

These results were tabulated from official ballots that were at least 50 per cent complete when submitted to us. There is neither editorial nor advertising influence on these results.

#### UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED: Central = Kelowna North = Vernon South = Penticton

■ This is the 17th consecutive year that our readers have voted for their favourite business heroes in the North, Central and South Okanagan. Happy business people who receive the hottest award in the Valley know that Okanagan Life readers vote by way of official ballot. These quality businesses display the Best of the Okanagan award in their offices and retail stores for all to see.

In Okanagan Life's 23-year life we've worked hard to highlight courageous and innovative people whose efforts and dedication to our communities, towns and cities, make the Valley the wonder it is. This story is different because readers wrote it—we simply tallied the results and created the art and design that you are devouring now.

This issue is all about recognizing the great business ideas and effort that owners, managers and staff put forth to earn their Best of the Okanagan award.

Being named the best is an honour and a privilege. Please celebrate the winners, patronize them and thank them for living up to the moniker — Best of the Okanagan! — Paul Byrne

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# readers'choice

### **PROFESSIONAL**

# **Best Accounting Firm Central**

- 1 MacKay LLP
- 2 White Kennedy
- 3 Grant Thornton
- 3 BDO Dunwoodie
- North
- 1 KPMG
- 2 Agar Schneider & Lett
- 3 Sladen Moore
- 3 Clark Robinson

#### South

- 1 S A Weisner & Co
- 2 Kemp Harvey Kemp
- 3 Harvey Lister & Webb

#### **Best Bank / Credit Union**

#### Central

- 1 TD Canada Trust
- 2 Interior Savings
- 3 CIBC
- North
  1 Prospera
- 1 VantageOne
- 2 TD Canada Trust
- 3 RBC
- South
  1 Valley First
- 2 CIBC
- 3 RBC

### **Best Insurance Brokerage Firm**

#### Central

- 1 Western Financial
- 2 Capri
- 3 Johnson Meyers
- 3 Okanagan Valley

#### North

- 1 Capri
- 2 Baron3 Valley First
- South
- 1 BCAA
- 2 Johnson Meyers
- 3 Cooperators

#### **Best Investment Firm**

#### Central

- 1 Investors Group
- 2 Raymond James
- 2 TD Waterhouse3 RBC Dominion
- Securities

#### North

- 1 National Bank
- 2 Edward Jones
- 3 Cannacord

#### South

- 1 Investors Group
- 2 CIBC Wood Gundy
- 3 RBC Dominion Securities

#### **Best Law Firm**

#### Central

- 1 Pushor Mitchell
- 2 Porter Ramsay
- 3 Pihl Law
- North
- 1 Nixon Wenger
- 2 Davidson Lawyers3 Allan Francis Pringle
- South
- 1 Kampman Oliver Keene McAndrews
- 2 Albas Wahl
- 3 Boyle & Co.
- 3 Pearce Taylor Schneiderat

#### **Best Real Estate Company**

### Central

- 1 Remax
- 2 Coldwell Banker
- 3 Royal LePage

### North

- 1 Remax
- 2 Royal LePage3 Century 21

#### South

- 1 Sutton Power 1
- 2 Remax
- 3 Royal LePage

### **FASHION**

# Best Baby Boutique / Children's Clothing

### Central

- 1 Baby & Me
- 2 Childrens Place3 Carter's OshKosh
- North
- 1 Chicken Little
- 2 Snuggle Bugz
- South
- 1 Pipsqueaks2 Angel Babies –

The Kid's Shop

### **Best Women's Accessories Store**

#### Central

- 1 Frakas
- 2 Tigerlily
- 3 Dandy Diva at Bella Clothing
- 3 Mellow Yellow





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#### North

- 1 Pink Bug
- 2 Creatabls Clothing
- 3 Blackbird

#### South

- 1 Clair's
- 2 Vintage & Vogue
- 3 Without a Doubt

### **Best Women's Clothing Boutique**

### Central

- 1 Frakas
- 2 Bella
- 3 Mellow Yellow
- 3 Tigerlily

#### North

- 1 Creatabls Clothing
- 2 Cougar Canyon
- 3 Cento
- 3 RW & Co
- South
- 1 Three Wishes
- 2 Without a Doubt
- 3 Sass Boutique

