

## **Newmarket Chamber Highlights Business Excellence at First Ever Virtual Awards Gala**

**November 26, Newmarket Ont.** – The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce’s Business Excellence Awards got a makeover last night... 2020 style! Replacing its typical gala format, the event took place virtually on November 25th beginning with a Zoom reception followed by the awards portion which was live streamed on YouTube.

Sean Stephens, Founder and CEO of Treefrog Inc. acted as Emcee alongside (but six feet apart) presenter Jim VanDusen, Chief Operating Officer of NewRoads Automotive Group and Chair of the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce. The event was produced and streamed from snapd’s head office facility in Newmarket.

Along with some great live music, the Zoom portion of the evening included great prizes. In addition, there was some food and drink taste testing from Market Brewing and the Red Thread Brewing Co. and Olive Oil Co. Barrie and Newmarket.

“It was not something we ever thought we’d be doing but the event turned out great,” says Jim VanDusen. “In a year filled with so many challenges for the business community, we thought it was especially important to celebrate our successes and some of the many organizations and entrepreneurs who truly demonstrate business excellence.”

Tracy Walter, President & CEO of the Newmarket Chamber, echoes the sentiment. “Our business community has really shone over these past eight months. They have continued to persevere in exceptionally challenging times.”

Now in its 31st year, the Business Excellence Awards celebrate excellence, innovation and the spirit of entrepreneurship in business. This year’s event paid tribute to businesses across 11 categories. Congratulations to our winners:

Innovation of the Year: NewMakelt  
Not-for-Profit of the Year: Abuse Hurts  
Professional Services of the Year: Eyes on Stonehaven  
New Business of the Year: Optimum Pharmacy  
Young Professional of the Year: Ashleigh Eldridge, Needham Promotions Inc.  
Manufacturer of the Year: CPG Aerospace  
Hospitality of the Year: Best Western Voyageur Place Hotel  
Small Business of the Year: RC Design  
Entrepreneur of the Year: Carl Milroy, The Red Thread Brewing Co.  
Large Business of the Year: Benson Kearley IFG  
Employer of the Year: Nature’s Emporium

The Awards portion of the event can be viewed on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A6WunmwenuUA&t=3134s>

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**About the Newmarket Chamber of Commerce**

The Newmarket Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in a variety of ways, including advocacy and development of public policy. The Chamber offers programs, events, resources and connections to help member companies learn, connect and thrive. It promotes trade and commerce and leverages the skills and knowledge of its network to increase the vibrancy of the Newmarket community. Learn more at [newmarketchamber.ca](http://newmarketchamber.ca).