



Saint John Board of Trade

Making It Happen For Business

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NEWS RELEASE

SAINT JOHN BOARD OF TRADE ANNOUNCES RECIPIENT OF 2007 "BIG HEART AWARD"

November 5, 2007

Saint John, NB – The Saint John Board of Trade is very pleased to announce the recipient for the **Outstanding Business Achievement Awards "Big Heart Award"** category. The awards dinner and presentations will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 28, 2007 at the Saint John Trade and Convention Centre.

The Big Heart Award, established in 2003, recognizes those who are working to make this community a better place to live through their support of charitable or other community causes. This award is open to non-profit or charitable organizations, or to companies for their support (through time or money) of those organizations."

The independent judging panel has selected **Carpenters Training Centre of New Brunswick Inc.** as this year's recipient of the Big Heart award.

The Carpenters Training Centre is a non-profit organization jointly owned and operated by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America - Local 1386 and unionized contractors in New Brunswick. Incorporated in 2000 to provide upgrade and skills enhancement training to ensure its union members have the skills its contractor members need, the Centre has since evolved into a leader in trades training. The 40-week Pre-employment Program for the Carpentry Trade, open to the public, boasts a 95% success rate. Thirty percent of the course covers theory while the bulk is focused on achieving practical skill levels recognized by the industry. This has allowed the Centre to become involved with many community projects, donating labour on actual job sites while offering hands-on supervised training for its students. To date the Centre has contributed more than 53,700 hours of labour to various projects in and around Saint John and the province, including three projects for Saint John Non-Profit Housing which produced significant savings for that organization.

The Centre also runs a 17-week Co-op Education Program in conjunction with School District 8 to re-introduce trades to the schools. This program provides high school students with exposure to all the construction trades, a six-week placement with an actual employer within the community, and a pathway to transition into the trades upon graduation.

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Students at the Carpenters Training Centre take great pride in their work and are elated that they can drive by and see what they have helped to build. Graduates are in great demand by local contractors with the result that the program has aided in keeping tradespeople in the area.

Previous recipients of the Big Heart Award were The Greater Saint John Community Foundation in 2003, The Irving companies in 2004, The United Way of Greater Saint John in 2005 and The Saint John YMCA-YWCA in 2006.

The Saint John Board of Trade is dedicated to fostering an economic climate that enhances growth, prosperity, and an improved quality of life in the community. With more than, 1,000 members, representing 600 small, medium, and large businesses and organizations, the Board is a dynamic advocate and the principal voice for the business community of Greater Saint John. It offers a variety of programs, activities, services, and networking opportunities designed to enhance the business prospects of members and the overall business climate of the area.

For more information, please contact:

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