

8th Annual Winners (2012)

Urban Category Winner – Ernie Stacey – Blue Eagle Security

Blue Eagle Security is an Aboriginal owned and operated security company that offers long-term or short-term contracts. The business prides itself on having first hand understanding and knowledge of what it takes to work within the Aboriginal community: “No matter what your security needs are, whether its festivals, weddings, socials, or powwows, Blue Eagle Security does them all. We also have security guards on staff who speak Cree and Ojibway. All the guards will have non-violent intervention training.”

Rural Category Winner – Georges Beaudry – Rapids Park Campground & B&B

Rapids Park Campground and B&B is a year-round attraction that provides visitors with authentic and unique experiences in a natural setting. Accommodations include a bed and breakfast, campground and a historical camp. The business also offers recreational activities such as tubing, kayaking, canoeing, hiking/biking, stargazing and geo caching. Rapids Park also offers various educational workshops that focus on nature and history.

9th Annual Winners (2013)

Urban Category Winner – Sharon Hall – White Wolf Images



Sharon Hall – White Wolf Woman is an Anishinaabe Artist with 26 years in facilitation of the traditional and contemporary educational art teaching. Sharon has developed specialized curriculums, art stylized demonstrations with hands-on exercises for both school classroom and “teaching the teacher” programs. White Wolf Images is creating history in Manitoba as an industry leader using a detailed art education curriculum with expertly illustrated manuals to deliver this traditional education format to the First Nations Youth and helping connect to their cultural roots.

Rural Category Winner – Arnold Chartrand – Big Town Computers



Arnold James Chartrand is a young Metis Entrepreneur originally from Duck Bay, Manitoba. In January 2013, he became the registered owner of Big Town Computer Services. Big Town Computer Services is a web design company that specializes in Project Management, HTML, CSS, CMS, jQuery, Digital Video & Audio.

Arnold is a 34-year-old who lives in Dauphin, Manitoba.

10th Annual Winners (2014)

Urban Category Winner – Alan Lavoie- Aeroseal Winnipeg



Alan has always been an efficiency nut with a love for buildings and construction. He is always learning about the latest energy efficiency technologies and this is where he discovered Aeroseal. He was instantly attracted to the Aeroseal technology and its many benefits. Since then, he has been on an awareness and educational mission in an effort to make a difference, one home, one building at a time.

Rural Category Winner – Cherie Fontaine- Cubs Closet



Cherie Fontaine is from Sagkeeng First Nation. She has graduated from Sagkeeng High School and has also earned a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Manitoba. She has worked as a teacher and a community project manager in her community of Sagkeeng. Cherie came up with an idea to develop a business which showcased her skills in sewing and beading and to promote aboriginal crafts and gifts.

11th Annual Winners (2015)

Urban Category Winner – Lyndon & Derrick Jamison – Into the Blue



The real passion behind Into the Blue resides in the Jameson brothers, Lyndon and Derrick. The identical twins started young, real young. At five years old they had their first freshwater tank. Lyndon and Derrick completed their Bachelors in Science degrees with an emphasis in Ecology and Environmental Science from the University of Manitoba. They continue to have an unprecedented survival rate for all the organisms they buy and sell due to their continued zest in and quest for an environmentally friendly future in aquaculture.

Rural Category Winner – Tori Cordell – Canine Cabin



My name is Tori Cordell, the owner of Canine Cabin in Thompson, Manitoba. Owning a business has been a lifetime dream after watching my Grandmother own various businesses. Because of my love for animals, I always assumed I would own a pet store & grooming salon. After seeing the long term local pet store close and a new pet store opening to fill the void, I knew there was no room for two pet stores. After working in a few offices I felt confident enough with my knowledge of bookkeeping to pursue my dream of owning my own business. Today Canine Cabin is happy to serve Thompson with grooming, boarding, and day camp services. We hope to continue offering these services for years to come.

12th Annual Winners (2016)

Urban Category Winner – Our Native Exquisite



Chantel Wilson is the designer and facilitator for Our Native Exquisite. She is talented in hand-making beautiful mukluks, moccasins, mitts and gauntlets. She was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba and is a registered band member of Waywayseecappo First Nation, currently living in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Chantel has facilitated workshops to individuals and organizations and would love to continue teaching our Indigenous people the art of moccasin and mukluk making to ensure the tradition continues and is passed on, one moccasin footstep at a time

Rural Category Winner – Marie Walker- Two Timerz Consignment



Marie is the owner/operator of the recently opened Two Timerz Consignment Thrift Shop in Selkirk Manitoba. Marie believes in saving Mother Earth and is always looking at ways to do her part. She decided that it was time to fulfill her dream of becoming a business owner and started to work toward her goal. By starting up this shop, she is promoting recycling, reusing, re-purposing clothing and accessories that might otherwise end up in a landfill.

13th Annual Winners (2017)

Urban Category Winners – Brittany & Michelle Monkman – Hedge Hair Salon



Brittany always had an enthusiasm for art, design and everything visually appealing. This translated into her work and attracted attention of her mentors who sought her out to power her journey into the industry. Upon graduating the hairstyling program at MC College she trained at three well established salons and worked with many well trained stylists. Her work included photo-shoots, fashion shows, theatre and film as well as daily clients.



Michelle is so excited to open a salon with her sister! She has worked as a makeup artist for local fashion shows and films, wedding and grad applications, and some special effects too. She is drawn to the creative expression of Makeup Artistry, and loves to help others feel confident and look their best. Previously Michelle worked in Civil Engineering as a Surveyor, and a Technologist. She gained experience in data management, working with others, managing people, and customer service. Michelle's skills in the more technical side of things compliments her sister's talents in Hair styling and knowledge of Salon Operations.

Rural Category Winner – Candace Lipischak- Fat- Daugh Hand Carved Antler Jewelry



Candace Lipischak is a Franco-Métis visual artist and entrepreneur.

Candace worked in graphic design for over 10 years. She branched out more creatively in 2015. She learned how to hand carve moose, deer, caribou and wapiti antler from her father Larry. Together they started Fat Daug-Hand Carved Antler Jewelry; the name Fat Daug being short for Father-Daughter. Their unique and organic jewelry can be found in five different boutiques in Winnipeg.