophy; encourage the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox to reduce the property tax multiplier charged to local businesses; develop two major working papers to support the chamber's position to the Regional Growth Strategy Plans being undertaken in the Comox Valley; and forge a partnership with Tourism Mount Washington in December of 2009 to bring the Ghana Ski Team (Snow Leopard) to the Comox Valley.

The Board of Directors and Executive Director Dianne Hawkins led a team of people to fund training, accommodation, a team vehicle and numerous media opportunities for the Ghana Ski Team to bring exposure to the area and elevate the role and functions of her chamber and the entire chamber movement.

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