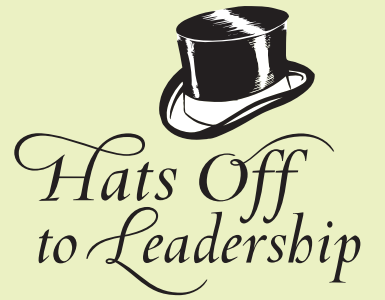




2011 Comox Valley Annual Community Awards Gala

Chosen by the community ~ for the community



Chamber of Commerce Hands Out Top Honours 'Hats off to Leadership' is the theme for Annual Awards Gala

Saturday, January 28th, at the Florence Filberg Centre, there will be a sense of excitement in the air as 300 people from our community gather to celebrate at the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce's 38th Annual Awards.

"Our annual Awards Gala has become one of the premier events in the Comox Valley," says Chamber president and CEO, Dianne Hawkins, "and is our way of acknowledging businesses and individuals who have made significant contributions to quality of life in the Comox Valley.

Here is a summary of this year's event:

Fantastic food and entertainment

The formal event kicks off with a champagne reception with appetizers, followed by a four-course meal catered by the new Westerly Catering Company. CBC and CHEK TV news anchor Tony Parsons will provide what is sure to be an entertaining and fun monologue in his role as the Master of

Ceremonies.

Throughout the evening, attendees can participate in live and silent auctions, with 50 percent of the proceeds being donated to Parson's charity of choice: the Comox Valley Food Bank.

A highlight of the evening will be a video compilation of interviews with previous award recipients reminiscing on how it felt to be recognized by their community, produced by Dan Kooman, Unveil Studios.

Award presentations

The Chamber received a total of 41 nominations in 11 award categories (see sidebar). Members of the Comox Valley Chamber and the public were both encouraged to nominate local business leaders and individuals.

"In the past, members of our Board of Directors chose the finalists and the award recipients," adds Hawkins.

"This year, an Awards Panel comprised of a delegation of community leaders reviewed the nominations and made the selections."

Want to know more?

Tickets are \$75 per person and include the champagne reception, appetizers, and gourmet meal. (Discounts are available for tables of 8 or 10.) FMI call the Chamber of Commerce at 250.334.3234 or visit www.comoxvalleychamber.com.

EVENT SPONSORS:

Sincere thanks to the many businesses who will contribute to the Awards Gala:

97.3 The Eagle Radio — platinum sponsor
Ambassador Shuttle Service — safe rides home
Gordon Ross Photography — event photography
Kingfisher Resort and Spa — champagne reception
The Flying Canoe Westcoast Pub — appetizers
West Coast Home Theatre — video equipment

PLUS ... many silent auction and door prize donations too numerous to list!



And the 2011 award nominees (and sponsors) are...

Agricultural Business of the Year — sponsored by MNP LLP
Ironwood Farm
Lazo & Tye Farm

Business of the Year — sponsored by Thrifty Foods
Best Western Plus, The Westerly Hotel & Convention Centre
Billy D's Pub & Bistro
Desolation Sound Yacht Charters
Level 10 Eurospa
Mount Washington Alpine Resort
My Tech Guys

Citizen of the Year — sponsored by Canadian Tire
Paul Berry
Dave Mellin
Normand Potvin
David & Kathrine Stevens
Eric Toneff
Bob Wells

Customer Service — sponsored by Coastal Community Credit Union
Xander Holmes (My Tech Guys)
Dawn McRae (Custom Gourmet Catering)
Jon Rankin (Mountain City Cycle)

Environmental Initiative — sponsored by BC Hydro Powersmart
Courtenay & District Fish and Game Protective Association
Gunter Bros. Meat Co.
Old House Village Suites Hotel & Spa

Heritage Recognition — sponsored

by Vancouver Island InsuranceCentres
Comox Valley Record
Comox Valley Rotary Clubs
Courtenay & District Fish & Game Protective Assn

