



North Bay & District Chamber of Commerce 2017 Award Winners

New Business of the Year

SUGAR DADDY CUPCAKES AND CATERING

In the summer of 2016, Nathan and John Serran took the plunge as entrepreneurs; Nathan was a pharmacy assistant and John was a financial advisor. Gaining great attention for their cupcakes at a Canada Day party, orders started pouring in, and as such, they started the endeavour by adding a commercial kitchen to their home-based location. The new company was created, "Sugar Daddy" Cupcakes and Catering specializing in gourmet cupcakes and food for all occasions! The minimum order is a dozen but they have done up to 550 cupcakes for one order at a large event. They are now promoting to weddings and other events. Most recently, Nathan and John were the winners of the Downtown Improvement Area's "Win this Space" contest. The North Bay entrepreneurs will now have a retail location of their choice in Downtown North Bay, with one-year free rent. We look forward to the opening of their new location soon.

Not-for-Profit of the Year

NORTH BAY AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Community Foundations unite groups of people who care about their communities. They are independent, volunteer-driven, charitable organizations that aim to strengthen their communities by facilitating philanthropy, by partnering with donors to build permanent endowments, and by seeking out other funds to support community projects. Founded on trust, Community Foundations help donors achieve their charitable goals by investing financial capital in their community, while stimulating and nurturing relationships to create a sense of belonging to a community. The North Bay Area Community Foundation was by Jack Burrows in 2006. The foundation has three main roles: *Endowment building and flexible, comprehensive donor services; broad and effective grant making; and serving our community as a resource and partner.* While these roles are always the same, every community foundation is unique in the way it fulfills these roles and in the priority, it places on each. The emphasis on each role can vary at different times in a community foundation's development. As they work toward fully implementing all three roles, individual community foundations will focus on each role to a different degree. To-date, the North Bay Area Community Foundation has granted \$780,995.66 to other local groups and charities in the North Bay area. Their motto is "Raised locally, stays locally."

Young Professional of the Year

THOMAS BROWN (CURVEFRONT DIGITAL MARKETING)

Great marketing is well-defined and quantitatively controlled, but world-class marketing builds relationships with consumers. In the internet era, in which we live, relationships between businesses and consumers are built on timely solutions to consumer problems. Identifying your audience's moments of need related to your product or service offering, crafting engaging content to solve their problems, and making that content easily discoverable by your audience coupled with the strategic use of digital initiatives to move users along the customer journey is called inbound digital marketing. CurveFront helps businesses to effectively adopt inbound digital marketing into their overall marketing strategy to improve relationships with their customers. Through careful measurement and persistent experimentation, CurveFront optimises the efficiency and effectiveness of your online marketing efforts to maximise your marketing return-on-investment. Thomas was born and raised in North Bay. He founded CurveFront in 2013. Thomas volunteers as a board member of the North Bay Symphony Society. Thomas is the current chair of the North Bay and District Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals (YPs) Committee and is the representative on the Chamber board for the YPs.

Business of the Year (1-5 employees)

PARKSIDE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Parkside Animal Hospital is a full service, cat friendly veterinary practice which opened in early 2014. Located in the iconic “King Cone” building at the heart of the city, we opened with several goals in mind. First and foremost is to ensure that every patient and client receives the highest quality, from communication to equipment, from education to empathy, and from constant diligence to a positive and caring environment. From the beginning we realized this requires a specific approach. Our team is made up of exceptional individuals all of whom would go to the end of the earth for a patient, just as we would for our own pets. We realize that pets are family and require the same kind of respect. Parkside Animal Hospital currently employs five individuals. Dr. Hailey Bertrand, owner and veterinarian, is thrilled that our first year and a half has been full of wonderful patients and clients. It is these individuals for whom we continue to strive.

Business of the Year (6-15 employees)

BURROWS COUNTRY STORE & GARDEN CENTRE

A landmark business celebrated its first one hundred years of service to the North Bay area, in 2015. The business started as a little grocery store on Cassells and Percy Street by Harvey Burrows. At this spot, they had warehouses for flour and feed. There were even horses that came to transport goods to lumber camps up north. The grocery store evolved to the garden centre as it is now at Cassells and Third Avenue West. The operation had been taken over by Harvey’s son, Jack Burrows and his wife Elaine, and then daughter Debbie and her husband Bob Hudson as the third-generation owners. So, over the past century, the store has evolved into the present-day garden centre, still providing the same friendly, personalized service. The store has a variety of lawn and garden supplies, pet food, bird supplies, feed, salt, and landscaping services. A great community supporter with initiatives such as North Bay Area Community Foundation and North Bay Food Bank.

Business of the Year (16+ employees)

ONTARIO NORTHLAND

The Ontario Northland Transportation Commission (Ontario Northland) is an agency of the Province of Ontario that provides efficient and vital transportation services to Northeastern Ontario. Ontario Northland employs over 750 skilled transportation professionals throughout Northeastern Ontario and Northwestern Quebec. They provide comfortable and reliable bus transportation to over 275,000 passengers each year. With over 700 miles of track, including 25 bridges, Ontario Northland ships over 32,000 carloads of freight connecting Northeastern Ontario to national and international markets. They provide the only all-season land link to the James Bay coast connecting Moosonee to Cochrane, Ontario; each year they transport 60,000 passengers on the train, over 300,000 packages, 3,000 car loads of freight, and 2,000 vehicles. An extremely important portion of their services is the repair and refurbishment of passenger cars, locomotives, and wheel sets for leading transportation companies throughout North America. With this commercialization of the locomotive shops and expansion from passenger car repairs to offer other services for box cars, gondolas, tank cars, flat cars, Ontario Northland has been able to attract new work for the remanufacturing and repair centre. They were also successful in securing the Rocky Mountaineer project which includes the refurbishment of eleven luxury passenger cars. Ontario Northland has successfully recruited over 200 positions over the past three years. Under the direction of President & CEO Corinna Moore, the qualified and skilled team of employees at Ontario Northland has a reputation of being a valued leader in transportation services.