

BUSINESS

Entrepreneurs in spotlight

AWARDS PRAISE BUSINESSES

From the owners of a comfy laundrymat in St. Catharines to an heirloom seed seller in Wellandport, members of Niagara's business community took the spotlight March 6 to receive awards honouring their achievements.

The 2008 Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards were handed out at the Sheraton Fallsview Hotel & Conference Centre in Niagara Falls and honoured eight different businesses.

The winners were varied, from large long-standing businesses to small startups making their mark on the scene. However, whatever their specialty, the winners all had one thing in common, said awards chair Stan Pride.

"Each winning entry's extraordinary work ethic and responsibility to the community exemplifies the spirit of a true entrepreneur," he said. "Their keen business sense, passion and determination are second to none. Each winning entry is the consummate entrepreneur and very deserving of being named one of the Niagara region's top entrepreneurs."



James and Wendy Garrington, owners of Shark Marine Technologies Inc. in St. Catharines, won the Technological Innovation award.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

AND THE WINNERS WERE ...

Innovative Small Business

Jennifer Blakeley and Matthew Miller, Sips and Suds Laundromat Café, St. Catharines

Established Enterprise

John LaPenna, LaPennaCo Dot Com, Niagara Falls

Agriculture Enterprise

Linda Crago, Tree and Twig Heirloom Vegetable Farm, Wellandport

Technological Innovation

James Garrington and Wendy Garrington,

Shark Marine Technologies Inc., St. Catharines
Lifetime Achievement Award

Bruce Wilson

Community Contribution Award

Mark E. Sherk

Hall of Fame Historical Award

Charles A. Ansell (1899-1957)

Gene Luczkiw Special Achievement Award

Niagara Regional Broadband Network