Local Hero Award — sponsored by St. John Ambulance
TO BE ANNOUNCED

New Business of the Year — sponsored by Presley & Partners
Better Mousetrap Marketing
Blue Toque Sports Swap
Primetek IT Solutions

Professional Merit — sponsored by First Insurance Agencies
Maj Birch
Philip Round
Bob Wells

Recycling Recognition — sponsored by Comox Strathcona Waste Management
CRUSH Consignment Recycled Clothing
The Green Room

Small Business of the Year — sponsored by Glacierview Financial Services
Appletree Market
Hitec Printing - Brazen Sportswear
Indigo Lounge
Monterra Developments
Planet Kids
Ski & Surf Shop
Sound Security
Two Eagles Lodge



Customer Service Award

Dawn McRae, Custom Gourmet Catering & Personal Chef Services

When it comes to custom catering, it's hard to beat the sophistication, creativity and attention to client needs that Dawn McRae brings to the table.

A certified Red Seal chef, Dawn goes above and beyond at every occasion, making her clients look fabulous by association. Though guests rave about her food and service, Dawn starts working long before the cooking starts, creating custom menu ideas and pre-touring the venue. At the event itself, she's a flurry of activity. From liaising with clients, to personally serving guests, to handling special requests with poise, Dawn does it all. And she does it with a smile.

250.338.4350 • www.customgourmetchef.com



Small Business of the Year Indigo Lounge

Indigo Lounge is a small hair salon doing big things for the community. Since 2007, owners Elton and Heather Joseph and their staff of six stylists, have pitched in to help a great number of local groups, including YANA, Cops for Cancer and St. Joseph's Hospital. They've shaved countless heads for cancer, volunteered 10 of 12 years for the Highland Grad Fashion Show and have even trained other young stylists through their apprenticeship program.

Heather and Elton never seek the limelight, however. Says Elton, "It truly is a privilege to be a small part of the big picture."

103B-1705 Comox Ave, Comox
250.339.0500
www.indigolounge.webs.com



"Xander defies the stereotype of the typical computer geek"

Customer Service Award

Xander Holmes (the African geek)

Though affectionately titled "The African Geek", Xander Holmes defies the stereotype of the typical computer geek.

Xander studied both engineering and computer science in his native South Africa and has a vast and intricate knowledge of various IT platforms and systems. He combines his technical expertise with a friendly, helpful demeanour not often associated with "techies."

"His professional manner, experience and dedication are absolutely outstanding," says My Tech Guys regional manager Bryan Tisdale. "On a daily and weekly basis, we receive phone calls, emails and happy customers who come into the store just to rave about Xander. He's a dedicated employee who exemplifies our model of placing customer service and a warm fuzzy atmosphere above profits."

A small sample of email testimonials submitted by Xander's clients speaks to his dedication to great service. He's alternately described as "brilliant," "extremely beneficial," "a great guy" and even "a champion techie."

One email in particular says it all: "I'm happy as a large clam," writes one satisfied customer. "Xander was wonderful - he didn't make me feel like a computer dummy. He was and is very patient."

5-2401 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay
1812 Comox Ave, Comox
250.338.4411 • www.mytechguys.ca



"Renkema himself has also won several awards, from Builder of the Year to Customer Choice awards."

Small Business of the Year

Monterra Developments Ltd.

Since its inception in 2004, Monterra Developments has established itself as one the Comox Valley's premiere builders, most notably for its homes within the Crown Isle Resort Community.

With Garry Renkema as president, Monterra Developments has built approximately 75 homes and small commercial projects over the past eight years, earning a fair share of accolades along the way. The BC chapter of the Canadian Home Builders' Association, for example, awarded Monterra its prestigious Gold Customer Choice Georgie Award for excellence in both 2007 and 2008. Renkema himself has also won several awards, from Builder of the Year to Customer Choice awards.

