



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – FRIDAY APRIL 17, 2009

CHAMBER CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY

(TIMMINS) - The Timmins Chamber of Commerce presented its *2009 NOVA Business Excellence Awards* to recipients at its gala awards ceremony Thursday evening. This year saw 16 NOVAs awarded to recognize the accomplishments of the business community. With almost 475 nominees, finalists, recipients and representatives of the business community in attendance, this year's Nova proved to be the highest ever attended gala in the history of the illustrious event.

This was the seventh annual celebration of what is considered to be the premier event celebrating business excellence in our community. In recognition of a year filled with milestones and anniversaries in the community, including the kick-off of centennial celebrations of the City of Timmins and the Chamber's own 60th anniversary, the stellar awards ceremony paid homage to the rich history of the Porcupine Mining Camp, with an elaborate ceremony and venue complete with mining themed décor. The venue, the historic McIntyre Arena, was transformed to feature all that is mining – from a specially designed stage featuring two head frames, historic mining artwork, a special video presentation of the pioneer Porcupine Camp, mining artefacts, core samples to the sparkling final products. The evening was emceed by Art Pultz, of Rogers Communications - Q92/EZ Rock and Lynn Bulloch of CTV Sudbury.

Awards gala attendees were treated to the music of local artists Chantal Delorme, who performed during the pre-awards celebration, and The Shaftmen, who lent their talent for the post-awards celebration. Nova Awards finalists were treated to an exclusive, pre-party event, where they were able to meet fellow finalists before making grand "red carpet" entrances to the Awards ceremony.

The Nova Awards are not only meant to honour and recognize the achievements of the business community, but also to give business professionals and community members the chance to come together for a one of a kind event. According to NOVA organizers Gary Marriott and Joel Bergeron, planning the event required a lot of time and effort, which all paid off in the end. "To be able to plan and execute such a high calibre event for our region is a great accomplishment," stated Marriott. "Based on the record attendance and the responses from people who attended the event, it was a true success for nominees, finalists, recipients and all who attended the gala," he added.

"We congratulate all nominees, finalists and recipients of the 2009 Nova Awards", stated Bergeron. "This is the second year that Gary and I have organized the event, and it is rewarding to see another successful event and one that continues to grow. We'd like to thank everyone involved, including our fellow committee members, event judges, Chamber staff, and our event sponsors, without which an evening like this would simply not be possible."

The list of recipients follows.





2009 NOVA RECIPIENTS

Business Contribution to Community (1 - 30 employees)

Sponsored by BMT Insurance and Financial Services

J.J.'s Ranch

Business Contribution to Community (Over 30 employees)

Sponsored by Porcupine Gold Mines – Goldcorp Canada Ltd.

Panels & Pipes Inc.

Service Excellence

Sponsored by Northern College of Applied Arts & Technology

House of Bras...Etc.

New Business (under 2 years)

Sponsored by Timmins Economic Development Corporation/Business Enterprise Centre

CMM Maintenance and Millwright Services Inc.

Marketing Innovation Achievement

Sponsored by RioCan Timmins Square

De Beers Canada, Victor Mine

Carol Sweezey, Real Estate Agent

Young Entrepreneur

Sponsored by The Venture Centre/Le Centre de développement

Woodchuckers Manufacturing

Business of the Year, 1-5 Employees

Sponsored by BDC (Business Development Bank of Canada)

Viva!

Business of the Year, 6- 49 Employees

Sponsored by Scotiabank

Cedar Meadows Resort & Spa

Business of the Year, 50 + Employees

Sponsored by Northern Credit Union

De Beers Canada, Victor Mine

Non-Profit Organization Award

Sponsored by the City of Timmins

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

Environmental Award

Sponsored by Union Gas

Xstrata Copper, Kidd Metallurgical Site

Media Person of the Year

Sponsored by BMO Bank of Montreal

Art Pultz – Rogers Communications Inc.

Aboriginal Partnership Award

Sponsored by De Beers Canada, Victor Mine

Timmins and District Hospital

Construction Trades Apprenticeship

Sponsored by the Timmins Construction Association

Toromont CAT

Future Young Entrepreneur

Sponsored by the Business Enterprise Centre

Julie Grasser