#### **Best Men's Fashion** Store

### Central

- 1 Moores
- 2 Torino
- 3 Landmark Clothier
- 3 MacDermott's

### North

- 1 Milano
- 2 Winners
- 3 Mark's Work Wearhouse
- South
- 1 Elliot Row
- 2 Warehouse One
- 3 Mark's Work Wearhouse

### **Best Place to Buy Footwear**

#### Central

- 1 Downtown Shoe Store
- 2 Hollywood Shoes
- 3 Shoe Company

#### North

- 1 Red Top Footwear
- 2 Vernon Shoes
- 3 Discovery Shoes & Marc's South
- 1 Fritz Shoes
- 2 Softy's
- 3 Shoe Biz

### **Best Bridal Boutique**

#### Central

- 1 Bliss Bridal
- 2 Ten Fashions

- 3 L'Amore
- 3 Georgie's Bridal

#### North

1 Victoria Lane Brides

#### South

1 Louise's Bridal

# RETAIL SERVICES

#### **Best Book Store** Central

- 1 Chapters
- 2 Mosaic 3 Pandosy Books

#### North

- 1 Bookland
- 2 Coles
- 3 K & K Book Store

#### South

- 1 Coles
- 2 The Book Shop
- 3 Hooked on Books

### **Best Place To Buy Children's Toys**

## Central

- 1 Toys R Us
- 2 Loadzatoys
- 3 Baby & Me North
- 1 Teeter Totter
- 2 Chicken Little 3 Teach & Learn

#### South

- 1 Sirius Science & Nature
- 2 Walmart
- 3 Zellers

### **Best Place to Buy Gifts**

#### Central

- 1 Ten Thousand Villages
- 2 HomeSense 3 Rafters

#### North

- 1 Good Gracious
- 2 Interior Gift Gallery
- 3 Davison Orchards

### South

- 1 Terwilligers
- 2 Willowbrook Lane
- 3 Ten Thousand Villages

### **Best Florist**

#### Central

- 1 Creations by Mom & Me
- 2 Art Knapp's
- 3 Village Flowers
- 3 Enterprise Flower Studio
- North 1 27th Street Florist

- 3 Vernon Flower Shop South
  - 1 Art Knapp's

2 Harris Flowers

3 Flower Market

- 2 Carl's Flowers
- 3 Polka Dot Door

### **Best Jeweller**

- Central
- 1 JK Schmidt Jewellers
- 2 Peoples Jewellers
- 3 La Roca Jewellers
- 3 European Goldsmith
- North
- 1 JC Bradley
- 2 HM Kraus Jewellers 3 Gregory's Fine Jewellery South
- 1 Gold Dust Jewellers
- 2 Michael Hill
- 3 Oslund Jewellers

### **Best Pet Supply Store**

#### Central

- 1 Total Pet 2 Pet Smart
- 3 Buckerfield's

#### North

- 1 AJ's Pets & Things
- 2 Pet Planet
- 3 Healthy Spot
- South 1 Total Pet
- 2 Petcetera 3 Pet Pantry

### **HOME & DECOR**

### Home Builder

- Central 1 Dilworth Homes
- 2 Edgecombe Builders
- 3 Acorn Builders 3 Pentar Homes

## North

- 1 Redgwell Construction
- 2 Woodstyle Homes
- 3 Heartwood Homes South
- 1 Scott Mavhew Contracting
- 2 Serenity Builders 3 Qualas Development

#### **Best Home Repair /** Renovation Company Central

#### 1 Gord Turner Renovations 2 Handyman Connection 3 Stutters Resoration

## readers'choice

- 1 Redgwell Construction
- 2 Handy Guys Home Renovations
- 3 NOR Renovations

### South

- 1 Scott Mayhew Contracting
- 2 Serenity Builders

### **Best Custom Kitchen Vendor**

#### Central

- 1 Westwood Fine Cabinetry
- 2 Norelco Cabinets
- 3 Kekuli Bay Cabinetry

### North

- 1 Westwood Cabinets
- 2 Dream Easy
- 3 Harris Cabinets South
- 1 Ellis Creek Kitchens 2 Medallion Kitchen Cabinets
- 2 Victoria Square Kitchen
- 3 Heritage Millwork