It is Monterra's contributions to the community, however, that truly distinguish it. The company has not only staked a reputation as a proud supporter of local initiatives, such as the Rotary Air Park playground and even home repairs for local families in times of need, it also extends its humanitarian reach to other communities in need of assistance. Working through Northgate Foursquare Church, Monterra has lent a hand in remote communities such as Cambridge Bay (Nunavut) and Esperanza, a sheltered hamlet on BC's west coast.

250.338.2414

www.homesbymonterra.com



"Kevin has a way of bringing out excellence in all that have the opportunity to work with him."

Small Business of the Year

Ski & Surf Shop

While every business has its genesis story, few are as remarkable as that of Ski & Surf Shop.

Owner Kevin Lawrence launched the business, then known as Windsurfing Unlimited, in 1989 out of the back of his Plymouth Caravan. He'd cruise the North Island visiting popular windsurfing beaches offering equipment, lessons, rentals and repairs to the windsurfing community.

In 1991, Kevin moved his tiny business into a storefront at the corner of Cliffe and 17th, expanded his inventory and changed the name to Ski & Surf Shop. Five years later, the shop moved again to its present site in the heart of downtown Courtenay.

Now open approximately 360 days a year and employing up to nine employees at a time, Ski & Surf Shop is a well-established and well-respected fixture of the Comox Valley retail scene. Respected equally by his customers and his suppliers, Kevin is a trusted, community-minded entrepreneur whose traits are eloquently summed up in the glowing words of one of his longtime suppliers:

"Kevin has a way of bringing out excellence in all that work with him. The customers that he serves are well valued as a result of his commitment to the finest customer service."



333 Fifth St, Courtenay

250.338.8844

www.skiandsurf.ca



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Customer Service Award Jon Rankin, Mountain City Cycles

While Mountain City Cycles is a longtime local favourite for its extensive selection of bikes and accessories, owner Jon Rankin is perhaps best known for his customer service.

Jon knows his customers by name and treats them like old friends. This friendliness, along with his ability to help customers select bicycles and equipment that precisely met their needs, has earned Mountain City Cycles a loyal clientele that expects, and receives, exceptional service upon every visit. Jon exemplifies the practices and principles of excellence in customer service – traits that have proven infectious with his entire staff.

120 Fifth Street, Courtenay • 250.338.0084
www.mountaincitycycles.com



Small Business of the Year Hitec Screen Printing

Entering its 25th year of continual operation in the Comox Valley, Hitec Screen Printing has earned a sound reputation for both the quality of its work and its contributions to the community.

Since 1987, Hitec has been providing businesses, teams, schools and individuals with branded promotional products, including garments, caps, signs and team sportswear. Though the small company boasts a client base of more than 1,000 active files, it has never compromised its commitment to outstanding work.

As Jim and Margaret, along with their team of dedicated local employees, like to say, "your image is our business!"

479 Fourth St, Courtenay
250.334.3656 • www.hitecprint.com



New Business of the Year Primetek IT Solutions

Primetek IT Solutions provides technology support and forward-thinking solutions to small to medium sized businesses in the Comox Valley. Since opening their doors in November 2010, owners Kevin Dryden and Matt Behrens have experienced consistent growth, from a simple two-man operation to an employer of two full-time employees in a spiffy downtown location. Kevin and Matt project growth will continue by another 25 per cent in 2012.

While earning references and accolades from happy customers, Primetek IT Solutions has also earned the respect of the community through its involvement with the CV Boys and Girls Club, the CV Transition Society and other non-profits.

4-420 Fitzgerald Ave, Courtenay • 250.871.8547 • www.primetek.ca



New Business of the Year Blue Toque Sports Swap

When Paul and Salinas LaPerriere opened Blue Toque Sports Swap three years ago, some had doubts that a sports consignment store could flourish in the Valley. Today, however, the numbers speak for themselves. Sales are up more than 300 per cent, and Blue Toque boasts more than 2,000 consignors, with more added every day. Building on their success, Paul and Salinas are starting to eye new markets on the horizon, such as online retailing or even a second location. Whatever lies ahead, one thing is certain – Blue Toque will continue to be a proud supporter of local athletes, teams and sporting events.

