

Beer brewer wins excellence award

Recognition

Sean Dunbar won Business Person of the Year award in Fredericton

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FREDERICTON – Sean Dunbar, the craft beer maker whose devotion to tasty ales has made Picaroons a favourite among the local barley sandwich crowd, has received another big toast.

The native of Northumberland County was handed Business Person of the Year Award by the Fredericton Chamber of Commerce at its annual gala.

"The chamber's business excellence awards recognize both business success and community involvement," said Chris Johnston, the president's chamber, in a release.

"Year after year we can see the close relationship between these two factors in all of our finalists, regardless of what category they appear in. My congratulations go out to each nominee – they are all making a difference in our community."

Earlier this summer, Dunbar's Northampton Brewing Company reached an agreement with the City of Fredericton to acquire and redevelop the former Gibson Roundhouse building on

Union Street, which will become the company's new brewery and head office.

It appeared to be a shrewd business move, with Dunbar paying only \$100 for a piece of land the city had paid \$300,000 to acquire and was hungry to see developed.

The building, which is being redesigned by local, award-winning architects at Acre Architects Inc., will give the brewery space to expand operations, create a new tourism hub on the city's north side, provide accessible public washrooms and community space for people using the trail system and celebrate the area's

history with several displays.

Dunbar capped off another successful summer by hosting his first Brewer's Bash at Fredericton's Officers Square in July, an event that attracted craft brewers from across Canada. Tickets quickly sold out, ensuring the event will become an annual tradition.

Dunbar brews a dozen regular Picaroons beers in his distinctive half-litre bottles and makes limited release brews for special occasions.

Other winners at the 2013 Business Excellence Awards, held at the Delta in Fredericton, included:

- Dana's Collision Center / CSN, for the Business Excellence Award (20 or fewer employees)
- Kingswood Ventures Inc., for the Business Excellence Award (20 or more employees)
- Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival, for the Community Leadership Award
- Andrew Bedford & Kerry Wells, Ginger Design, for the Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award
- Fredericton Community Food Centre, for the Not-For-Profit Organization Award
- Wilkins Home Building Centre, for the Resilience Award (previously announced)

"Being able to provide this type of public recognition is one of the great honours of being involved with the Fredericton chamber," said the chamber's CEO, Krista Ross.

"Because the nominees are so consistently strong, our selection committee struggles every year with choosing both the finalists and eventual winners for all of the categories."

"As the city and the province increasingly recognize and celebrate entrepreneurship as the backbone of our economy, these types of awards take on even greater weight in the current economic environment."



Rod Clarke, left, Susan Clarke, Barbara Clarke and Wayne Clarke pose for a photo at the Fredericton 2013 Chamber of Commerce Business Excellence Awards, Wednesday. Clarke's business, Wilkins Home Building Centre, was presented with the KPMG Resilience Award. PHOTO: ANDREW MEADE/TELEGRAPH-JOURNAL