

Local businessman recognized as top 50 CEO

JENNIFER BISHOP Northern Light (May 30, 2014)



Joe Gillivan, chair of TEC Canada, presents the award for Top 50 CEO in Atlantic Canada to Barry Kyle of Industrial Rubber Company Ltd. during the Top 50 CEO gala held at the Halifax Trade Centre on May 14. Photo: Contributed

A local businessman has been deemed one of the Top 50 CEOs in Atlantic Canada by Atlantic Progress Magazine.

“To be picked by your peers as a top CEO, it’s pretty overwhelming, really,” said Barry Kyle of Industrial Rubber Company Ltd. “It’s a great feeling.” Industrial Rubber is a supplier and manufacturer of rubber products who cater to industrial and military clients worldwide. The company did a lot of business with Brunswick Mine and diversified getting closer to the closure which happened at the end of last April. Kyle was presented with an award on May 13 at a ceremony in Halifax at the Halifax Trade Centre with about 800 people in attendance. The award is given by Atlantic Progress Magazine each year.

The awards are chosen after people nominate various CEOs throughout the Atlantic Provinces. The nominations, which usually number about 200 applications, are submitted to a board that review each application and choose the 50 recipients.

“Basically it’s (based) on company growth and sales numbers and also, a lot of it’s put onto what companies put back into communities and that type of stuff,” Kyle said. This is the fifth year Kyle has been nominated which is also somewhat of a milestone. “Once you’re nominated five years, you are in the hall of fame... and your picture goes up in the hall of the Halifax Airport (Halifax Stanfield International Airport), actually,” said Kyle. Kyle’s recognition also means his employees and company as a whole is successful. “That’s representation of not only me but all the employees there,” he said. “I think it’s good for everyone in our company and associated companies.” Kyle said he was the only CEO recognized from northern New Brunswick with about eight others from different parts of the province. “The majority of them were from the south,” he said. Despite a lot of negativity about the business community in the region, much of which stems from the closure of Brunswick Mine last year and the Smurfit-Stone mill in 2005, Kyle said he feels much of the business community in the Chaleur region is still very successful. “There are other companies in northern New Brunswick that... absolutely deserve this award also,” he said. “There’s a lot of young talent and new companies out there – IT companies and companies that are trying new things and those guys are the next top CEOs.”