Peter May, business person of the year

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 Glen Kozak of Trentval at the 17th annual award ceremony held at the National Air Force Museum of Canada in Trenton Friday night.

Earlier this year RCI signed a multi-million dollar contract with the revered 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 control and security. A contract with the Shanghai Natural History Museum is also underway for RCI to prepare marine fossils and montages 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 history as well as learning first-hand, these fossils of RCI through windows for public viewing and a guided tours of the facility.

Friday's ceremony took an emotional turn when Chief of Staff at 8 Wing/CFCB Trenton Lt. Col. David Alexander asked attendees to take a moment of silence in honour of Canadian Armed Forces, Capt Nathan Cirillo and Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent, who died by shots in Ottawa on Friday.

Sunny 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 to nominate and we are delighted with the number of nominations," she added.

"The businesses have a great diversity and they are so much stronger." Among the award winners, Picton-based Zest Kitchen Shop left the air force museum with the New Business of the year, while Stouffer's Quinto of Glengowers Food Bank in Belleville was presented with the Not-for-profit of the Year, and a Brighton-based Crickewood Farm was named the Community Business of the Year.

Another Prince Edward County business, Books and Company, was named the Retail Business of the Year. Hechtblub Training System in Belleville earned the title of Business Excellence. The Manufacturing-Industrial Business of the Year went to Belleville-based Triangle Fluid Control Ltd., while Tomasso's Italian Grill in downtown Trenton earned the Hospitality-Tourism Business of the Year award.

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

Trenton received the Service-Professional Business of the year title. Two Belleville businesses, Choice Reeler Systems Ltd. and OT Group earned the fruits of their efforts in the Sustainability Award and the 2014 Tradewinner award respectively.

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

Event co-ordinator Jill McLean said the 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.

For more information on the annual Business Achievement Awards visit How to提名 a business in the Quinte region for the 2015 Business Achievement Awards visit www.quinte.com/awards

WINNERS OF THE 17TH ANNUAL QUINTE BUSINESS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Agriculture of the Year: Crickewood Farm

Business Person of the Year: Peter May of Research Casting International

Hospitality Business of the Year: Tomasso's Italian Grill

Industrial Manufacturing Business of the Year: Triangle Fluid Controls

Not-for-profit of the Year: Zest Kitchen Shop

Retail Business of the Year: Books and Company

Service/Professional: Hechtblub Training System

Transportation and Logistics: Meyers Transport

Sustainability Award: Choice Reeler Systems

Tradewinner of the Year: OT Group

Business Excellence: Electrica Training Systems