120B Fifth St, Courtenay • 250.871.0302
www.bluetoesports.com



'The Old House is a shining example of a business that embraces the triple bottom line.'

Environmental Initiative Award Old House Village Hotel & Spa

The Old House Village Hotel & Spa, an integral part of the Comox Valley's hospitality industry, needs no introduction locally. But though its service and luxury are well known, the 79-room boutique hotel's environmental initiatives are more apt to fly under the radar.

In the past 18 months, the Old House Village Hotel & Spa has undertaken a number of energy retrofit projects to reduce its environmental footprint. Most notably was the replacement of inefficient lighting replaced throughout the hotel with energy efficient technology. This one change is expected to reduce the hotel's electricity consumption by more than 32,000 kWh per year - that's more electricity than three single-family homes consume in an entire year!

Other environmental initiatives the Old House has undertaken include low flush toilets, flow regulators on showerheads, thermal films on exterior windows, environmentally friendly pool chemicals, and new policies that minimize the unnecessary use of heating and lighting.

The Old House Village Hotel & Spa is also a leader when it comes to recycling. The hotel has extensive recycling programs in place for cardboard, bottles, cans and even guest towels, and blue bins have been installed in every guest suite. The hotel even distributes half-full shampoo bottles to a group that supports local street youth.

The Old House is a shining example of a business that embraces the triple bottom line - economic, social and environmental. Indeed, when BC Hydro's Power Smart team recommends its "green" initiatives as a model for other local businesses and the community at large, you know they're doing something right.

Located just blocks from downtown Courtenay, the Old House Village Hotel & Spa has a spectacular riverfront location and features spacious suites with kitchen, fireplace, soaker tub and free wireless Internet. Its luxurious amenities include a barbecue terrace, lush grounds, a year-round outdoor pool, fitness room, infrared sauna and both indoor and outdoor hot tubs.

Pampering guests come naturally at the Old House Village Hotel & Spa. Doing it without the spectre of environmental guilt is something the hotel's staff and management work hard to accomplish every day.

1730 Riverside Lane, Courtenay
250.703.0202
www.oldhousevillage.com



"Bob and Lois are widely considered the 'Mom and Dad' of their industry."

Business of the Year Desolation Sound Yacht Charters

Though Desolation Sound Yacht Charters often flies under the radar of Comox Valley locals, the Comox-based company brings up to 2,000 people to the Valley every year and is directly or indirectly responsible for injecting an estimated \$2 million into the local economy annually.

Owners Bob and Lois Stevenson have operated Desolation Sound Yacht Charters (DSYC) since 1988. Since then, DSYC has developed a stellar reputation, and Bob and Lois are widely considered the "Mom and Dad" of their industry. A bareboat yacht charter company, DSYC operates 25 to 30 privately owned sail and power yachts. As such, Bob and Lois not only offer an exceptional service to its vacationing clients, but also a vital resource for local boat owners. The yacht charter business is one in which honesty and integrity are essential – indeed, Bob and Lois have been entrusted with a fleet of yachts worth well over \$6 million! To have thrived for so many years in such a challenging business environment is a testament to their ethics and ingenuity. As well as being successful business people, Bob and Lois are committed to the environmental and social health of their community.

They've actively worked to designate more areas of Vancouver Island's inland coast as marine parks, and they take great care to protect the fragile marine environment through recycling, zero discharge initiatives and awareness programs. Additionally, the company employs up to 20 people and has been the first "real job" for many Comox Valley high school and university students.

In addition to being a dedicated father and business man, Bob has also distinguished himself as a member or director of a number of community organizations, including Rotary, Harbour Days and the Town of Comox Revitalization Committee.

He's currently president of the BC Bareboat Charter Association.

Thanks to Desolation Sound Yacht Charters, the Comox Valley has a prominent place in the hearts and memories of thousands of tourists who have discovered its beauty and hospitality through a yacht charter.



