

For Immediate Release

NOVA FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

NOVA committee announces picks for best in business in 2009

Tuesday, March 31, 2009 (TIMMINS) - The Timmins Chamber of Commerce Nova Awards Committee has announced the names of 39 local businesses and organizations as FINALISTS for the 2009 *Nova Business Excellence Awards*. This year, the Chamber office received over 80 nominations from local businesses seeking recognition at the first-class business awards event. As such, it was with great difficulty that the judging panel, comprising seven impartial local judges, selected just three finalists for each category.

Event Co-Chairs Gary Marriott and Joel Bergeron, who have led the Nova Awards for two years, are pleased with the uptake of the Awards within the business community. According to Mr. Marriott, "It was great to see the nominations streaming in this year and we are proud of our businesses for taking the time to celebrate their efforts and their successes, particularly in these challenging economic times. Marriot continued, "Whether the finalist demonstrates business excellence by providing a unique service to our region, offering outstanding customer service or showing innovation in marketing, all of these finalists are to be commended for what they contribute to the Timmins business community."

"As a group, the 2009 finalists were not selected easily," added Joel Bergeron, "We have heard from our judges that selecting the finalists for each category was not an easy task."

This year's Awards Gala takes place on Thursday, April 16th at the McIntyre Arena. 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. According to Bergeron and Marriott, the Nova Business Excellence Awards is seen as a signature event for the Timmins Chamber of Commerce and Timmins' business community. "Last year's event drew over 450 attendees and was a first-class success for the community. This year's event is shaping up to be a banner year as well and we are looking forward to letting the stars come out to shine at the 2009 Nova Awards."

Gala tickets are \$60 for members and \$70 for future members. Contact the Chamber to reserve your tickets today! To reserve your tickets or for more information, contact the Chamber office at 360-1900, or visit the website at www.timminschamber.on.ca/nova.htm

Finalists for each category follow.

FINALISTS

Business Contribution to Community (1 - 30 employees)
Sponsored by BMT Insurance and Financial Services

J.J.'s Ranch
Sun Life Financial
Perfect Settings

Business Contribution to Community (Over 30 employees)
Sponsored by Porcupine Gold Mines – Goldcorp Canada Ltd.

Gorf Contracting Limited
Panels & Pipes Inc.
Ontario Power Generation

Service Excellence
Sponsored by Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology

House of Bras...Etc.
Krazy Krazy Audiotronics
Three Small Rooms Boutique

New Business (under 2 years)
Sponsored by Timmins Economic Development Corporation/Business Enterprise Centre

Woodchuckers Manufacturing
1st Class Limousine Service
CMM Maintenance and Millwright Services Inc.

Marketing Innovation Achievement
Sponsored by RioCan Timmins Square

J.J.'s Ranch
De Beers Canada, Victor Mine
Carol (Lafrance) Sweezey - Real Estate Agent

Young Entrepreneur
Sponsored by The Venture Centre/Le Centre de développement

Woodchuckers Manufacturing

Sugar Boutique

Dental Hygiene Care Clinic

Business of the Year, 1-5 Employees
Sponsored by BDC (Business Development Bank of Canada)

Vision Hair Design

Viva!

Helen's Video

Business of the Year, 6- 49 Employees
Sponsored by Scotiabank

LoriJo Fitness

Northern Mechanical Services Inc.

Cedar Meadows Resort & Spa

Business of the Year, 50 + Employees
Sponsored by Northern Credit Union

Xstrata Copper

De Beers Canada, Victor Mine

Ontario Power Generation

Non-Profit Organization Award
Sponsored by the City of Timmins

Alzheimer Society of Timmins Porcupine District

Timmins Food Bank, a division of St. Martin de Porres

Barrier Elimination Action Corporation

Environmental Award
Sponsored by Union Gas

Xstrata Copper

Rio Tinto Minerals, Luzenac Inc.

ANO Architects / Architectes Inc.

Media Person of the Year
Sponsored by BMO Bank of Montreal

Natalie Geddes – Rogers Communications Inc.

Brandon Walker – Timmins Daily Press

Art Pultz – Rogers Communications Inc.

Aboriginal Partnership Award
Sponsored by De Beers Canada, Victor Mine

Kattawapiskak Development Company Inc

Creewest General Partner Inc. & Air Creebec Inc.

Timmins and District Hospital

Construction Trades Apprenticeship
Sponsored by the Timmins Construction Association

Accurate Electric

Toromont CAT

Guillemette Masonry

Future Young Entrepreneur
Sponsored by the Business Enterprise Centre

To be announced at the event.