

Small Business Week 2009 in Eastern PEI

by Stella Shepard

Small Businesses Acknowledged

The Eastern Prince Edward Island Chamber of Commerce (EPEICC) held a variety of activities throughout the week in celebration of Small Business Week 2009.

Before daylight on a cold, rainy Monday morning, a kick-off reception and trade fair was held at the Montague waterfront, hosted by **Active Communities Inc.** A group of small business owners, chamber members, and government representatives attended the event. Breakfast was served on-board **Cruise Manada**, and hosted by Captain **Joe** and **Amanda Purchase**. Cruise Manada is a well-known tourist attraction with their home base on the Montague waterfront. They offer seal cruise tours and ceilidhs featuring local talent throughout the summer.

For more information about **Cruise Manada**, visit www.cruisemanada.com



Awards

The Eastern Prince Edward Island Business of the Year Awards Dinner wrapped up the week. The gala event held in Souris was well attended.

Dixon's Backhoeing was the winner of the Eastern PEI Business of the Year Award. The business is

co-owned by **Roger and Margaret MacLeod** of Panmure Island. The business provides a variety of services including septic system installation, repair and pumping, custom backhoeing, bulldozing, landscaping and other related services.

Roger and Margaret purchased the business in 2007 from William Dixon. Roger has since hired one seasonal employee and has expanded the business to include a vacuum truck and a second dump truck. Roger has taken the necessary course to become a licensed site accessor.

"We were very pleased to be nominated but to win was a real bonus," says Roger. "Before buying this business, I worked as a welder, trucker, and equipment operator for years. The opportunity to buy an established business became available and the timing was right. It's a 40-year-old business with a good record. We are working hard to maintain a good reputation and are continuing to build the business."

For more information about **Dixon's Backhoeing**, contact **Roger** or **Margaret** at **838-3568**.



Roger and Margaret MacLeod - Dixon's Backhoeing

AV Tech Computer Depot was runner-up of the Eastern PEI Business of the Year Award. This business is located in Montague and is owned and operated by **Andre Christian**. The four-year-old business is a full-service technology company that offers photocopying, PC repairs, one-on-one computer training, retail outlet, and other related services.

For more information about **AV Tech Computer Depot**, visit www.avtechsolutions.ca



Andre Christian - AV Tech Computer Depot

Honourary Business Person of the Year Award

This award was presented to **Arnold Wightman** of Montague. Arnold received a standing ovation as he walked



Arnold Wightman

to the podium to receive his award. Arnold has been a well-respected and well-known business man for decades in the Montague area. He was referred to as a "visionary" by **Derek Nicholson**, Past President of the EPEICC and Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

Arnold owned and operated **Wightman's Lucky Dollar Store** from 1958 to 1968. He went on to operate **Wightman's Save Easy** from 1968 to 1996. The store employed more than 50 part-time and full-time staff. Arnold also helped the retail sector grow by establishing and expanding the **Down East Mall** in Montague. Arnold has a long history of involvement in the business community. He was the Charter President of the **Rotary Club of Montague**, and has never missed a weekly meeting. Arnold semi-retired in 1996 but continued to manage the Down East Mall until 2007.

Successful Week

"It was a wonderful and a very successful week," says **Mary MacQueen Elliot**, Administrator of EPEICC.

Mary would like to remind readers to start thinking about nominating a special business in Eastern PEI for next year's Eastern Prince Edward Island Business of the Year Award. The gala event will be held during Small Business Week in October 2010.

