



For Immediate Release

NOVA AWARDS NOMINATION FORMS NOW AVAILABLE

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 (TIMMINS) - The Timmins Chamber of Commerce Nova Awards Committee has released Nomination Forms for the 2008 *Nova Business Excellence Awards* today. Forms are being mailed to all 1800 business addresses in Timmins. Businesses are urged to get their nomination forms in before the March 14th deadline!

Each year, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce hosts the *Nova Awards*, a gala awards ceremony to honour and celebrate business excellence in Timmins. On Friday at the Chamber, event organizers Gary Marriott and Joel Bergeron announced the release of nomination forms. "We are pleased to release the Nova Awards Nominations forms. They are being mailed to all businesses in Timmins and we encourage businesses to nominate themselves or another business that deserves special recognition," announced Marriott, "This is a valuable opportunity to celebrate success and gain recognition for the significant accomplishments and contributions made by businesses within our city."

Chamber President Marilyn Wood stated "This is a signature event for the Timmins Chamber of Commerce. It is well known within the community and is made possible by our generous sponsors and hard working volunteers. We are pleased as a business organization to be able to host such a special event with overwhelming support from the community.

This year's *Nova Awards* gala will be held at the McIntyre Arena. This venue was used for last year's ceremony, and the feedback received by the organizing committee has been phenomenal. "Last year's ceremony was incredibly well received by nominees, attendees and winners alike", stated event co-chair Joel Bergeron, "The McIntyre Arena is a great location to successfully carry out this year's ceremony and allow us to build on our theme of Fire and Ice".

The Nova Awards were established in 2003 as a means of recognizing the accomplishments of Timmins area businesses. The event includes thirteen award categories, some of which include: Business of the Year (small, medium and large firms), Community Involvement, Marketing Innovation, Youth Entrepreneur, New Business, Non-Profit Organization, Trades Apprenticeship, Environmental, Aboriginal Partnership, Media Person of the Year and Customer Service Excellence.

Bergeron and Marriott urge all businesses to get involved in the nomination process. "The nomination forms are clear and concise; they don't require detailed information or a large time commitment," Bergeron stated. Past winners have been nominated by customers, colleagues, employees, and by the business owners themselves.

Nominations will be accepted until March 14th, 2008.

Award recipients will be announced during the gala Awards ceremony on Thursday, April 17th.

For nomination forms, call the Chamber office at 360-1900, or visit the website at

www.timmischamber.on.ca