

GARDINER BOARD OF TRADE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Gardiner Board of Trade Annual Meeting April 1st

Gardiner, ME, March 13, 2008 — What does great customer service, having a niche market, and supporting the local economy, all have in common? These are some of the characteristics describing this year's group of Annual Gardiner Board of Trade award winners! Each year, the Gardiner Board of Trade nominates several local businesses to receive a variety of awards in recognition of their accomplishments. This year's Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday April 1st, 5:30 PM, at EJ Prescott's building at Gardiner's Libby Hill business park.

Gardiner Board of Trade's 2008 award winners include: Northeast Radiant Technologies, Patina Nail & Hair Studio, A Partner in Technology, and the Depot Pub.

"The Board is excited to recognize so many creative and successful local businesses this year. Each one is very deserving of their award," says Connie Greenleaf, President of the Gardiner Board of Trade.

Northeast Radiant Technology (NRT) is this year's winner of the *Cobbossee Award*. NRT is co-owned and operated by Rob Brown and David Michaud. Rob and David started the business in 2002 and located in Gardiner 2005. The company has six full time employees and includes skills such as, drafting, technical sales, mechanical design and fabricating. NRT designs radiant heating systems (to be installed in floors, ceilings, walls, etc) and supplies the tubing materials for new and existing buildings. The company has clients from as far away as Alaska and gains much business through their website, www.nrtradiant.com. NRT likes Gardiner for its central location, and according to Dave Michaud, "...bringing dollars into the state of Maine and keeping it in the local economy."

Patina Nail & Hair Studio, owned and operated by Paula Murphy, is receiving the *New Business of the Year Award*. Patina's strives to provide the highest quality in pedicures, natural manicures, hair treatments, quality products and customer satisfaction, while providing a private, relaxing friendly environment making every customer feel special. Paula likes being located downtown and "keeping things local." Once she began operating the business, she and her

husband, Matt Murphy, had an opportunity to purchase the historic downtown building at 230 Water Street. Her family now lives on the two upper floors, located above the business. Paula is also active in the community and hosts a site for the always-interesting Art Walks in her studio. She shares space with Holly Carlezon and can be contacted at 582-9090.

A Partner in Technology (API), owned by Scott Fossett, is receiving this year's *President's Award*. API provides personalized technology solutions to small and mid-sized businesses, with services that include IT staffing, network planning & design, firewall installation, system integration, user training, hardware & software needs assessment, among many others. Scott located the office in Gardiner in 2005 and was attracted to Gardiner's downtown and "sense of community." API's clients include paper mills, schools, nonprofits, banks, medical, legal and other professionals. The company has 5 employees and just opened a location in Jackman, Maine to service the Route 201 corridor in that region. You can find out more about API at their website, www.apitechnology.com.

The Depot, owned by Steve Casey, is receiving this year's *Director's Award*. Steve purchased the business and starting running the Depot pub on March 22nd, 2006. Since then he has transformed the place into a completely new family pub atmosphere, while maintaining the historic and authentic features of the building's interior. The Depot is open seven days a week, with doors opening at 11 AM daily. Customers can enjoy a variety of fare off the menu, such as the always popular chicken wings, while choosing from one of 14 beers on tap. Steve says that the Depot's location, at 20 Main Ave., right next to downtown Water Street and the Kennebec River, "...creates a magical place to do business." The Depot has 10 employees, who are all very personable, and have fun on the job, while working hard. For more information on the Depot, please call 582-8712.

As in previous year's Gardiner Board of Trade meetings, there will be plenty of tasty food to go around. This year, White Flower Catering will put on a "desserts only" theme, which promises to be a treat. Doors open at 5:30 PM and the slideshow and award presentation will be starting soon afterwards. Seating is limited, so please contact Connie Greenleaf at 582-5712 if you would like to place a reservation, or have any questions. Invitations are in the mail!

Gardiner Board of Trade was incorporated in 1885 as a non-profit corporation. The Board has 18 seats on the Board of Directors. The Board consists of local business owners and professionals who work together to promote economic development in Gardiner. For recent projects, the Board was instrumental in helping to develop the highly successful Libby Hill Business Park. If interested in learning more about the Gardiner Board of Trade, or this year's award winners, please contact Jason at 207-582-6888, or email to econdev@gardinermaine.com.