#### **Best Landscape Design** Central

- 1 Westwind Nurseries
- 2 Creative Roots
- 2 Hampton 3 Synergy Landscape
- 1 Nokomis Landscaping
- 2 Blueridge Landscaping 3 Pinnacle Landscaping
- 1 Cobblestone Developments
- 2 Emerald

### 3 Monkey Puzzle

### **Best Garden Centre**

- Central 1 The Greenery
- 2 Bylands 3 Art Knapp's
- North 1 Swan Lake
- 2 Art Knapp's 3 Flower Spot
- South 1 Art Knapp's
- 2 Giardino of Penticton 3 Grasslands Nursery **Best Appliance Store**

#### Central 1 Sears

3 Brick

North

2 Coast Wholesale

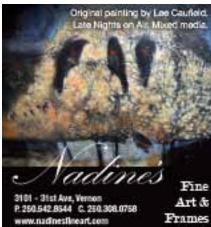
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- 2 Parnell's
- 3 City Furniture
- South
- 1 Penticton Appliance
- 2 Sears

#### **Best Home Furniture Store**

#### Central

- 1 Brick
- 2 Sears
- 3 Case Furniture

#### North

- 1 City Furniture
- 2 Case Furniture Gallery
- 3 Brick

### South

- 1 Guerard's
- 2 Kondola's 3 Sears
- 3 Brick

#### **Best Home Accessories Store**

### Central

- 1 Home Sense
- 2 Ten Thousand Villages
- 3 Pier One Imports
- 3 Rafters

#### North

- 1 Good Gracious
- 2 Winners
- 3 Designer Gallery
- 3 Room Collection

#### South

- 1 Winners
- 2 Home Hardware
- 3 Haute House Design

### **Best Place to Buy a Mattress**

#### Central

1 Sleep Country



#### 2 Brick

3 Mattress Mattress

#### North

- 1 City Furniture
- 2 Sleep Country
- 3 Case Furniture Gallery

#### South

- 1 Sleep Country
- 2 Sears
- 3 Brick

### **Best Place to Buy Art**

#### Central

- 1 Rotary Centre for the Arts
- 2 Hambleton Galleries
- 3 Picture Perfect

#### North

- 1 Vernon Art Gallery
- 2 Nadines Fine Art
- 2 Gallery Vertigo

#### South

- 1 Lloyd Gallery
- 2 Tumbleweed Gallery
- 3 Oliver Art Gallery

#### **Best Antique Shop**

#### Central

- 1 Taylor's Antiques
- 2 Lois Lane
- 3 Antoni's Antiques

### North

- 1 Blast from the Past
- 2 Vintage Vendor
- 3 Ye Olde Curiosity

#### South

- 1 Penticton Antiques
- 2 Jardin Estate Jewelry & Antiques
- 3 Penticton Antique Mall

### **LEISURE**

## **Best Bike Shop**

### Central

- 1 Cyclepath
- 2 Kelowna Cycle
- 3 Fresh Air Experience
- 3 Sovereign Cycle

#### North

- 1 Sun Country Cycle
- 2 Olympia Cycle & Ski
- 3 Skyride Cycle
- South
- 1 Bike Barn
- 2 Freedom

### readers'choice

### Best Ski / Board Shop

#### Central

- 1 Fresh Air Experience
- 2 Island Snow
- 3 Deviate Board Shop
- North
- 1 Jim Attridge 2 Sun Valley Sports
- South
- 1 Freeride
- 2 Pentagon
- 3 Sport Chek

#### **Best Outdoor Sports Gear Store**

#### Central

- 1 AG Superstore
- 2 Sport Chek
- 3 Far West
- 3 Fresh Air Experience

#### North

- 1 Surplus Herby's
- 2 Outdoor Exposure
- 3 Sun Valley Sports

#### South

- 1 Sport Chek
- 2 Canadian Tire
- 3 KJ Sports

#### **Best Golf Shop**

### Central

- 1 Golf Town
- 2 Sport Chek

#### 3 Two Eagles North

- 1 Strickly Golf
- 2 Sport Chek
- 3 Predator Ridge
- South
- 1 St. Andrews by the Lake
- 2 Fairview Mountain
- 3 Sport Chek

