



MEDIA RELEASE

October 16, 2018

CHAMBER ANNOUNCES BUSINESS LEADER OF 2018

Kelowna: The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce announced today that Dale Wentworth has been named Business Leader of the Year for 2018. The prestigious award recognizes and celebrates Wentworth, Founder of Kelowna's Wentworth Music, for his outstanding contribution to the business community in the Central Okanagan. He will receive his award at this year's 31st annual Business Excellence Awards ceremony at the Delta Grand on Wednesday October 24th. Tickets, while going fast, are still available online at www.kelownachamber.org until Friday.

"We're thrilled that our Business Excellence judging panel has chosen Dale Wentworth as the 2018 recipient of our much sought-after Business Leader of the Year Award," said Carmen Sparg, President of the Kelowna Chamber.

"Dale and his family," said Sparg, "from his parents, through to his children, have demonstrated not only a high level of business acumen, but an ability to change and evolve their business as Kelowna has grown up around them. Dale put himself through college giving music lessons and he truly is an inspiration to all of us. The level of pride and morals instilled in their children is a testament to the quality leadership that he embodies. I'm passionate about this family because they made such an impact on my son's life."

"Not much has changed with our core values over the last 52 years," says Wentworth. "We're bigger now, with four stores and an internationally recognized Music Education Centre." Wentworth describes his staff of 65 as fun-loving, and it's definitely a three-generation family business with deep roots in the Okanagan.

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We help grow the people who power Kelowna

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BACKGROUNDER

Chamber Announces Business Leader of 2018

Dale Wentworth settled in Kelowna in 1966. Shortly thereafter, he teamed up with his parents, Walt and Vera, and opened a small music store, Wentworth Music, in the Capri Shopping Centre. The new company's mission was providing music lessons; and sales, rentals and repairs of a broad range of musical instruments, chief among them, guitars. Three years later, Hedy Wentworth, Dale's wife for 48 years, joined the family business as a music teacher.

"Not much has changed with our core values over the last 52 years," says Dale Wentworth. "I assumed the dual roles of CEO and President of Wentworth Music in 2003. We are bigger now, with four store locations in the Okanagan and an internationally recognized Music Education Centre. Still, we are a business that focuses on community values. We moved into our third generation of family ownership when our sons took over major corporate roles. Noel is Vice-president of Education and Media; Neil is Vice-president of Finance; and Nori is Vice-president of Sales. Hedy, along with Noel's wife, Lora, and Neil's wife, Joanna, round out the family work team. Our company currently employs a fun-loving staff of 65."

The name 'Wentworth' has been synonymous with music from the beginning of the company's operations. Wentworth was involved with the Kelowna Regatta for many years, providing live music and producing venue pre-shows. He became a respected music examiner and adjudicator throughout western Canada. He was a founding member and first President of the Kelowna Registered Music Teachers' Association and was a member of its Kelowna contingent to EXPO 74 in Spokane. Wentworth Music has been a proud ambassador of Kelowna and the Okanagan and was recently honoured when selected as one of the Top 100 Music Businesses in the World by NAMM – the 10,000 member National Association of Music Merchants.

A strong commitment to community has always been at the core of the Wentworth family business. Dale Wentworth and his team have proudly supported numerous not-for-profit organizations over the years. Today, Wentworth Music is probably best known for its student-based rock 'n' roll productions at the Kelowna Community Theatre. With local partners Interior Savings Credit Union and K96.3 Radio, these semi-annual shows have raised almost a quarter million dollars in support of children's wards in local hospitals including the JoeAnna's House project.

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The Kelowna Chamber of Commerce acts as a single powerful voice for our 1200 members and their 25,000 plus employees to promote local business interests. The Chamber provides a cohesive business network for our members to expand their business contacts, and enjoy value-added benefits, programs, and services aimed at improving the bottom line of Chamber members' businesses. The Chamber's mission is to foster a positive business environment by providing our members with leadership, advocacy and services of value. The Chamber's Policy Advisory Committee, chaired by a Board Director, actions issues of key importance to members, including taxation, transportation, cannabis legislation, and employment and housing.

We help grow the people who power Kelowna