

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2007

KELOWNA, BC – The recipients of the seven 2007 Business Excellence Awards were announced October 15, at the Coast Capri Hotel as the 21 finalists, their guests, and community leaders celebrated 20 years of business excellence in Kelowna. **Barry Lapointe**, President and CEO of **Kelowna Flightcraft Group of Companies**, was honoured as the 2007 Business Leader of the Year, award sponsored by UBC Okanagan.

Secure-Rite Mobile Storage Inc. (Lucas and Rhoda Griffin) was the recipient of the **2007 Rising Star** award sponsored by the Okanagan School of Business at Okanagan College. A panel of judges selected four outstanding Kelowna area businesses as the 2007 recipients of the Category Awards.

- **CATEGORY 1 (1 – 5 employees)**
Winner: Wildflower Trails & Wine Tours Ltd. (Patricia Albright and Val Jenner)
Finalists: GDK Solutions Inc., Ten Fashions Inc., Tigerlily Fashions
- **CATEGORY 2 (6 – 20 employees)** sponsored by BDO Dunwoody LLP
Winner: Kelowna Electroplating Ltd. (Chris Gammel)
Finalists: Power Concepts Ltd., Unifirst Canada Ltd.
- **CATEGORY 3 (21 – 40 employees)** sponsored by BMO Bank of Montreal
Winner: Acro Media Inc. (Shae Inglis, Shane Spraggs, Jason Poole, George Andres)
Finalists: Dockside Marine Centre Ltd., Enquiro Search Solutions Inc.
- **CATEGORY 4 (41+ employees)** sponsored by Economic Development Commission
Winner: Benson Edwards LLP (Garry Benson and Tony Edwards)
Finalists: Grant Thornton LLP, Troika Developments
- **YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR (individual under 34 years of age)**
sponsored by Prospera Credit Union
Winner: Nathan Flavel - Kelowna Actors Studio Inc.
Finalists: Dustin Green - Cre8ed Clothing, Taylor Assaly - Kelowna Airport Shuttle