



Joan Wideman named 2006 Business Person of the Year

Voice Path Convergence Group, Purdue Pharma, and First Durham Insurance and Financial honored with 2006 Business Excellence Awards

AJAX, ON (Thursday, Oct. 26) -- The Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade has celebrated accomplishments of the local business community with the presentation of its 12th Annual Business Excellence and Business Person of the Year awards.

Joan Wideman, The Lenbrook Group's Vice-President of Corporate Services, was honored with the title of Business Person of the Year, recognizing her extensive role in helping to rebuild the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade.

"While Joan had officially retired from the Board after years of service in 1997, she returned in 2002 to help redevelop and refinance our organization," says Tracy Paterson, President of the Ajax Pickering Board of Trade. "She can take particular pride in the fact that, on the evening of her award, we were also able to announce that we are officially debt-free."

Wideman has been employed by The Lenbrook Group since May 1979. She has served as the Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade's Government Relations Committee Chair, 1st Vice-President, President, and Chair. She was also the first recipient of the Pickering Rotary Club Community Leadership Award, and is currently Co-Chair of the Pickering Business Advisory Committee.

Business Excellence Awards were presented to Voice Path Convergence Group, Purdue Pharma, and First Durham Insurance and Financial.

Voice Path Convergence Group is a business telephone company with a successful history in Durham. It has installed and maintained most brands of telephone systems and voicemails, and is known for a high level of service.

Purdue Pharma is a leading manufacturer of prescription medicines for the treatment of persistent pain. Its Canadian headquarters, found in Pickering, include an R&D Formulation Laboratory, manufacturing plant, and administrative offices, employing 288 people. The company has already been recognized as one of the "Top 100" employers in Canada, and will celebrate its 50th anniversary this year.

First Durham Insurance and Financial is a full-service insurance brokerage that has provided clients with home, auto, life and commercial insurance products for 60 years. In

addition to protecting their clients' wealth, First Durham's Integrated Financial Services Division helps to plan sound financial futures for its clients.

Sponsors of the event included City of Pickering, RBC Royal Bank of Canada, Town of Ajax, Business Development Bank of Canada, and ING Insurance Co. of Canada - Durham. This event was also made possible thanks to the ongoing support of our Annual Title Sponsors: Ontario Power Generation, Siemens Canada, Veridian Corporation and Hubbell Canada.

The awards were presented at the Deer Creek Golf and Banquet Facility.

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-- The Ajax-Pickering Board of Trade is the voice of the business community in Ajax and Pickering. Established in 1955, its 390 members represent an array of business sectors ranging from the service industry to manufacturers and distributors. The group's advocacy and policy initiatives focus on issues relating to such things as economic development, healthcare, education, transportation issues, community and social development, environment, and energy.

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