

AWARDS

# Business owner wins award

TARA HAGAN  
The Observer

Maria Nassiokas is living her dream: operating her own, successful clothing store.

So it's no surprise the local 27-year-old was thrilled last week when she was awarded the Outstanding Business Achievement Award for Young Entrepreneur of the Year.

"I'm very excited, and I appreciate the fact that I was nominated," said Nassiokas, who runs "LUX butik" on London Road in Sarnia.

"This is my dream, and I'm happy to have the community behind me."

Nassiokas, who earned a bachelor of commerce from McMaster University and Fashion Merchandising at George Brown College, opened the store in the fall of 2007, and has earned a solid customer base.

The trendy boutique offers brand name clothing as well as

private labels from Los Angeles.

"I'm lucky that I have a lot of connections with suppliers, support and networking," said Nassiokas, who worked in fashion in both in Toronto and overseas.

"And I like the fact that I'm able to develop my own ideas, make decisions, and go ahead with them."

Nassiokas joined a number of others for the 20th anniversary of the Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce OBA awards, held March 27.

The winners also included:

- Employee Relations — sponsor NOVA Chemicals: McDonalds Restaurant
- Young Entrepreneur — sponsor Sarnia Lambton Business Development Corporation: Maria Nassiokas — LUX butik
- Business Leadership — sponsor Sarnia Lambton Economic Partnership: Rich Bouchard — Innivity Marketing Group



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- Technology & Innovation — Art Gallery sponsored by Bell Aliant: IMAP Audits Inc.
- Marketing & Promotions — sponsored by Innivity Marketing Group: Breast Cancer Society of Canada
- George Wood Jr. Volunteer of the Year — sponsor Imperial Theatre: Julianne Higdon — Enterprising Women Marketing & Design
- Not-for-Profit — sponsor LEHDER Environmental: Community Living Sarnia Lambton
- Customer Service — Individual sponsored by CIBC: Paola Ventresca — Alcove Gift &
- Customer Service — Small sponsored by RBC: Oxford Street
- Customer Service — Medium sponsored by Best Western Guildwood Inn: McKenzie & Blundy Funeral Home & Cremation Centre
- Customer Service — Large sponsored by OPG: **Paddy Flaherty's**
- Business of the Year Small sponsor Bluewater Power
- Business of the Year Large — sponsor Assante Wealth Management: Hayter Plumbing & Heating.