250.339.7222 • www.desolationyachtcharters.com



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Charter Meeting, Courtenay Rotary Club. Nov. 27, 1936

Heritage Recognition Award Comox Valley Rotary Clubs

Rotary International is the world's oldest modern-day service organization. In the Valley, more than 200 business and community leaders are members of four distinct Rotary clubs that have together contributed 146 years of service to the community.

The Courtenay Rotary Club, chartered in 1936,

celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2011 and is the oldest of the Valley's four clubs. Since its inception, Courtenay Rotary members have donated more

than \$1 million toward local initiatives. The other three clubs, with their charter years, are Comox (1974), Strathcona Sunrise (1987) and Cumberland Centennial (2005).

Rotarians operate on the principle of "service above self." The fruits of their generous fundraising and "sweat equity" can be found

throughout the Valley in projects such as the outdoor swimming pool at Lewis Park (1937-1947), Simms Millennium Park (2004-2005) and the Rotary Sky Park (2010), the Valley's first universally accessible park.

Other Rotary initiatives include popular events like the Ducky 500, as well as yearly bursaries to deserving local students. The contributions of our local Rotary clubs are also felt internationally through money raised for relief efforts around the globe and through its long-running international student exchange program.



"The Siefferts strive to empower local youth to make informed decisions about their food." L-r, ruddy from early morning work: Charlene Sieffert, Chris Edwards, Alysha Sieffert & Bob Sieffert

Agricultural Business of the Year Lazo & Tye Farm ("Sieffert's Farm")

Since Norm and Jean Sieffert began working the land that's now commonly known as "Sieffert's Farm" back in 1961, their farm has been a model of growth, initiative and environmental stewardship.

The second- and third-generation Siefferts who now work the land on Lazo & Tye Farm are responsible for 30,000 square feet of greenhouse production, 100 acres of potatoes and 50 acres of mixed vegetables. Their farm market, established in 1975 long before the popular "locavore" movement, is kept stocked with fresh vegetables, and the farm also supplies wholesalers and retailers across the Island with potatoes, corn and other produce.

Lazo & Tye Farm has consistently been a champion of environmental stewardship and sustainable agriculture. The Siefferts use low impact irrigation techniques, leave hedgerows between crops to serve as habitat for the farm's abundant wildlife and follow innovative crop rotation schedules to minimize soil and mineral erosion.

They also augment traditional winter cover crops with leftover vegetable crops, providing a significant food source for the ducks, geese and trumpeter swans that winter on the property. This practice, which also helps preserve and enhance the farm's rich soils, has earned the recognition of Ducks Unlimited Canada, with which the farm has proudly partnered for more than 30 years.

The Siefferts strive to empower local youth to make informed decisions about their food. "Over the years we've taken many school classes on tours of the farm," says Charlene Sieffert, Norm and Jean's daughter-in-law. "We love to encourage kids to learn where their food comes from and how it's grown. The earlier they learn about their food the more health-conscious they'll become."

The Siefferts attribute a great deal of their success to the hard work of their dedicated employees, whose numbers swell in the summer and late fall. Whatever the reason, however, one thing is certain. In an industry as tough as agriculture, Lazo & Tye Farm has not only weathered the storm, but has shown a strong ability to generate income, employ local families and demonstrate an inspiring aptitude for sustained growth.



720 Knight Rd, Comox • 250.339.2988



"My Tech Guys is an inspiration for all small businesses to never give up in the face of challenge."

Business of the Year My Tech Guys

My Tech Guys has proven beyond a doubt that hard work, a positive attitude and caring for the community are powerful catalysts for business success. After launching its first store in 2006 with a promise to provide in-home computer service from "the friendliest geeks in town," My Tech Guys grew from four employees to 15 in just four years. Though not without its growing pains, the company continued to grow exponentially, spurred by its relentless commitment to customer satisfaction. In 2009 they opened their second store and became an authorized Apple retailer.

