

**2005 Business Excellence Award Winner
Category: 1-9 Employees**



Entrepreneurial spirit comes naturally to this company. They pride themselves on keeping pace with technology to communicate to clients and follow compliance, corporate governance and privacy legislation.

Their continuous education extends not only to their own team but to their clients as well. Giving back to the community through funding or provision of services is paramount to this company, as is their commitment to customer service.

COMMUNITY ETHICS, BIG CITY EXPERTISE is their tag line.
Please join me in recognizing "The Callery Group as this year's Business Excellence recipient in the 1-9 Employees Category.

Board of trade honours business excellence

DURHAM -- Three businesses were recognized last week for their excellence. The Callery Group was the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade's winner in the one-to-nine employees category, while The Black Dog Pub won in the 10-to-49 division. Shandex Truck Inc. was the recipient in the 50-plus category.

The honours were handed out last week during the board's 11th Annual Business Excellence award ceremony, held at the Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facilities, with about 300 people in attendance.

The Callery Group was praised for having a natural entrepreneurial spirit. "They pride themselves on keeping pace with technology to communicate to clients and to follow compliance, corporate governance and privacy legislation," said Dereck Mahanger of ING Insurance while presenting the award.

Company president Brian Callery quipped, "It's really neat to be here." The other nominees in the one-to-nine employees category were RoadArt Transportation and The Simple Alternative Funeral Centre.

In the 10-to-49 employee category, Duncan Fletcher, the advertising director with the Ajax-Pickering News Advertiser, said of the Black Dog, "The unusual marketing style of this establishment attracts customers worldwide. People have been spotted wearing their merchandise in Scotland and Zimbabwe."

This pub's motto is 'You are a stranger here but once.' Pub owner Ken Rueter joked, "There are so many customers here tonight." The business has been operating for 12 years and Mr. Rueter pointed to his staff, saying, "Without them, I wouldn't be here."

Other nominees in the category were Carruther's Creek Golf Centre, RecoverCorp Inc., San Marco Roasters, The Local Exhaust and Ventilation Company, and Walker Head Barristers and Solicitors.

Paul Thomas, of RBC Royal Bank, noted Shandex Truck Inc. encourages employees to treat everyone as a customer. "This, and their outstanding safety performance, are the attributes that enable them to be the preferred supplier to a variety of prestigious, multi-national companies," he said.

Jennifer Shannon noted, "It's been a bit of a tough year for Shandex Truck," sharing that in May her father Greg passed away from cancer. "He loved his trucks. Nine years ago, he bought his first truck. It's grown to 38 trucks. This is an honour and a great end to a tough year for us. I want to thank our employees. This means more than you'll ever know."

Other nominees in the 50-plus employees category were Arnts Topsoil, Elirpa Construction and Materials Ltd., Re/Max First Realty, Rouge Valley Health System and Vandermeer Nursery. The Pickering Rotary Club also presented a Community Leadership Award to Jim McKinnon, one of the founders of the Safe Communities of Pickering Ajax.