



GROWTH Alberta
Your Business. Our Future.

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5306 - 49 Street, Barrhead, AB T7N 1N5

For Immediate Release

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2009 Winners Celebrated, Call for 2010 Nominations

Barrhead... GROWTH Alberta is proud to have recognized sixteen local businesses for 'Business Excellence' at our fifth annual Business Awards Gala on Saturday, January 23, 2010 at the Westlock and District Community Hall.

"Hosting our fifth annual gala is an amazing milestone for the alliance," boasts Pamela Marriott, Chair of GROWTH Alberta. "We continue to receive enthusiastic support from our communities, and could not be happier to add these amazing businesses to the growing cohort of GROWTH Alberta business excellence award winners."

Since 2005, GROWTH Alberta has recognized 84 businesses in a region that includes the Town of Swan Hills, Woodlands County, the Town and County of Barrhead, the Town of Westlock and Westlock County, the Village of Clyde and the County of Thorhild. Businesses within these areas can be nominated and may be recognized for business excellence, which encompasses factors like economic contribution to the region, involvement in the community, innovation and customer service.

As in years past, a number of special awards were also handed out at the Gala on Saturday:

Jubilee Farms of Westlock County received the 'Economic Contribution' award for their impressive corporate citizenship, including the many jobs they have created in the Westlock area.

Assiniboine Valley Oilfield, established in Fort Assiniboine in 1978, was recognized with the 'Community Spirit' award for their enthusiastic support of the community in Fort Assiniboine. The family-owned company is well-known for their consistent and generous donations of time, money and equipment to an astonishing number of deserving causes within the hamlet, including the agricultural society, the Royal Canadian Legion, and various community facilities.

Brown's Chrysler, Westlock Ford and Westlock Motors shared the 'Inspired Ingenuity' award for their innovative cooperative marketing strategies. Westlock's three major auto dealers continue to do well despite a broader market slump in auto sales, in part thanks to their history of creative marketing partnerships.

Nearly 250 gala attendees voted to recognize The Flower Shoppe of Barrhead as the evening's 'Audience Favourite'. The popular flower and gift shop clearly made a positive impression pulling double-duty as an award winner *and* the evening's official decorator.



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Finally, Erdmann's Gardens and Greenhouses was awarded the evening's top honours, receiving the 2009 GROWTH Alberta 'Business of the Year' award. Another strong family business, the farm in Westlock County is well known throughout the Edmonton region as a provider of high quality plants and delicious farm-fresh fruits and vegetables. With the award, Rony and Wendy Erdmann, along with their sons Shane and Cody, were recognized as the region's all-around best business for 2009.

The public is reminded that the Gala marks the launch of GROWTH Alberta's 2010 nominations period, and absolutely anyone is encouraged to bring forward the name of a business within the region that they feel should be recognized in 2010. Members of the public can nominate for the 2010 business awards through newspaper advertisements that will be printed in the coming months, or online at www.growthalberta.com. The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2010.

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