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Winning Edge Finalists and Airdrie Business Leader Recipient Announced

AIRDRIE, ALBERTA – Mr. Dick Buchanan of Air-Alta Insurance (Airdrie) Ltd. has been named the recipient of the 2011 Airdrie Business Leader Award.

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

Air-Alta Insurance has been owned and operated by Mr. Buchanan for 35 years. "Mr. Buchanan has a very long and strong history of commitment to Airdrie, as a professional and community supporter. He is an exceptional leader whose vision encompasses a blend of community service and business excellence that continues to this day." says Mike De Bokx, President of the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the award.

The award will be presented to Mr. Buchanan at the Winning Edge Awards during Small Business Week in October.

In addition to this 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:

- airdrielife
- Goodmen Roofing
- Here's the Scoop
- Smart Automotive and Tire Craft
- The Hair Lounge

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. 2011 finalists are:

- Grace Family Dental
- Kick it to the Curb Curbside Recycling
- Natural e GREEN

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:

- Bright Explorations Child Development Ltd.
- Goodmen Roofing
- Grace Family Dental
- Grow with Us Retail and Consignment
- The Little Gym

Sponsored by: Airdrie National Family Week Steering Committee



"Once again we were very pleased with the number and quality of nominations we received," says Matt Carre, Winning Edge Awards Organizing Committee Member. Nominations were open for ten weeks and the Winning Edge Awards Organizing Committee received 87 in total.

"It is very exciting to see peers and customers taking the time to nominate Airdrie businesses," says Carre. "Airdrie is home to many, many quality businesses and these awards are all about supporting and celebrating our local companies."

Finalists for these awards were chosen based on a number of criteria and all submissions were reviewed by selection committees. Winners will be announced at the Winning Edge Awards Banquet on Friday, October 21, 2011, at the Woodside Golf Course, during Small Business Week (October 16-22).

The banquet will also feature guest speaker Terry Rock, PhD, President & CEO, Calgary Arts Development Authority. Dr. Rock's address will demonstrate why a blooming arts and culture community is important in ensuring businesses and communities thrive.

Profiles of the finalists can be viewed on www.airdrienow.ca and www.abrponline.com after October 1, 2011.

Banquet tickets can be purchased online from the Airdrie Business Resource Partnership at www.abrponline.com.

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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SMALL BUSINESS WEEK EVENTS CALENDAR

Airdrie Chamber of Commerce Small Business Week Kick-off Networking Luncheon

Monday, October 17 • 11:45am–1:00pm • Woodside Golf Course • \$20 / \$25
Online registration at www.airdriechamber.ab.ca from October 1 to 13

Safety for Small Businesses Workshop

Learn how to make safety a priority for your small business.
Tuesday, October 18 • 8:30am–10:00am • Genesis Place • \$15
For more information and to register: www.abrponline.com

Is Your Business Vulnerable to Fraud?

Join RCMP Constable Menard to learn how to protect your business and customers from the newest fraud schemes happening in Airdrie.
Wednesday, October 19 • 9:00am–10:30am • Airdrie City Hall • \$15
For more information and to register: www.abrponline.com

Mayor's Business Appreciation Evening

Join Mayor Peter Brown, Council members and City Manager Paul Schulz for an opportunity to network with Airdrie businesses and connect with staff from City departments.
Wednesday, October 19 • 5:00pm–8:00pm (Remarks at 6:30 pm) • Airdrie City Hall
For more information and to RSVP: Contact Airdrie Economic Development at 403.948.8844 or economic.development@airdrie.ca by October 10.

Is Your Business Ready to Grow?

Sign up for a 30-minute session with Bruce Tannas, Business Development Advisor with Community Futures Centre West, to find out if it's the right time to expand and the resources you need to grow smart.
Thursday, October 20 • 9:00am–4:00pm • Airdrie City Hall
For more information and to apply for a spot: Contact Airdrie Economic Development at 403.948.8844 or economic.development@airdrie.ca

Winning Edge Awards Banquet

The highlight of Small Business Week! This event celebrates businesses that provide exceptional service, a family-friendly setting and environmental leadership as well as the Airdrie Business Leader Award.
Friday, October 21 • 6:00pm • Woodside Golf Course • \$50 / \$60
Guest Speaker: Terry Rock, President & CEO, [Calgary Arts Development](http://www.calgaryartsdevelopment.com)
For more information and to purchase tickets: www.abrponline.com



Airdrie Business Leader Award Recipient 2011:

Mr. Dick Buchanan

Biography

Mr. Dick Buchanan has owned and operated Air-Alta Insurance (Airdrie) Ltd. for more than 35 years. As a business owner, community supporter and insurance industry professional, Mr. Buchanan has provided vision and leadership to the Airdrie community for many years.

As a professional, Mr. Buchanan is a member of the Insurance Brokers Association of Alberta, which is dedicated to preserving and strengthening the insurance broker. Mr. Buchanan's commitment to customer service and his employees sets him apart in his industry. Mr. Buchanan is frequently interviewed by the local media on insurance industry issues, providing consumers with local advice and expertise.

As a business leader, Mr. Buchanan has been very supportive of initiatives to promote and enhance the entire business community. He served two terms as President of the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce and continues to be involved today. He uses his office for more than just business purposes by providing meeting space for community groups at his office (free of charge) and uses the sign outside of his office to advertise community events.

As a community leader, Mr. Buchanan has been a great supporter of Airdrie for the several decades. Some more recent examples of his community involvement include:

- 2009 Alberta 55+ Games, Chair of Food Committee
- Current chair of Airdrie & District Community Foundation
- Nose Creek Valley Museum
- Airdrie Food Bank
- Airdrie Airshow
- Airdrie Rotary
- Airdrie Agricultural Society
- The Air-Alta Cup (25+years)

Mr. Buchanan has been recognized by many groups and organizations for his contributions, one of the most significant being the Governor General's Golden Jubilee Medal, which recognizes an individual's distinguished service to their fellow citizens, their communities or to Canada.

As a result of his commitment, dedication and leadership, Mr. Buchanan is being recognized through the Winning Edge Awards Program as the recipient of the 2011 Airdrie Business Leader Award, sponsored by the Airdrie Chamber of Commerce.