



CHATHAM-KENT  
CHAMBER *of*  
COMMERCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce Announces 2026 Business Excellence Award Recipients**

Chatham-Kent, ON – June 4, 2026 – The Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce is delighted to announce the recipients of the 2026 Business Excellence Awards, recognizing the outstanding achievements and contributions of local businesses and leaders who continue to make Chatham-Kent a vibrant and resilient community.

#### **2026 Award Recipients:**

- **ATHENA Leadership Award – Megg Lyttle**
- **Business of the Year - Medium - Enviroshake**
- **Business of the Year – Small - Engineering For Kids**
- **Business of the Year Large - Aarkel Tool And Die**
- **Community Investment Award – Sons of Kent Brewing Company**
- **Customer First Award – Business - Gianni's Tile Gallery**
- **Customer First Award – Individual – Sydney Lewis**
- **Diversity Award – Cutie Patootie Studios**
- **Downtown Business of the Year Award - Crow City Barbers**
- **Emerging Leader – Erin Genge**
- **Entrepreneur of the Year – Denny Vervaet**
- **Innovation Award - Greenfield Global**
- **New Business Award - Top Shelf Indoor Golf**
- **Newcomer Entrepreneur - Ashley Purrington**
- **Non-Profit Business of the Year Award – Ridgetown Area Adult Activity Centre**

- **Rising Star – Samantha Beecroft**
- **Sustainability Award – Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers**
- **Visionary Award – Tina Hodgson**

*“Tonight’s Business Excellence Awards brought our purpose to life—celebrating the businesses and leaders who are engaging, empowering, and inspiring others while creating lasting impact across Chatham-Kent. Each nominee reflects the strength of a connected business community working together to expand opportunity, drive prosperity, and shape a vibrant future for our region.” Amanda Clark, Chair, Chatham-Kent Chamber of Commerce*

The Chamber extends its deepest gratitude to all who made this event possible. Special thanks to our sponsors, partners, volunteers, and the dedicated individuals who work tirelessly behind the scenes, including Tanner, Dan, Greg, and the 99.1 CKXS team; our entertainment, Milhouse; The Capitol Theatre staff and volunteers; and Schinkels’ Gourmet Meats.

We are also grateful to our valued award sponsors: Enbridge, OLG, Entegrus, YourTV Cogeco, St. Clair College, TD, Royal Bank - RBC, CKJobs, Blackburn Radio, Chatham Honda, Chatham-Kent Community Futures Development, Bank of Montreal BMO, WFCU Credit Union, Cascade Casinos Chatham, LIBRO Credit Union, CIBC, Ontario Greenhouse Vegetable Growers and ARC Benefits/Chambers Plan Employee Benefits.

Above all, our biggest thank you is to the businesses, stakeholders, and citizens of Chatham-Kent. Your resilience, entrepreneurial spirit, and dedication are what make our community thrive. Whether a recipient or not, every nominee is a champion and an example of what it takes to strive for a dream, believe in yourself and your community, and create opportunity and prosperity for all.

Congratulations to all recipients and nominees. We look forward to celebrating your continued success and the positive impact you bring to Chatham-Kent.