

GRT Ovation Awards & Casino Night

Frequently Asked Questions

Awards

Q - What awards will be given out at the event?

A – Awards will be given out for perfect attendance in 2009, 5 and 10 years of service with the Region, safe driving and Ovation Awards (peer nominated awards).

Q – How would I qualify for perfect attendance award?

A – All employees that did not take sick time in 2009 would qualify. Taking vacation, lieu or bereavement time would still allow you to receive an award for perfect attendance.

Q – Why are people now being recognized for 5 & 10 years of service with the Region?

A – Over the last 18 months a corporate, Region-wide working group has been looking at recognition at the Region and they determined employees should be recognized for 5 and 10 years of service. It was determined it would be done at the division level.

Q – What happens to those people who have 15 or more years of service with the Region?

A – They would still be eligible to attend the Regional dinner held in the late fall. Invitees will include those with 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service. These people will not be recognized formally at the Ovation Award Night.

Q – How will I know if I am eligible for a safe driving award?

A – All full time operators that did not have preventable collision in 2009 will receive a pin, beginning at 1 year of safe driving. Those operators with 25 years of safe driving will be honoured with a special award.

Q – How do the Ovation Awards work?

A – This is a program where you have an opportunity to nominate a co-worker for all the great work they do. Categories include: customer service, mentor, community service, rookie of the year and positive attitude. All people nominated will be notified they have been nominated.

Q – How are selections made for the winners of the Ovation Awards?

A - All nominations received will be vetted against the same criteria. So whether they are an operator in Cambridge, a terminal clerk in Kitchener, a scheduler on the 2nd floor or a Supervisor in MP, they all have an equal chance.

Evening

Q – What is the attire?

A – Anywhere from business casual to semi-formal. It is up to you with what you feel comfortable with.

Q – What food will be served?

A – There will be hot and cold food served both at self serve tables and by roaming wait staff. It is not a sit down dinner. There will be tables to sit or stand at, but it will be a more relaxed and casual atmosphere, as in a cocktail party.

Q – Will there be a bar?

A – There will be a cash bar with prices at \$4.95 for beer, \$5.25 for liquor, \$6.90 for wine. There will be complimentary non-alcoholic punch and coffee served. Please don't drink and drive....take transit or carpool.

Q – How does the casino work?

A – When you arrive, you will be given funny money to play blackjack and wheels of fortune with. At the end of the casino portion of the evening, you will exchange your funny money for tickets. Those tickets can be put into a draw for some great prizes such as gift baskets and a GPS. You do not have to participate in the gambling in order to win a prize. Simply exchange the funny money you were given initially for draw tickets.

Q – What is the agenda for the evening?

A – 6:00 – casino, food, mingling. 8:00 – casino ends and funny money exchanged for tickets. 8:15 – presentations for perfect attendance, years of service, 25 years of safe driving and Ovation Awards. Post awards – draw for prizes. 10:00 – event ends.

Registration

Q – How do I register?

A – Registration closes September 20. To register or for more information, contact Kylie Clarke at kclarke@regionofwaterloo.ca or 519-858-7597, ext. 7339

Background

Q – Why are we having this night instead of the rodeo and safe driving award banquet?

A – As part of the employee survey actions, GRT wanted to improve people's level of satisfaction with recognition. In the fall of 2009, a call was put out for volunteers to be part of a recognition focus group. That group discussed the pros and cons of each recognition event that GRT held (rodeo, BBQ, safe driving banquet, etc) and it was determined that these events were not inclusive of all GRT employees and in many cases not well attended. This group was then given the goal of coming up with an event that was inclusive of all GRT employees (fleet, MP, convention, administration, terminals, etc). The result is this ovation award night. They felt it was important to keep things like safe driving but to also recognize people for other contributions as well.