

Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership

Nominee Biographies: November 22, 2019



Ken Davies | Township of Rideau Lakes



Owner of Ken Davies Logistics Development in Morton, Ken leads a highly-rated company assisting small and medium-sized businesses facing logistics obstacles. He helps with customs to clear and ship goods, whether it is across town, across the border or around the world.

Ken was instrumental in launching the Eastern Ontario Manufacturing Network. He has served on the Morton Community Hall Board for almost 10 years as well as the Morton & Area Community Enhancement Committee. With his help, the hall has been brought back to life and is once again a community hub. Ken strives to attract more people to his community and to Leeds Grenville.

Ken has been involved with economic development organizations on both sides of the border to help develop partnerships. For many years, he has volunteered as a mentor for Futurpreneur Canada. Through the program, Ken is currently mentoring Fern and Fox Yoga with their business plan to create a wellness centre in the Jubilee Block of Delta. His work has also revitalized the downtown core. Ken recently volunteered many hours to interview businesses for the Business Retention + Expansion project in Rideau Lakes.

Terri Dawson | Township of Leeds and the Thousand Islands



Terri is a dynamic businesswoman and owner of the Green Gecko – a destination gift and curio shop in the village of Lyndhurst. When she moved to the area with her husband over 14 years ago, it didn't take Terri long to grow her business and launch into community enhancement projects.

She is an active member of the local Chamber of Commerce and is involved in many community events attracting people to the village and region. She is Chair of the village's improvement group as well as a number of other community groups. She is a huge advocate of rural living and the village received national attention with a National Post article on her business in 2018.

Terri has helped move projects forward, including the creation of Jonas Street Park, complete with a play structure and sport court. She was integral to developing an accessible, waterfront trail, a village billboard sign and the creation of a new community event storage facility. She is a member of Partners in Economic Enhancement and Revitalization (PEER). Terri is a long-time volunteer of the Lyndhurst Turkey Fair, a huge annual event.

Debbie Wilson | Municipality of North Grenville



Born and raised in the area, Debbie is a businesswoman and volunteer with a strong commitment to her community. She is the proud co-owner with brother Rick of Grahame's Bakery, a multi-generational family business dating back to 1939. Even the oven has historical significance.

Debbie has been Chair of the Old Town Kemptville BIA Board for the past three years. Known for her strong leadership skills, she is currently the Vice-chair of the North Grenville Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee and is a founding member and director of the Kemptville and District Community Association Board.

She helped found the Kemptville & District Sports Hall of Fame in 2010 with a bursary to provide financial assistance to deserving athletes, teams and organizations. In 2016, Debbie worked with the North Grenville Municipal Heritage Committee to launch the inaugural Doors Open event. This year, Debbie was provincially appointed to the North Grenville Police Services Board. She has a passion for local business and understands their importance in the makeup of a thriving community.

Bill Thake Memorial Award for Economic Development Leadership 2020

We are presenting the 2019 award today but the time to start thinking of nominees for next year starts right now. Do you know a leader in your community who is deserving of this esteemed award? There are many volunteers helping improve our Leeds Grenville communities and we would like to honour them for their ongoing efforts. If you know someone who should be nominated, please let us know and we will include you in our contact list when we call for nominations in 2020. Connect with us at econdev@uclg.on.ca or call Deanna Clark at 613-342-3840, ext. 5360

Timeline to plan your 2020 nomination:

Starting now ... Let us know if you have someone in mind. We will start a list of potential nominees and provide you with early reminders of the nomination process and deadline.

April/May/June 2020: If you don't already have a person in mind, discuss potential nominees at Economic Development Committee meetings and with business community improvement groups.

Early August: Nominations are open and notification will appear in the *Leeds Grenville Economic Development eNewsletter*, along with a link to an online nomination form.

September: Seek Council endorsement of your nominee at regularly scheduled meetings during the month.

Late September: Deadline to submit your nomination. Letters of reference can accompany the nomination as well as Council endorsement.

November: On November 20, 2020, the winner will be announced at the Economic Development Summit.

Thank you for taking the time to help us acknowledge volunteers who show outstanding leadership resulting in the growth and vitality of the Leeds Grenville economy.