

For Immediate Release

NOVA AWARDS NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

Monday, February 2, 2009 (TIMMINS) – Nominations are now open for the much anticipated 2009 Nova Awards. Nomination packages are mailed to every business in Timmins and are available for download on the Timmins Chamber of Commerce website www.timminschamber.on.ca. Businesses are encouraged to get their nomination forms in before the March 13th deadline!

Each year, the Timmins Chamber of Commerce hosts the *Nova Awards*, a gala awards ceremony designed to celebrate business excellence in Timmins. The awards committee begins planning for event months in advance; returning again this year to direct the large-scale event as co-chairs of the organizing committee are Joel Bergeron and Gary Marriott. According to Mr. Marriott, "The scale of the event is unlike anything else we've seen in the city, and we're proud that it is an event which celebrates local business."

Year over year, the Nova Awards grows in success and reputation. Over 90 nominations were submitted last year, and the "Fire-and-Ice"-themed awards gala saw over 450 in attendance. Once again for 2009, the ceremony will be hosted at the McIntyre Arena, with the theme centred on mining.

In order to accurately reflect the business community, awards categories may change slightly from year to year. For the 2009 awards, recognition will be given for the following categories:

- ❖ **Business Contribution to Community** (1- 30 employees)
- ❖ **Business Contribution to Community** (Over 30 employees)
- ❖ **Service Excellence**
- ❖ **New Business** (Under 2 years)
- ❖ **Marketing Innovation Achievement**
- ❖ **Young Entrepreneur** (Under 30)
- ❖ **Business of the Year** (1-5 Employees)
- ❖ **Business of the Year** (6-49 Employees)
- ❖ **Business of the Year** (50+ Employees)
- ❖ **Non-Profit Organization Award**
- ❖ **Apprenticeship Award**
- ❖ **Environmental Award**
- ❖ **Aboriginal Partnership Award**

According to organizing committee co-chair Joel Bergeron, "The nomination forms are clear, concise and they don't require a large time commitment to complete." As well, Bergeron noted two important items for prospective award winners: "Businesses do not have to be members of the Timmins Chamber of Commerce to be nominated or to win. As well, we encourage and welcome businesses to self-nominate. Often it is the business owner himself or herself that best understands the business and has easiest access to nomination information." Past winners have been nominated by customers, colleagues, employees, and by business owners themselves. Judging is completed by an independent panel of business experts, who select three finalists for each award category. Finalists attend a special "*finalists' reception*" prior to the awards ceremony and receive exposure through a special video segment which is revealed at the gala.

Nomination deadline is March 13th, 2009 at 5:00p.m.

Finalists in each category will be notified by March 31st, 2009.

Award winners will be announced during the gala awards ceremony on Thursday, April 16th.

For nomination forms, call the Chamber office at 360-1900, or visit our website www.timminschamber.on.ca.

Should you have any questions or require assistance in filling out a nomination package, Nova Awards Committee members are available to help:

Gary Marriott at 268-8600 or Joel Bergeron at 268-9988

Please send all completed nominations by mail, fax, e-mail or hand delivery to:

Nova Awards Selection Committee

C/O Timmins Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 985

Timmins, ON P4N 7H6

Fax: 360-1193

info@timminschamber.on.ca

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