



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The 2013 Business Excellence Awards Winners Announcement**

Sturgeon Falls, Ontario – November 5, 2013

The West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce announced the winners of the 2013 Business Excellence Awards on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. Based on nominations received from the community of West Nipissing, ten deserving local establishments were presented with prestigious and unique awards at the Marcel Noël Hall in Sturgeon Falls. The nomination period opened on July 19<sup>th</sup> and closed on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The finalists in each award category were shortlisted by the Business Awards Committee and were subjected to the judging process by an independent panel of judges.

The winners in each category are as follows:

**New Business of the Year Award:** Fisher's Paradise

**Looking Good Award:** Savage Ford

**Not-For-Profit Award:** Literacy Alliance of West Nipissing

**Green Economy Award:** Goulard Lumber 1971 Ltd

**Young Entrepreneur Award:** Field Good Farms

**Aboriginal Business Award:** First North Enterprise Inc.

**People's Choice Award:** Lafond's Towing and Recovery

**Most Active Community Partner Award:** Don's Butcher Shop

**Outstanding Business of the Year Award:** MX Constructors

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Michaud & Levesque TRU Hardware

One of West Nipissing's premier caterer's, featuring chef Nick Tsiogas, and his team from Blue Mandolin Catering, provided a five star four course meal. As well, all of the attendees were entered in a draw for \$1000 West Nipissing Dollars draw that can be spent at any of the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce Members Businesses.

The evening's entertainment was provided by local award-winning and emerging musicians including Nathalie Restoule, Janie Pepin, Julie Ann Bertram, Josh Stevens and the Canucky Bluegrass Boys. West Nipissing artists contributed to a visual display of gallery pieces, with items on loan from Expressions! West Nipissing Art Gallery. Artists that contributed to the exhibit included Helene Chayer, Gordon Desveaux, Raymonde Gaudette, Nora Gignac, Beth Guindon, Lauraine Laframboise, and Lise Rivet.

All of the businesses nominated in the ten award categories were recognized at the event for their entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to serving our community. "Each and every one of you are deserving of the title and the simple fact that your entrepreneurial efforts and respective businesses have

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been nominated and recognized by the larger community, makes you all winners,” said Renée Beauparlant, Chairperson of the Business Awards Committee.

The West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce would like to thank our corporate sponsors, the Municipality of West Nipissing, Caisse Populaire, the Tribune, Royal Bank of Canada, Thistle Marketing, Moose FM Radio 99.3, Economic Partners Sudbury East West Nipissing, the Business Centre Nipissing Parry Sound, the Labour Market Group, and Nipissing First Nation.

In addition to thanking our corporate sponsors, the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce would also like to thank Blue Mandolin Catering, DBSL Pro Sound and Lighting, Julie Ann Bertram for organizing the artistic direction of the event, the local musicians and artists that contributed to the evening, Wishingstar Occasions for decorating the Marcel Noël Hall, Daniel Aubin Photography for his professional services, our panel of judges, Rachel Quesnel, Claude Bouffard and Denise Sherritt, and the West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

Most importantly, thank you to our local business community for supporting this event.

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#### Contact Information

Jolene Lisk

West Nipissing Chamber of Commerce

Telephone: 705-753-5672 Fax: 705-580-5672

wnchamber@gmail.com

200 Main Street, Unit B, Sturgeon Falls, Ontario P2N 1P2