

Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

Business Niagara asked the Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Award winners what advice they would offer other entrepreneurs. Here's what they said...

JENNIFER BLAKELY

*Alphabet Photography,
Emerging Entrepreneur Award*

Why did you choose to locate your business in Niagara?

"I have always had a love and passion for our community. There are countless number of long-standing and successful businesses in the Niagara region that I am proud to call partners and neighbours."



KELLY DANIELS

*Lyndesfarne Theatre Projects,
Tourism Enterprise Award*

Why did you choose to locate your business in Niagara?

"There are a plethora of companies now, from emerging artists to full-on professionals. The area is becoming more adventurous in its cultural tastes. It's like a transformation. Something else is taking over ... it's about things that are creative and theatre is an essential part of this evolution."



GRANT KOPPERS

*Koppers Fishing & Tackle Corp.,
International Trade Award*

Why did you choose to locate your business in Niagara?

"I was born in Niagara; it is my home. I have been truly fortunate to have a world-class sport fishing industry right in my backyard. My vision is to someday promote the finest freshwater market in the world."



SANDRA MURRE

*Jordan Engineering Inc.,
Community Contribution Award*
What qualities do you think make a successful entrepreneur?

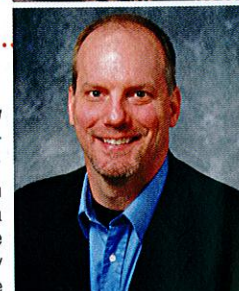
"Be a good problem solver, have attention for detail but still track the big picture. Flexibility to balance resources based on your values. Happy people live by their values, so set reasonable boundaries to be balanced between all of your values."



SCOTT RIESEBOSCH

*GRS Electronics,
Niagara Original Award*
Why did you choose to locate your business in Niagara?

"It is our dedication to keeping jobs in Niagara. One could easily keep just a warehouse in the area and subcontract the manufacturing overseas, but that's not the way we like it. I like to manufacture, it's fun, there are headaches but it's fun, and not shipping materials back and forth to China has both environmental and financial benefits."



SHAWN BARLOW

*Photech Environmental Solutions Inc.,
Established Enterprise Award*

What inspired you to become an entrepreneur?

"There was a realization that I wasn't a very good employee due to my general distaste for being told how things should be done without consideration of other options. I'm a bit of a maverick and like to create and develop ideas, which translates well to entrepreneurship."



GEOFF IRVINE

*Chalk & Wire Learning Assessment Inc.,
Technological Innovation Award*

What qualities make a successful entrepreneur?

"The fact that I was actually 'in business' rarely occurred to me. That what I was doing was just an extension of core values and practices was probably the key to any success I have ever enjoyed."



ANNE LENNARD-OTTO

*Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry Inc.,
Innovative Small Business Award*

What inspired you to become an entrepreneur?

"I really love what I do and there is a natural high when clients believe it is the best design for them. Once I understood the balance required between working in the business and working on the business, only then did I recognize the potential for real growth and only at that point did it begin to happen."

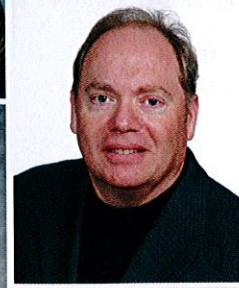


STEPHEN PARKER

*Flexo Products Ltd.,
Family Enterprise Award*

What magazines, books and websites do you consult?

"I read a lot, mostly non-fiction, such as biographies and business books. When you make important business decisions, you have to rely on training and on the people in your team that surround you."



TOM RANKIN

*Rankin Constructions Inc.,
Lifetime Achievement Award*

What qualities do you think make a successful entrepreneur?

"A person must have ideas, great work ethics, perseverance, the ability to become highly skilled and competent at the business of their choice."

