

Niagara salutes its best in business

By QMI Agency

NIAGARA FALLS — Recipients of the 17th annual Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards were announced Friday at a gala event at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel and Conference Centre.

The award winners were:

Emerging Entrepreneur Award: Jennifer Blakely, Alphabet Photography, Niagara Falls.

Family Enterprise Award: Stephen Parker, Flexo Products Limited of Niagara Falls.

Established Enterprise Award:

Shawn Barlow, Photech Environmental Solutions Inc., St. Catharines.

Innovative Small Business Award: Anne Lennard-Otto, Distinctive Designs & Cabinetry Inc., St. Catharines.

International Trade Award: Grant Koppers, Koppers Fishing and Tackle Corp., of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Technological Innovation Award: Geoff Irvine, Chalk & Wire Learning Assessment Inc., of St. Catharines.

Tourism Enterprise Award: Kelly Daniels, Lyndesfarne Theatre, St. Catharines.

Gene Luczkiw Spirit of Enterprise Awards, which provide financial support to students who demonstrate the spirit of enterprise: Aaron Bailey, Gaelle Groux and Cameron Dobbelstyn.

About 500 people attended the event which recognized more than 35 businesses and individuals.

Bestowed awards will also be presented to Tom Rankin (lifetime achievement), Sandra Murre (community contribution), M.K. Rittenhouse (historical hall of fame) and Scott Riesebosch (Niagara Original).

Riesebosch is founder and president of Welland-based CRS Electronics, an LED-manufacturing company which this week announced it has signed a production deal with Eveready.

The awards were established in 1994 to recognize the cream of Niagara entrepreneurship.

It's supported by a committee of volunteers from the region's corporate, education and economic development sectors