



September 24, 2010 / For Immediate Release

Winning Edge Finalists and Airdrie Business Leader Recipient Announced



AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Mr. Pat Cashion of Vitreous Glass Inc. has been named the recipient of the 2010 Airdrie Business Leader Award.

This is the inaugural year for the award, which is part of the Winning Edge Awards program organized by the Airdrie Business Resource Partnership.

“I’m thrilled to receive this great honour, mostly because there are so many exceptional business people in Airdrie and it’s quite humbling to be chosen to receive this award this year,” says Mr. Cashion.

In addition to growing a successful local business over the past 15 years, Mr. Cashion has provided leadership and vision to the business community and has leveraged his energy and resources to support numerous community initiatives and causes.

The award will be presented to Mr. Cashion by the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce, the award’s sponsor, during Small Business Week in October.

In addition to the winner of this new award, **finalists in three other award categories** have been announced.

The Winning Edge Award is given to a small business (less than 50 employees) that best exhibits outstanding achievement in innovative practices, customer service and growth, and actively participates in the community. This year’s finalists are:

- Airdrie Yoga Studio
- M&M Meat Shops
- Rockyview Insurance Services
- Simply for Life
- The Home Vintner

Sponsored by: Airdrie Business Resource Partnership

The Eco Edge Award is awarded to a business that promotes, takes part and provides leadership in the environmental arena. 2010 finalists are:

- First Capital Asset Management ULC
- Frog Media Inc.
- Global A.P.E. Inc
- Natural e GREEN
- Ready Recycling Services

Sponsored by: City of Airdrie Environmental Services Board



The Family Friendly Business Award acknowledges a business that demonstrates family friendly practices that support employees' needs inside and outside of the workplace and/or makes it fun for families to visit. This category's finalists are:

- Frog Media Inc.
- Optimum Wellness Centre
- The Hair Lounge
- The Little Gym
- United Floors

Sponsored by: Airdrie National Family Week Steering Committee

"We were very pleased with the number of nominations we received this year," says Christina Waldner, director of the Airdrie Business Resource Partnership. Nominations were open for six weeks and more than 30 businesses were nominated.

"It really is an honour for a business to be nominated for an award," says Waldner. "The number and quality of nominations we received speaks to the high calibre of businesses in Airdrie. It's exciting to see customers and peers taking the time to recognize local businesses."

Finalists for these awards were chosen based on a number of criteria. Winners will be announced at the Winning Edge Awards Banquet on Friday, October 22, 2010, at the Woodside Golf Course, during Small Business Week (October 17-23). The Airdrie Business Leader Award will also be presented.

The banquet will feature guest speaker Tim Tamashiro. Mr. Tamashiro is host of Tonic on CBC Radio 2 and is a well-known speaker, musician and entertainer.

Banquet tickets can be purchased online from the Airdrie Business Resource Partnership at www.airdriebizresources.org.

The Winning Edge Awards are organized by the Airdrie Business Resource Partnership (ABRP) and its partners. The ABRP seeks to foster the growth of a vibrant, thriving and diversified business community in Airdrie and area. The Winning Edge Awards are made possible by generous sponsorship from the local business community.

For more information:

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**Airdrie Business Leader Award Recipient 2010:
Mr. Pat Cashion
President, Vitreous Glass Inc.**

Biography

Mr. Pat Cashion began his career as a Chartered Accountant and consultant. In 1993, he took an idea and turned his vision into reality and founded Vitreous Glass Inc. Starting from the ground up, Mr. Cashion lined up customers, supply, location, and financing, and his business commenced operation on February 1, 1995 in Airdrie. Vitreous annually collects 90,000 tonnes of post-consumer waste glass, which is cleaned, crushed and sold to three large fibreglass insulation manufacturers who use it as a raw material in their production facilities. Mr. Cashion chose to locate his business in Airdrie for its accessibility and the city's culture of efficiency and customer service. More than a decade later, he continues to run a very successful business that is committed to being a clean, safe and quality operation.

Over the years, Mr. Cashion has used his business acumen to strengthen the Airdrie business environment. Serving as director on the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce for four years, he was instrumental in assisting the organization with its strategic planning. He has represented the business community on a variety of boards and initiatives, including the enVision Airdrie committee, Alberta 55+ Games, Small Business Week and Youth Entrepreneurship Camp.

Pat's vision extends beyond business to the whole community. He understands a safe, educated and supportive community is the key to a satisfied citizenry and a thriving economy. Pat is a quiet leader who has contributed significantly to a large number of Airdrie organizations with little fanfare but big results. Some of the community organizations he supports include, but aren't limited to:

- Airdrie Food Bank
- Airdrie Boys and Girls Club
- Airdrie Public Library
- Bert Church LIVE Theatre
- Community Links
- Creative Airdrie Society

As a result of his commitment, dedication and leadership, Mr. Cashion is being recognized through the Winning Edge Awards Program as the recipient of the 2010 Airdrie Business Leader Award, sponsored by the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.