Over the years, the staff and management of My Tech Guys have worked tirelessly to ensure they're building a business that's not just profitable, but also a great place to work and a positive influence in the community. On the employment side, they've always worked hard to create meaningful, full-time jobs that pay more than minimum wage. In what's primarily a service industry, after all, happy employees are integral to success.

Despite being a dedicated father and an in-demand business man, My Tech Guys owner Bob Wells is extremely involved with a number of community groups, including Rotary, CYMC, Child Development and YANA. His company contributes countless hours to Comox Valley non-profit groups and public services, often working behind the scenes to ensure technical challenges are overcome for the groups they support. For example, Bob and his team streamed the federal and municipal election debates for thousands of online viewers, as they do each year for the Comox Valley Child Development Association Telethon.

Perhaps not surprisingly, My Tech Guys is no stranger to business awards and recognition for its outstanding achievements. Its accolades have included 2008 Best IT Service from MISTIC, 2009 Small Business of the Year from the Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, 2010 Small Business BC's Business Growth Award and even Best Themed Float in that year's Canada Day Parade.

As My Tech Guys continues its growth trajectory in terms of sales, employees and customer goodwill, the company remains an inspiration for all small businesses to never give up in the face of challenge, and to operate at all times with ethics, accountability and community mindedness.



5-2401 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay
1812 Comox Ave, Comox
250.338.4411
www.mytechguys.ca



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Heritage Recognition Award Comox Valley Record

The Comox Valley Record, one of the Black Press flagship community newspapers on Vancouver Island, has faithfully and accurately reported on what matters to Valley readers for more than a quarter century. The first issue of the Comox Valley Record was distributed on March 26, 1986. The publication was then known as the Courtenay Comox Valley Record, and it was a broadsheet rather than the tabloid we know and love today, but the commitment to journalism and honest reportage that defines today's Record has been there from the start.

From a single, 20-24 page paper, the Comox Valley Record has grown to an average of more than 140 pages per week often spread over three sections, plus more than 30 specialty supplements every year — and that's not even mentioning its significant online presence! Though originally published only once a week, by 1989 the Record was arriving on doorsteps twice weekly.

Today, the Record employs 22 in-house personnel, 200 plus carriers, 16 contract drivers and numerous freelance writers and columnists. Several of its employees have been around since the beginning; some have logged close to two decades of service with the newspaper.

Far from just reporting on Comox Valley happenings, the Record is also an active part of the community. The paper sponsors or otherwise supports more than 50 local non-profits every year, from charities and fundraisers to sports teams, music festivals and iconic events like the Filberg Festival and Royal LePage Snow to Surf.

With 26 years under their belts, the folks at the Comox Valley Record know a thing or two about running a successful newspaper, and they have the awards to prove it. The paper's many accolades include Best Special Section, Best Use of Colour, Best Ad Campaign, Best Sustained Feature, Best New Idea and even Best Community Newspaper in Canada for its circulation category.

The Record's mission, in part, is to "deliver a quality product," "give a voice to our community through local news, information and services" and "act with integrity at all times."

Mission accomplished for more than 25 years!

765 McPhee Ave, Courtenay • 250.338.5811 • www.comoxvalleyrecord.com



"The Record's commitment to journalism and honest reportage has been there from the start."

COMOX VALLEY RECORD
Your community. Your newspaper.
a division of Black Press



Recycling Recognition Award The Green Room

The Green Room is a downtown Courtenay eco-home and gift boutique offering re-purposed, fair trade, organic, local, natural, non-toxic and undeniably stylish products. Owners Rebecca Wood and Cortney Upham incorporate the 4 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink) into nearly everything they do at the Green Room. From encouraging their customers to rethink how they consume, where their products come from and how they're made, to reducing waste by offering products like reusable bags, compost pails and plastic bag dryers, Cortney and Rebecca are helping their community live a greener lifestyle and leading by example every step of the way.

214 Fifth St, Courtenay • 250.898.0400
www.greenroominteriors.com



Small Business of the Year Sound Security Inc.

