

Outlook

Awards of Excellence

It was a glittering, gala night at the Nakoda Lodge last Saturday (Nov. 2) as more than 100 members of the Canmore Kananaskis Chamber of Commerce gathered to honour the eight recipients of their annual Awards of Excellence.

In addition to the seven local businesses cited for outstanding achievement, service and entrepreneurial spirit, Urban Development Institute executive director Susan Barry received the President's Award from outgoing Chamber president Brenda Stanton.

The recipient of the award is chosen at the sole discretion of the president, Stanton noted, adding that Barry was honoured this year not only for her hard work on behalf of the business community but also for the warmth and caring she shares with others.

"I think the following quote by William Ward best describes why I chose this person as this year's recipient: 'Greatness is not found in possessions, power, position or prestige. It is discovered in goodness, humility, service and character.'"

Barry, who has been battling breast cancer this year, replied with a moving tribute to the community of Canmore, for the warmth and support its citizens have shown not just this year but in the decade she and her husband Don have lived here.

Business of the Year was awarded to Can-Bow Motors, celebrating its 25th year in business this year. The company, which still has almost 100 per cent of its original staff component, has been exemplary in

community service, integrity and commitment, the judges said.

For Service Excellence — continually displaying exceptional or innovative customer service and satisfaction — The Creek House owners Gail Irwin and Greg Elford were recognized for having created the first four-and-a-half star B&B in Canmore, providing a level of comfort in the local B&B market at the upper end of the market.

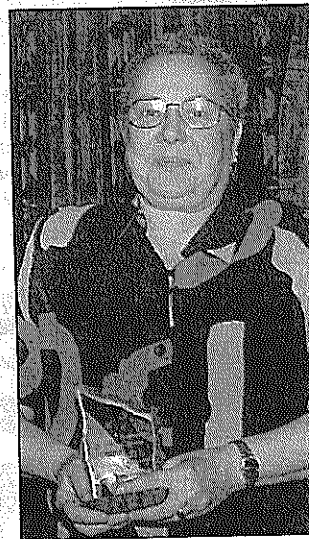
Irwin and Elford were also recognized with a Mayor's Award for Architectural Excellence recently for their restoration work on The Paint Box, also recently ranked a four-and-a-half-star inn by Canada Select.

R.D. Hardware received the Service Excellence Award for Retail, and Canmore Courier the Service Excellence for a business other than retail, hotel or restaurant. R.D. Hardware, a long time fixture on Main Street, was noted to have almost zero staff turnover and extremely knowledgeable employees, while Canmore Courier was praised for its quick turnaround time and its ability to help Bow Valley businesses interact with urban centers efficiently.

Entrepreneur of the Year award was presented to Cam Baty and Karina Birch's Rocky Mountain Soap Company, which recently placed 35th on *Profit Magazine's*

prestigious list of Canada's Top 50 hottest startup companies.

Best New Small Business Award, with fewer than 10 employees, was presented to the locally-owned *Rocky Mountain*



Outlook, for introducing competition to the local newspaper market with a fresh look, high journalistic standards and free distribution valley wide.

Best New Large Business, with more than 10 employees, was awarded to Oh Canada Eh!?, the dinner theatre show that has introduced a new attraction to the overall tourism package.

Top: Colin, Ken and Ken Jr. of Can-Bow Motors, winners of Business of the Year.

Left: UDI executive director Susan Barry, recipient of the Presidents Award.

Middle: Bob Schott, Carol Picard and Larry Marshall, owners of the Rocky Mountain Outlook, Best New Small Business.

CRAIG DOUCE - PHOTOS