



**October 17, 2025**

**Re: James Crossen Lifetime Achievement Award Call for Submissions**

Dear Mayor, Councillors and Board Members and Executives,

Each year, the Town of Cobourg' Economic Development Department and the Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce partner with each other to deliver the jointly hosted Business Achievement Awards.

Named after the founding family of The Crossen Car Manufacturing Co. of Cobourg Ltd. James Crossen, together with his son William Crossen, created one of Canada's largest independent manufacturers of wooden railway rolling stock. The prolific builder commenced manufacturing in Cobourg in 1866 to 1915 and at one point their plant employed over 400 people. Nearly every Canadian railway at the turn of the century had some type of Crossen product. James Crossen and his family business are truly one of early Canada's most significant personal and business success stories.

The primary criteria for the "James Crossen Lifetime Achievement Award" are:

- can be an individual, business or organization that has a demonstrated record of business acumen and community leadership
- is or has organized and/or managed an enterprise located in the Town of Cobourg, Hamilton Township or Alnwick/Haldimand Township
- has successfully worked in the same (or directly related) field for a minimum of 25 years

Recipients will have demonstrated success with continued potential to achieve, an entrepreneurial attitude, ability to adapt to change, development and/or utilization of innovative business skills, a willingness to mentor and be mentored, demonstrated leadership qualities, contribution to the community and investment in and support of the business network. Past recipients of the "James Crossen Award" include Garry Liboiron (2019), the Dejong Family (2023) and Spoolon Manufacturing Ltd (2024).

Nominations for the James Crossen Lifetime Achievement Award are submitted by the Mayors and Council of the Town of Cobourg, Hamilton Township and Alnwick Haldimand Township and non-profit boards/executives serving industries. **Nominations may be**

**individual or submitted by Council/Board as a whole.** The Board of Directors of the Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce also submit nominations, and the BAA Committee then reviews all submissions and determines an award winner.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Business Achievement Celebration presented in partnership between the Town of Cobourg and the Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce will occur on Friday, March 27, 2026. We're inviting you to submit nominations and a brief outline of why you feel your nominee is deserving of this recognition for the James Crossen Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Nominations will be accepted by email to [Chamber@NCCofC.ca](mailto:Chamber@NCCofC.ca) up until noon on Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.**

Thank you for your kind consideration, and should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me directly,

Sincerely,

Melissa Graham  
Business Achievement Awards Co-Chair  
Town of Cobourg

Tanya Colford  
Business Achievement Awards Co-Chair and Board Chair  
Northumberland Central Chamber of Commerce