The Comox Valley's only locally owned alarm company, Sound Security continually shows leadership by embracing proven new technologies and giving back to the Comox Valley. Recently, Sound Security became the authorized dealer for LifeSentry, a new medical alarm system that improves upon weaknesses in established two-way voice systems. It now offers this potentially life-saving system alongside more traditional services like alarm, CCTV and even home theatre systems. In the community, Sound Security supports groups like YANA, the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, Rotary and Scouts Canada. In everything that it does, Sound Security demonstrates a caring attitude and irreproachable ethical standards.

250.339.7200 • www.soundsecurity.ca

Business of the Year Level 10 Eurospa

Over 50 per cent of Level 10's clients have been with them for all of their 21 years of operation. That's an amazing testament to their commitment to the Comox Valley and its economic growth.

Level 10 Eurospa is a full service salon, spa and store offering professional hair design, aesthetics, skin rejuvenation, massage and spa treatments in a friendly, relaxing and comfortable environment.

Owner Leanne Boyd employs more than 20 professionals (all local residents), and provides a place clients "feel very special and love to come and visit," says Presley & Partners Colleen Ellison.

Level 10 personifies the responsible corporate citizen. Leanne continues to hire graduates from local cosmetology schools providing training and mentoring, participates in apprenticeship programs and encourages and supports career advancement for all. Level 10 has always demonstrated care for the planet even before it was fashionable. Along with recycling, energy efficient appliances and environmentally friendly cleaning products, they are dedicated to whatever changes they can make to protect our environment.



"We promise your every visit will be a Beautiful Experience."

Leanne supports many local charities including YANA, CV Hospice, 19 Wing Comox, Child Development Telethon, school and youth club fundraisers, projects and events of all CV Rotaries as well as Ducks Unlimited. She is also a strong advocate of shopping locally and supporting fellow businesses.

204-1025 Cliffe Avenue, Courtenay
250.334.0209
www.level10eurospa.com



The Westerly Hotel promotes the Valley economy with a "buy local" and "hire local" philosophy.

Business of the Year

BEST WESTERN PLUS The Westerly Hotel & Convention Centre

Courtenay's only full-service hotel, BEST WESTERN PLUS The Westerly Hotel & Convention Centre has been an integral and active member of the Comox Valley community since 1979.

Each year, The Westerly Hotel supports a wide variety of non-profits and community events. In 2011 alone, the hotel donated gift certificates and services valued at more than \$75,000!

A small selection of causes it has supported includes the Variety Children's Radiothon, Operation Red Nose, YANA and Dine Out for Life in support of AIDS Vancouver Island. The hotel is also a generous supporter of community events such as Vancouver Island MusicFest, Comox Nautical Days, the BC Shellfish Festival and the Canadian Waterman Festival.

In addition to its 143 guest suites, the hotel also features the Top Shelf Specialty Liquor Store, the Flying Canoe West Coast Pub, Westerly Catering Company and more than 10,000 square feet of unique meeting and event space. The International Rotary flag is proudly flown at the entrance to the hotel, which is home to both the Courtenay and Strathcona Sunrise Rotary Clubs.

BEST WESTERN PLUS The Westerly Hotel & Convention Centre is also one of the Valley's largest employers, with 86 employees, most of whom have permanent, full-time positions. Last summer, the hotel honoured the dedicated service of 19 employees who together accumulated 272 years of employment with the hotel.

In addition to its extensive local staff, The Westerly Hotel promotes economic welfare throughout the Valley through a "buy local" and "hire local" philosophy. Never has this community benefit been more evident than during its recent renovations, when the hotel became a significant contractor of local trades people and construction professionals. The entire project injected more than \$600,000 into the local economy.

Both for the services it offers and the support it gives the community, BEST WESTERN PLUS The Westerly Hotel & Convention Centre has earned the respect of the local business community.



The Westerly Hotel
& CONVENTION CENTRE

1590 Cliffe Ave, Courtenay
250.338.7741
www.thewesterlyhotel.ca