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Executive, entrepreneurs, companies of the year awards of excellence

Business award winners announced

Charles J. Carter, chairman and chief executive officer of Great Lakes Forest Products in Thunder Bay, has been named Executive of the Year by Northern Ontario Business, a regional business publication.

Carter has been with Great Lakes Forest Products since 1947. His vision, planning and management, has been credited for naming the company one of the top 100 companies in Canada.

The veteran executive is one of six business people who was honoured at the awards dinner in Thunder Bay on Nov. 24.

In total, 104 nominations were submitted to the first annual Northern Ontario Business Awards of Excellence.

The independent panel of judges had no easy task in selecting this year's winners.

Richard Fahlman, owner of Anderson's Camp in Sioux Lookout, received the Entrepreneur of the Year award.

Since buying the camp in 1975, Fahlman has increased its size by 10 times. He credits his success to the service he gives his customers.

Northco Foods Ltd. of Thunder Bay, received the Company of the Year award in the one to 25-employee category.

Northco Foods is better-known as Robin's Donuts and Coffee Shop.

In October, the company opened its 100th franchise and there are plans to open 23 more next year.

Northco Foods was founded in Thunder Bay in 1975 by the late George Spicer and current President Harvey Cardwell.

Accurassay, an assaying lab in Kirkland Lake, has been named recipient of the Company of the Year award in the 26 to 50-employee category.

Dr. George Duncan opened the lab last year to provide fast turnaround for anxious mining companies.

The business has grown to \$2 million in annual sales and employs 44 people.

J.S. Redpath, a mining engineering company in North Bay, is the Company of the Year in the 50-employee-and-up category.

In 25 years, the company has grown from an office in the storage area of Jim Redpath's Toronto apartment to 1,200 employees worldwide.

Kelly McCarthy, a 27 year-old North Bay entrepreneur, is this year's recipient of the Young Entrepreneur award.

He says that by providing superior service, his company, T.K. Hydraulics Limited, is able to operate on a slightly-better margin than its competitors in the industrial hydraulics component sales and service business. This

year, annual sales were \$2.5 million.

"It is our hope that through these awards we will succeed in inspiring others to also strive for excellence and, in the process, to build a stronger and more prosperous and more diversified economy," said Michael Atkins, publisher of Northern Ontario Business (and the Terrace Bay-Schreiber News).

"More than anything else, the awards should underline the fact that growth and prosperity will result through our own efforts as business people and entrepreneurs, rather than through reliance on government and investment by the General Motors of this world."

Judges for the Northern Ontario Business Awards of Excellence were Ken Ridler of Thunder Bay, George Lowe of North Bay, Jim Hilsinger of Sault Ste. Marie, and Ginette Quirion of Hearst.

The Award of Excellence itself was designed and crafted in Northern Ontario. Brian Brooks, president and creative director of Brooks Advertising Associates in Sault Ste. Marie, designed the award which represents a windswept pine tree and rock islet, a northern silhouette by Group of Seven painters.

Northern Ontario Business is published monthly, and has a readership of 30,000 across Northern Ontario.



Executive of the Year

Above is Charles Carter of Great Lakes Forest Products, Thunder Bay, who was named Executive of the Year. He was honoured at the first annual Northern Ontario Business Awards of Excellence in Thunder Bay on Nov. 24.

Study underway on employment needs of woodland/construction industries in Northern Ontario

A research study is presently underway on the employment needs of woodland and construction industries in Northern Ontario.

It may have a substantial impact on those industries in the coming months and years.

Dramatic changes in this sector have affected hiring patterns for heavy equipment operators and log haul truck drivers.

What is the demand for these jobs? Are the big companies doing most the hiring, or do the smaller firms employ a significant number of people too?

Which is more important to employers- experience or training? And how will these needs be met?

In order to find answers to these and other vital industry questions affecting Northwestern Ontario, Quetico Centre initiated the study.

Consultants from Quadra Consulting Group, a Toronto-based firm which does most of its work in Northern Ontario, is involved in this study.

They are combining their knowledge and skills in market research with Quetico Centre's understanding of the subject from the perspective of a training centre for heavy equipment operators and log haul truck drivers.

This study was made possible through joint funding between the Ministry of Skills Development and Quetico Centre.

The total cost is projected to be approximately \$50 to \$60,000.

Conducting such an extensive, in-depth study involves more than just asking questions.

Some preliminary work is necessary to identify the critical issues and find out what questions need to be asked.

described it: "We've had a number of good interviews with people in industry and government.

"They've been very helpful, and very quickly given us a good grasp of the critical issues."

The preliminary interviews indicate that there is a large number of job opportunities for heavy equipment operators and log haul truck drivers because of the present shortage of qualified operators and drivers.

One of these issues is outlining the forecasted needs for drivers and operators over the next five years.

But the study will go much deeper than that. It will assess the impact on the log haul industry of the shift of operations from the large companies to the smaller firms and private contractors.

As well, the specific skills and training required for operators and drivers will be determined.

A two-pronged approach to gathering the needed information is being taken.

Quadra Consulting Group and Quetico Centre are working together to produce a questionnaire, to be mailed over the next two weeks.

An extensive mailing list of over 500 names is being compiled. Normally, about a 10 to 20 per cent response is all that can be expected from a mail survey.

These odds will be improved by a phone follow-up that will take place about three weeks after the questionnaires are mailed.

As well, industry advisory committee representatives and area equipment suppliers will use their contacts to encourage employees to respond. It is important to have this part of the study completed before the Christmas season, to avoid mail delays.

On to Sudbury for all-Ontario championship

Lake Superior high wins N.S.S.S.A.A. volleyball

This past weekend at the Terrace Bay gym, the Lake Superior High School Senior Boys' Volleyball team emerged as the Northwestern Ontario (N.W.O.S.S.A.) school champions for the third consecutive year.

They defeated Atikokan High School in the third and deciding match three games to one (15-12, 15-1, 5-15, 15-7).

On Friday, the teams split the two matches with L.S.H.S. winning the first one three games to one and Atikokan the second also by a three game to one score.

The seniors now advance to the all-Ontario (O.F.S.A.A.) 'A' school volleyball championships which will be held this coming weekend at either Laurentian University or

Cambrian College in Sudbury.

Congratulations and best of luck goes out to Coach Doug Roberts and his team; Kevin Roberts, Henry Kaari, Shawn Madore, Kenton Klassen, Neal Zwaresh, Mike Molinski, Phil Jensen, Harry Kaari, Andy Bonnema, Robin Prince, Kaarlo Liukkonen, and Gerry Filane.

Christmas Concert

The North Shore Community Band will be presenting "There's a Feeling of Christmas", on Saturday, December 5, 1987, at 11 a.m. at the new Legion Hall in Schreiber, and at 2 p.m. at Birchwood Terrace in Terrace Bay. Members say you should be prepared to bring your voices for