

## Home Businesses Honoured

Seven home-based businesses were recognized at the 2010 Comox Valley Home Based Business Association annual awards reception last week.

“It is a privilege to be among so many accomplished business owners who do so much to make this community great,” said CVHBBA president Sandra Moses. “These awards help acknowledge some standouts each year.”

This year’s winner of the Business of the Year Award was Carolyn Touhey of SmartBiz Strategy, marketing consultants for small- to medium-sized businesses and non-profits

Touhey moved to the Valley from Maryland about four years ago and has been in business in the Valley for a little over two years.

“It is always an honor to be recognized in the community for work you do,” said Touhey. “But, as someone who has only been in the community for four short years, it is more emotional than that.

“These fine business people not only opened their arms to my husband and to me and made us feel welcome in the community, despite being from the U.S., but they have now given me such an incredible honour when any number of Canadian business



owners, who’ve been in the group longer than I, could have been named.

“Wow!”

The recipient of the New Business Award was Terri Perrin of Fine Art of Intention Feng Shui. Perrin has been successful in generating publicity for her business and teaching people about feng shui. She is also involved with CVHBBA activities.

The Members Choice Award, given to a home-based business owner who members feel has gone above and beyond with respect to their contributions to CVHBBA, went to Norman Wilson of Norman J. Wilson Photography.

Wilson rebuilt the CVHBBA website over the past several months on a “very modest” budget.

Two recipients shared this year’s Inspiration Award — Nancy Farey of Interiors by Nancy

and Nadia Belfrage of Lots of Laughs.

Farey showed her “fighting spirit” after suffering a serious injury that kept her confined to hospital for months.

Belfrage stepped up and moved forward with a vision for the business her father, Lawrence Belfrage, loved so much. Belfrage’s father, more commonly known as the very popular Lawrence the Clown, passed away last year.

In memory of Lawrence Belfrage the CVHBBA introduced a new award this year, the Lawrence Belfrage Memorial Award, given to someone who shares his same generous spirit and supports the networking and teamwork aspects of the association.

The inaugural recipient was Val Little of A Little Oil, a mentor to other CVHBBA board and committee members and editor of the organization’s newsletter.

The Innovation Award went to Ted Yells of Energy in Harmony Matrix Energetics for expanding his personal consulting business by becoming certified in Matrix Energetics. It is a process, he said, that transformed his life and business.

The association’s website can be found at [www.cvhbba.com](http://www.cvhbba.com).