#### **Best Golf Course** Central

- 1 Harvest Golf Club
- 2 Sunset Ranch
- 3 Two Eagles North
- 1 Predator Ridge
- 2 Spallumcheen 3 Salmon Arm Golf & CC
- 3 Hillview Golf South
- 1 Fairview Mountain
- 2 St. Andrews by the Lake
- 3 Sumac Ridge



REARN ASAM

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#### **Best Fitness Club**

Central

- 1 H20 Adventure
- & Fitness
- 2 World Gym
- 2 Global Fitness
- 3 Women's Place

North

- 1 Fitness West
- 2 Curves
- 3 Hayden Fitness

South

- 1 The Gym Penticton
- 2 Lakeside Fitness
- 3 Curves

#### **Best Yoga / Pilates Studio**

Central

- 1 Bikram Yoga
- 2 Oranj Dance & Fitness
- 3 Moksha Yoga

North

- 1 Bikram Yoga
- 2 Yoga 4 Life
- 3 Ladies World
- 3 Namaste Yoga

South

- 1 Purple Lotus Yoga
- 2 Get Bent Yoga
- 3 Body on Power

### **TRANSPORTATION**

#### **Best Auto / Truck Dealer**

Central

- 1 Harmony Honda
- 2 Kelowna Toyota
- 2 Kelowna Chrysler Dodge
- 3 Kelowna Ford Lincoln

North

- 1 Bannister GM
- 2 Watkins Motors
- 3 Vernon Toyota

South

- 1 Skaha Ford
- 2 Parkers Chrysler
- 3 Penticton Toyota

#### **Best Boat Dealer**

Central

- 1 Dockside Marine
- 2 Rayburn's Marine World
- 3 Atlantis Marine

North

- 1 Valley Marine
- 2 Performance Marine

South

1 Penticton Yamaha & Marine

#### **Best RV Dealer**

Central

- 1 Country RV
- 2 Voyageur RV
- 3 Parkland RV North
- 1 Mike Rosman RV
- 2 Country Camping

South

- 1 Leisureland RV
- 2 Midtown RV
- 3 Okanagan Travel Land

#### **Best Tire Dealer**

Central

- 1 Kal Tire
- 2 Fountain Tire
- 3 OK Tires

North

- 1 Kal Tire
- 2 Hilltop Tirecraft
- 3 Peters Tirecraft

South

- 1 OK Tire
- 2 Kal Tire
- 3 Big O Tires

### **Best Auto Body Repair**

Central

- 1 Boyd Autobody
- 2 Craftsman Collision
- 2 Kelowna Performance
- 3 Prestige
- 3 Springfield Autobody
- North
- 1 Fix Auto (Vernon Star)
- 2 Bannister GM
- 3 Manfred's Autobody

South

- 1 Neighbourhood Auto Body
- 2 Alder Street Auto Body
- 3 Ray's Autobody

### **Best Place to Get Your Car Fixed**

Central

- 1 City Auto
- 1 Winn Automotive
- 2 All Day Auto3 Kelowna Toyota

North

- 1 Bannister GM
- 1 Courtesy Motors
- 2 Kal Lake Auto3 Progressive Auto

South

- 1 Imports Only
- 2 Centiguard
- 3 Valley West

#### **Best Car Wash**

Central

- Ol :
- 1 Skogie's
- 2 Bubbles
- 3 OK Wash Zone3 Mission Super Wash

North

- 1 Silver Star Car Wash
- 2 Fastlane Laser

3 Pennzoil Touchless
South

- 1 Wise Guys Car Wash
- 2 Husky Car Wash
- 3 Super Wash

### **SERVICES**

Best Day Spa Central

- 1 O Spa
- 2 Beyond Wrapture
- 3 Heaven on Earth

North

- 1 Just For You
- 2 KurSpa

3 Reflections **South** 

- 1 Naramata Heritage Inn2 Spa Tranquila
- 3 Melt Mineral Spa

### **Best Hair Salon**

Central

- 1 Mirror Mirror
- 2 Dimensions
- 3 Chatters
- North
- 1 Chatters2 Pure-An Organic
- 3 Hair Loft

South

- 1 Bananas 2 Chatters
- 2 Heiress3 James on Kelly

## Best Travel Agency

Central
1 Flight Centre

- 2 Marlin Travel
- 3 Maritime Travel 3 Capri Travel
- North
  1 Marlin Travel
- 2 Visions Travel3 Flight Centre
- South
  1 K Banks Travel
- 2 Expedia3 Flight Centre







