

## **Sue Adams Presented with Influential Women in Business Award**

Most people are familiar with at least one of the businesses that Adams has owned or co-owned and operated since the early 1970s, and at last month's Influential Women in Business Awards, Adams was recognized for her outstanding achievements as an entrepreneur.

While still in her 20s, Adams was the managing partner of the Perogy House Restaurant in New Westminster. Then she moved on to the Amorous Oyster and Contented Sole restaurants and was a partner in Culinary Capers Catering in Vancouver. In 1988, Adams and her husband Bob, bought The Grocery Store in the heart of Whistler village. They also co-own The Pemberton Valley Supermarket and ten years ago, they established Delish Café and Catering in Whistler.

Adams is one of only six women who received the Influential Women in Business Award this year. The honourees were chosen for their extraordinary achievements and success in business.

"Maybe I have just been lucky, but I can't think of anything that I wanted to do that I wasn't able to accomplish," says Adams. "Sometimes the course might have had to change and adapt on the journey, but I did not see this as a barrier, but an opportunity to learn."

Surprisingly enough, Adams had no training or experience in either the food industry or business when she started. Instead, she worked as an occupational therapist in both her native Australia and Canada for eight years. Then a love of food and a strong entrepreneurial urge led Adams to open the first of her boutique restaurants.

Visioning and executing a successful restaurant concept in the early 1980s in Vancouver is the professional achievement that Adams is most proud of. "The restaurant, the Amorous Oyster, operated by a very dedicated and creative staff, continued its success and following until it was sold in 1999. From this small enterprise and the experience it provided, many of the staff and certainly Bob and I were able to grow and build other businesses."

As co-owner of Bevendale Enterprises, Adams is still contributing to her twin passions, BC's food and wine industry and small business management. Their success and commitment in both areas have won Adams and her husband numerous awards as business owners within the grocery industry, and for their community involvement.

Over the years Adams has been involved in many charitable, business and networking activities and associations. She founded and is Co-Chair of the Woman of Whistler (WOW) Business Network. Sue has participated as a speaker for Women's Enterprise Centre in Vancouver, and has recently agreed to be a volunteer facilitator for a Women's Enterprise Centre peer mentoring group in Whistler/Squamish, which will be launched on April 10. To receive some of Sue's advice and observations on how to grow your business by making the shift from being a manager to a strategist, visit:

<http://www.womensenterprise.ca/entrepreneurs-spotlight/videos.php#PrepareForGrowth>.

In addition to Sue's work helping other aspiring women business owners, Sue is also currently a Director and Vice Chair of the North Shore Credit Union and Chair of the Vancouver Playhouse International Wine Festival. Member of the Board of Governors of The Playhouse Theatre and Chair of North Shore Credit Union Foundation. Adams is a frequent speaker on the topic of small business management and entrepreneurship, mentoring others who are also on the brink of turning their business visions into reality.

Women's Enterprise Centre is pleased to be a sponsor of the Influential Women in Business Awards. Congratulations, Sue, on your achievement!