

BRAMPTON GUARDIAN WEEKEND

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Business world honours best at Rose Theatre

By **PETER CRISCIONE**

Staff Writer

When the dust settled, eight businesses walked away with hardware at this year's Brampton Outstanding Business Achievement Awards held at the Rose Theatre Wednesday night.

"This evening (is) truly a celebration of business excellence in Brampton," said Maria Britto, BOBA awards chair and the evening's emcee. "It's important to recognize the truly outstanding accomplishments and contributions made by Brampton's business leaders as we continue to support local businesses."



MARIA BRITTO

About 400 people attended the 11th edition of the awards, put on by the city and the Brampton Board of Trade.

Unlike previous ceremonies, where recipients knew ahead of time that they had won, this year's event was styled more like the Academy Awards.

Organizers said they opted to revamp the format this time around in a bid to celebrate each of the finalists.

"This year we have changed the awards format so that the category award recipients are not announced until this evening," Britto told the audience. "This not only builds suspense leading up to tonight, and I can already feel it in the room, but it allows us to showcase and highlight the many exemplary finalists this year rather than just the recipients."

In all, 15 nominees were featured in six categories including Emerging Business, Business Service and Advanced Manufacturing. Two businesses were recognized with awards of distinction.

In the category of Retail Administration and Logistics, LCBO's Brampton outlet beat out Gap Distribution.

In Food and Beverage, The Coca-Cola Bottling Company won over Golden Fleece Foods and The Staffing Edge squeezed by three other contenders to win the category of Business Service.

ASI Technologies took home Information and Communication Technology and Brampton Business Executive Suites was lauded in the category of Emerging Busi-

ness.

Brampton Engineering was recognized in the Advanced Manufacturing class.

"It is an honour to have our company and our employees recognized for business excellence," said Bud Smith, Brampton Engineering President and CEO. "We are truly proud of this honour."

"We want to thank the City of Brampton and the Brampton Economic Development Office and the Brampton Board of Trade for this honour," said Gerry Wojick, Director of Operations for the Coca Cola

Organizers said scrutineers considered a wide range of criteria in judging each nominee such as product innovation and technological achievement, increased productivity and employment and community involvement.

Judging was tight this year, organizers said.

"We believe that all of our finalists are winners tonight," Britto said. "We are pleased to once again honour the exemplary accomplishments of Brampton's outstanding local businesses."



The Brampton Outstanding Business Achievement Awards were handed out Wednesday night. Among the winners and dignitaries at the event were, from left, Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell, John Cutruzzola, Brampton Board of Trade president Wayne Waters, Amrit Kaur, Bud Smith, Spiro Mikroyiannakis, Dave Kapil, Aphrodite Mikroyiannakis, Gary Leigh, Steven Desrocher, Lou Duggan, Gerry Wojick, and Maria Britto, awards committee chair and emcee of the evening.

Photo by Bryon Johnson

Bottling Company, which won in the Food and Beverage category. "We work hard everyday to earn the respect and the trust of our employees, our customers, our consumers and our communities. For us, building that trust and respect means leading by example...making sure that our commitment to quality and superior customer service is the foundation of everything we do."

Six judges reviewed this year's crop of finalists.

For the first time, the business achievement awards presented two Brampton firms with an Award of Distinction.

Awards of distinction are given out to companies that Britto said have demonstrated "impressive accomplishments deserving special recognition."

This honor was bestowed on John Cutruzzola of Inzola Construction and Spiro Mikroyiannakis of Golden Fleece Foods.