

# And the winners are: Chamber of commerce business awards doled out

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Greg Dinsdale, chief executive of LBMX, a London firm. Norman De Bono/The London Free Press



A global software development firm founded in London was named large business of the year at the London Chamber of Commerce business achievement awards Wednesday night.

LBMX, which creates technology for buying groups, took the top honour at the event that drew about 600 people to London's RBC Place convention centre – a long-awaited reunion of the city's business community.

"This event produces extremely impressive nominees . . . that cover the gamut from high-tech financial services (to) health sciences" and LBMX exemplifies that, said Graham Henderson, the chamber's chief executive.

"It really does demonstrate the depth and breadth of the business community in London and that diversity is our strength."

Other winners were:

- Medium-sized business of the year: Waste Solutions Canada
- Small business of the year: Orca Intelligence Inc.
- Corporate social responsibility: Libro Credit Union
- Environmental leadership: Sifton Properties Ltd.
- Excellence in human resources: Tribe Medical Group Inc.
- Innovation: PSD Citywide Inc.
- Manufacturer: General Dynamics Land Systems-Canada
- Agribusiness: Whitecrest Mushrooms
- Corporate Icon: Info-Tech Research Group

“LBMX is a shining example of the type of innovative technology companies that are putting London on the map. Thanks to their unique software products, LBMX has been growing internationally and steadily building their team in London,” said Kapil Lakhota, chief executive of London Economic Development Corp.

“They are a great community partner in our tech sector and we are delighted for their recognition tonight.”

LBMX, founded in 2001 and headquartered on Fullarton Street in London, has offices in Australia, New Zealand, the U.K. and the U.S. Its software lets businesses buy goods with other businesses, reducing costs.

“We are very surprised and delighted,” said LBMX chief executive Greg Dinsdale. “We just want to continue to grow and do the right thing. (The win) underlines all the hard work (our staff) have done.”

Joel McLean, chief executive of Info-Tech Research Group, says the London tech firm’s icon of the year nod comes as the business enjoys sales growth of 35 per cent this year and projects a 40 per cent rise next year.

“This (honour) is special. It is greatly appreciated,” said McLean. “We believe we will see continued growth. We’re very lucky.”

The 21-year-old business has built a large downtown presence with a new office building on Ridout Street, near Budweiser Gardens. It offers workers a hybrid option of returning to work or working from home.

“We’re set up to offer full hybrid work. We’re very focused on that,” he said.

While it has more than 30 job postings on the website London Tech Jobs, it likely will hire many more than that, he added. Info-Tech added 160 staff last year and now has about 800 workers in London, Toronto and in the U.S. More than half work here.

“We’re having a lot of success in the marketplace and we want to scale that up,” McLean said.

This was the first London chamber gala for Henderson, the former Music Canada head who also chaired the Ontario Chamber of Commerce after working as an entertainment lawyer and executive with Universal Music Canada. He is married to Margo Timmins, lead singer of Cowboy Junkies.

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## WINNERS & FINALISTS

Here are the winners and finalists at the London Chamber of Commerce's 2021 Business Achievement Awards, announced Wednesday at London's RBC Place convention centre.

- **Agribusiness:** Winner – Whitecrest Mushroomas; Finalist – Sollio Agriculture
- **Business of the Year – Large:** Winner – LBMX Inc.; Finalists – Alimentiv Inc., Callon Dietz Inc., Selectpath Benefits and Financial Inc.
- **Business of the Year – Medium:** Winner – Waste Solutions Canada; Finalists – Anderson Craft Ales, Carmina de Young Fashion Design Inc., Donaldson Heating and Air Conditioning
- **Business of the Year – Small:** Winner – London Orca Intelligence Inc.; Finalists – Grace Restaurant, the Branding Firm, Whole Grain Hearth
- **Corporate Social Responsibility:** Winner – Libro Credit Union; Finalist – Old Oak Properties
- **Environmental Leadership:** Winner – Sifton Properties Ltd.; Finalist – Convertus
- **Excellence in Human Resources:** Winner – Tribe Medical Group Inc.; Finalist – Mobials Inc.
- **Innovation:** Winner – PSD Citywide Inc.; Finalist – Oci Vacuum Microengineering Inc.
- **Manufacturer:** Winner – General Dynamics Land Systems Canada; Finalist – Equals Brewing Co.
- **Corporate Icon:** Winner – Info-Tech Research Group

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