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Local businesses hailed at gala dinner

Lunenburg Queens – 18 October 2011 – Six local businesses will be hanging plaques in their offices after receiving honours as best in their category before a packed audience at the prestigious Lunenburg Queens Business Excellence Awards dinner this evening.

Held this year at the Best Western Plus in Bridgewater, the winners for 2011 are:

Small Business Award (sponsored by BDC) Helping Nature Heal Ltd.	Large Business Award (sponsored by Bell Aliant) Brady Home Building Centre
Export Achievement Award (sponsored by NSBI) TecBox International Ltd.	Entrepreneurial Award (sponsored by Clearwater) Van Dyk's Health Juice Products Ltd.
Hospitality Award (co-sponsored by CIBC / Greg Flinn, Investment Advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy) Comfort Inn -Bridgewater	New Business Award (sponsored by ACSBE) Ironworks Distillery

Seven of the Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in the Lunenburg Queens region worked together to organize the awards ceremony. Businesses were nominated by customers, employees, suppliers and owners. The winners in each category were selected by an independent judging committee formed by each category sponsor and they received a specially designed, hand crafted plaque in recognition of their achievement before more than 275 guests who attended the gala event.

Keynote speaker John Steele, Owner of Covey Island Boat and founding partner of the Lunenburg Shipyard Alliance, inspired the audience by talking about the power of strategic partnerships. Emcee for the evening was John Wiles, Program Director at CKBW.

Andrew Button, Chairperson of the Awards Organizing Committee, commented: “Success breeds success; by celebrating the outstanding businesses we have here on the South Shore others are inspired to reach their own level of business excellence. Businesses in Lunenburg-Queens are doing some amazing things and are standing toe-to-toe with their competition on a global stage. The Awards are one way for us to recognize and celebrate their achievements and thank them for the wonderful contribution they make to our community.”

Button was joined on the Awards Organizing Committee by Heather Fralic, Branch Manager, Scotiabank-Bridgewater Mall; Barry Tomalin, President South Queens Chamber of Commerce; Meghan Fischback , Corporate Sales / Marketing, Amos Pewter; John Bryson, President of Safe Home Security; Aidan Matchett, Recruitment Representative, Davis + Henderson; and Shelley Cantafio, Executive Director, South Queens Chamber of Commerce.

The Awards event, which has been running in various forms for more than eight years, was expanded to include businesses from both Queens and Lunenburg Counties in 2009. The event is organized and presented by the seven Chambers of Commerce and Boards of Trade in Lunenburg-Queens: the Chester and Area Chamber of Commerce, Lunenburg Board of Trade, Mahone Bay Chamber of Commerce, Riverport Board of Trade, North

Queens Board of Trade, the South Queens Chamber of Commerce, and the Bridgewater and Area Chamber of Commerce.

The evening was made possible by a variety of sponsors including Acadia Broadcasting (CKBW and HANKfm), the Lunenburg-Queens Regional Development Agency (LQRDA), Business Development Bank of Canada (BDC), Bell Aliant, Michelin North America (Canada) Inc. –Bridgewater Plant, CIBC & Greg Flinn, Investment Advisor with CIBC Wood Gundy, Clearwater, Nova Scotia Business Inc. (NSBI), and the Acadia Centre for Social and Business Entrepreneurship (ACSBE).

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