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Yukon Tourism Awards of Excellence winners announced

Whitehorse – After a successful two-day conference that saw almost 100 participants representing all sectors of the tourism industry converge in Whitehorse and Haines Junction, the Tourism Industry Association of the Yukon is proud to announce the winners of the 2012 Yukon Tourism Awards of Excellence.

Awarded on Friday, April 27 at the gala dinner, the Yukon Tourism Awards of Excellence are sponsored by Outside the Cube and recognize extraordinary achievement and commitment by individuals, companies and associations.

"It is a privilege to be able to support these awards and see the industry, the territory and the country celebrate the achievements of the nominees and winners," said Dee Enright of Outside the Cube. "We like sponsoring celebrations!"

The winners of the 2012 Yukon Tourism Awards of Excellence are:

Volunteer of the Year Award	Teena Dickson, Dixon Outfitters
Creative Travel Media Award	Dan Barham, Dan Barham Photography
Sustainability Leadership In Tourism Award	Blaine Walden, Walden's Guiding & Outfitting, Ltd.
Marketing Innovation Award	Air North, Yukon's Airline
Innovator of the Year Award	Mary Jane Warshawski & Craig Hougen, Taku Sports Group
Yukon Tourism Ambassador Award	Steve Leonard, Holland America

Winners will be nominated for the Tourism Industry Association of Canada's (TIAC) 2012 Canadian Tourism Awards, which will be announced at their annual gala in November.

"Last year we had two Yukon businesses chosen as finalists: Nahanni River Adventures and Canadian River Expeditions, and Fritz Mueller Photography," said TIA Yukon Executive Director Blake Rogers. "We were really pleased to have two finalists and were thrilled when Neil Hartling and his company Nahanni River Adventures and Canadian River Expeditions won TIAC's prestigious 2011 Parks Canada Sustainable Tourism Award. Excellence like that reflects well on Yukon and our industry as a whole. We are sure that with the slate of nominees we will submit this year that we will once again receive national recognition."

The TIA Yukon Spring Conference and AGM is an annual event that brings together members from across the territory, as well as Alaska and the Northwest Territories. This year's event highlighted keynote Doug Lansky, as well as interactive panels to explore industry research and the relationship between tourism and resource extraction.

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