

Peter May business person of the year

Community Press staff

QUINTE WEST — Peter May is Quinte's business person of the year.

May, who founded Research Casting International Ltd. in 1987, received the 2014 Quinte Business Achievement Award at the 17th annual award ceremony held at the National Air Force Museum of Canada in Trenton Friday night.

Research Casting International, known as RCI, saw the light of day based on May's experience gained from collecting, preparing, casting and mounting dinosaur fossil bones at the Royal Ontario Museum and the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology.

The business was relocated on Dufferin Avenue in Trenton in 2007 and has since cemented itself

within the Quinte region as a unique manufacturing business. Staff there create casts of dinosaurs, mammals and reptiles and other custom museum exhibits.

It's the second major business-related award May received this year.

He was named entrepreneur of the year at the Annual Conference of the Ontario Association of Community Futures Development Corporations last month when more than 250 guests and delegates met in Huntsville for the event.

Earlier this year RCI signed a multi-million dollar contract with the coveted Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. to refurbish dozens of fossil skeletons. May said the contract will allow RCI to upgrade the current facility for climate



MIKE GAUDAUR/FOR QMI AGENCY

Peter May, left, who founded Research Casting International Ltd. in 1987, is Quinte's business person of the year. May, received the 2014 Quinte Business Achievement Award from Glenn Kozak of Trenval at the 17th annual award ceremony held at the National Air Force Museum of Canada in Trenton Friday night.

control and security.

A contract with the Shanghai Natural History Museum is also underway for RCI

to prepare marine fossils and mountings that will be viewed in this world-class museum.

Another future project is the development of a Quinte Region Natural History Museum, which could see thousands of visitors learning area's history as well as learning first-hand, the activities of RCI through windows for public viewing and with arranged tours of the facility.

Friday's ceremony took an emotional turn when Chief of Staff at 8 Wing/CFB Trenton Lt.-Col. David Alexander asked attendees to take a moment of silence in honour of two members of the Canadian Armed Forces, Cpl. Nathan Cirillo and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, who were killed by terrorists in Ottawa and Québec earlier in the week.

Sherry Hamilton of the Brighton and District Chamber of Commerce and this year's committee chairwoman, said 90 companies made it to the nomination process.

"The Business Achievement Awards committee worked hard all summer to encourage all businesses that were nominated to fill out their questionnaires," she added.

"The businesses have a great diversity and so much strength."

Among other awardees, Picton-based Zest Kitchen Shop left the air force museum with the New Business of the year, while Susanne Quinlan of Gleaners Food Bank in Belleville was presented with the Not-for-Profit of the Year award.

Brighton-based Cricklewood Farm is 2014's agribusiness.

Another Prince Edward County business, Books and Company, was named the Retail Business of the Year.

Electrolab Training System in Belleville earned the title of Business Excellence.

The Manufacturing-Industrial Business of the Year award went to Belleville-based Triangle Fluid Controls Ltd., while Tomasso's Italian Grille in downtown Trenton earned the Hospitality-Tourism Business of the Year award.

Brooke Miller, owner of Runaway Bridal in downtown Belleville is the 2014 Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

Trinity Fire and Security in

Trenton received the Service-Professional Business of the year title.

Two Belleville businesses, Choice Reefer Systems Ltd. and OT Group earned the fruits of their efforts in the Sustainability award and the 2014 Trailblazer award respectively.

Belleville trucking company Meyers Transport Ltd. Was presented with the Transportation and Logistics Business of the year award.

Event co-ordinator Jill McCormick stated non-nominated businesses attended Friday's award ceremony to show their support and celebrate with other business owners.

"It is great to see that our local businesses are proud to be located in the Quinte region," she added.

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WINNERS OF THE 17TH ANNUAL QUINTE BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Agribusiness of the Year: Cricklewood Farm
- Business Person of the Year: Peter May of Research Casting International
- Hospitality Business of the Year: Tomasso's Italian Grille
- Industrial/Manufacturing Business of the Year: Triangle Fluid Controls
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year: Brooke Miller
- New Business of the Year: Zest Kitchen Shop
- Not for Profit: Gleaners Food Bank
- Retail Business: Books and Company
- Service/Professional: Trinity Fire and Security
- Transportation and Logistics: Meyers Transport
- Sustainability Award: Choice Reefer Systems
- Trailblazer of the Year: OT Group
- Business Excellence: Electrolab Training Systems