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#### **Best Tour Company**

#### Central

- 1 Sunwest Tours
- 2 Sun Fun Tours
- 3 Okanagan Wine Tours

#### North

1 MJO Tours

#### South

- 1 Top Cat Tours
- 2 Devine Valley Tours
- 3 Ambrosia Tours

#### **Best Photographer**

#### Central

- 1 Justine Russo Photography
- 2 Photography West
- 3 Glen Durrell
- 3 Kevin Trowbridge

#### North

- 1 Brenda Hala
- 2 Katsz Photography
- 3 Red Door

#### South

- 1 Tara Morris Photography
- 2 Stuart Bish
- 3 Photography by Chris

### **Best Dry Cleaner / Laundry**

### Central

- 1 Mission Dry Cleaners
- 2 Busy Bee
- 3 Kelly's Orchard Plaza North
- 1 Toppers Cleaners
- 2 Vernon Downtown Cleaners
- 3 Centre Dry Cleaning

#### South

- 1 Classic Cleaners
- 2 Martin Cleaners
- 3 Go Fresh Laundromat

#### **Best Event Planner**

#### Central

- 1 Tickle Trunk
- 2 Avalon
- 3 Synergy Events

#### North

- 1 Nor Val Events
- 2 Sweet Beginnings
- 3 Gumtree Catering South
- 1 Paraiso Events

### **Best Wedding Venue**

#### Central

- 1 Harvest Golf Club
- 2 Summerhill Winery
- 3 Benvoulin Church
- 3 Ellison Hall

#### North

- 1 Sparkling Hill
- 2 O'Keefe Ranch
- 3 Paddlewheel Park Hall

#### South

- 1 Linden Gardens
- 2 St. Andrews by the Lake

**ENTERTAINMEN** 

3 See Ya Later Ranch

#### **Best Nightclub**

#### Central

- 1 OK Corral
- 2 Flashbacks
- 3 Blue Gator

#### North

1 Monashee's

#### South

- 1 Blue Mule
- 2 Barking Parrot

### **Best Live Performing Arts Group**

#### Central

- 1 Okanagan Symphony
- 2 Kelowna Actors Studio
- 3 Parks Alive
- 3 Theatre Kelowna Society

#### North

- 1 Caravan Theatre
- 2 Kath & The TomKats
- 3 Powerhouse Theatre South
- 1 Many Hats

### **Best Local Musician / Music Group**

#### Central

- 1 Sherman Doucette
- 2 Robert Fine
- 3 Day Late & Dollar Short North
- 1 The Goods
- 2 The Young'uns
- 3 Kath & The TomKats
- 3 Cod Gone Wild

#### South

- 1 Total Gin
- 2 Danielle Savage & The Miscreants
- 3 One 2 Many

#### **Best Annual Community Event** Central

#### 1 Canada Day

- 2 Mardi Gras
- 3 Centre of Gravity
- 1 Vernon Winter Carnival
- 2 Sunshine Festival
- 3 Funtastic

### readers'choice

- 1 Meadowlark Festival
- 2 Peach Festival
- 3 Ironman
- 3 World of Wheels Car Show

### **Best Place for Family Fun**

#### Central

- 1 Scandia
- 2 H20 Adventure & Fitness
- 3 EnergyPlex North
- 1 Davison Orchards
- 2 Atlantis Waterslides
- 3 Silver Star Mountain South
- 1 LocoLanding
- 2 Penticton Channel

#### 3 Rotary Beach

#### Central

1 Okanagan Lake/Beaches

**Best Tourist Attraction** 

2 Waterfront Park Boardwalk

#### 3 Mission Hill Winery North

- 1 Davison Orchard
- 2 Atlantis Waterslides
- 3 Interior Provincial Exhibition

#### South

- 1 Penticton Channel
- 2 Elvis Festival 3 KVR Tressels
- 3 Ironman

#### **Best Free Attraction**

#### Central

- 1 City Waterfront Park
- 2 Parks Alive
- 3 Myra Canyon Trestles North
- 1 Polson Park
- 2 Farmers' Market
- 3 Vernon Murals South
- 1 Peach Festival
- 2 Skaha Beaches 3 Penticton Channel





