



Media Release

For Immediate Release
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Timmins Chamber Annual General Meeting focuses on mining in Ontario, honouring volunteers

Timmins – On Wednesday October 1, attendees of the Annual General Meeting of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce heard from keynote speaker Chris Hodgson, President of the Ontario Mining Association. The evening also featured the officially swearing-in of the 2008-2009 Board of Directors and formal recognition of Timmins Chamber of Commerce supporters.

OMA President Chris Hodgson gave an address, entitled “*Ontario Mining: A Partner in Prosperity Building*” discussing the OMA’s efforts to improve the competitiveness of mining in the province and its substantial economic impacts, direct and indirect. Hodgson noted that Ontario is the safest mining jurisdiction in the world a leader when it comes to mining exploration and mineral production in Canada. The presentation recognized the positive economic impacts of mines on surrounding communities, through purchasing goods and services from local suppliers and providing high-paying employment opportunities. However, Hodgson also warned that increasing international competition, energy and workforce shortage challenges threaten to hurt Ontario’s future as a mining powerhouse.

The evening also served as a “year in review” for the Chamber and provided an opportunity to recognize the Chamber’s invaluable volunteers. Marilyn Wood, immediate past-president of the Chamber, was duly recognized for her accomplishments in her one-year tenure as President. Her focus on policy-development and business-minded initiatives made for a very successful year, with the Chamber enjoying a 14% increase in membership, numerous new member programs and services and active lobbying at both provincial and federal government levels. The evening was also highlighted by the awarding of Woods’ *President’s Award* to College Boreal and Northern College for their continual support of the community, as well as the opportunities they have provided for the businesses of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce.

Other awards handed out in the evening included the *Partnership Appreciation Award*, presented to De Beers Canada Victor Mine as the title sponsor for the 2008-2009 Chamber year. The *Alex Klimack Award*, presented by Chamber Past President Fred Barabas, was awarded to Rick Gutcher in recognition of his participation in and dedication to Chamber initiatives, as well as his outstanding volunteer work and contribution to Chamber events, including the always popular *Evening in Italy*, which is now entering its 17th year as a Chamber event.

The evening concluded as Wood officially handed over the Chamber presidency to Rob Galloway, who (along with 2008-2009 Board of Directors) was sworn in by Mayor Tom Laughren.

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About the Timmins Chamber of Commerce

With over 750 members, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce is the largest accredited chamber of commerce with distinction in northeastern Ontario. As the “Voice of Business in Timmins” since 1949, our advocacy and policy initiatives focus on ensuring a positive business climate in the City of Timmins.