

Tom Stanfield honoured for successful business career

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TRURO - Tom Stanfield looks at his BDC Lifetime Business Achievement Award and smiles, but he's quick to say it's an honour that is not his alone.

“I’m a little shy about these things. I’m really honoured but it’s not just me ... it’s a shared accomplishment that many business people should have,” Stanfield, 71, told the Truro Daily News during the Truro and Colchester Chamber of Commerce’s annual gala on Thursday night at the Holiday Inn.

This year the chamber paid tribute to Stanfield’s tremendous business achievements in the area.

The president of Stanfield’s Ltd. said there is a lot to be proud of in the local business community.

“We have a lot of talent and a desire to succeed,” in Colchester County, Stanfield said. “I am proudest that the area has progressed so much and there’s a lot of diverse businesses here. I hope collectively during our business careers (people) feel they are part of what’s been accomplished and inspire people to do more.”

As for new entrepreneurs, Stanfield suggested a few key pieces of advice.

“You need a reason for why you are in the business you are in, especially during the lean times or when you are starting out ... because there are always going to be times when you think, ‘how am I going to do this?’”

Some challenging times during Stanfield’s career have included a “major recession,” fluctuating interest rates and trade agreements.

“The world has changed immensely and you need to adapt to the changes and live in the future and be curious as to why things happen ... and always have a plan B.”

Earl Casey, owner of Casey Concrete, who has been a chamber member for more than 30 years, has known Stanfield for about 40 years after meeting through a mutual friend.

“He’s very strong in leadership, he’s a very astute business person, has a great demeanour and a great presence,” said Casey of some of the reasons Stanfield was a good choice for the award.

“It’s important to recognize the outstanding people in our community. People have to be made aware of their contributions. Tom’s made a lot of contributions and a fair amount of things behind the scene to help people out,” Casey said.

Stanfield has volunteered with many community groups and has helped countless businesses, charity events and community causes over the decades. He also served on the boards of a number of manufacturing and business associations.

PROFILE:

Award recipient: Tom Stanfield

Age: 71

Resident of: Truro

Family: Wife Beth and children Jennifer, Jill and Jon

Began with Stanfield’s Ltd. in: 1964

Hobbies: Golf, reading, boating

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