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## **Drilling & Blasting to receive board's President's Award**

By Mechele Cooper, Staff Writer

GARDINER -- Maine Drilling & Blasting is one of five high-achieving businesses in line to get Gardiner Board of Trade awards Wednesday.

The company that started out as a family business in 1966 will receive the President's Award for "a reputation for exceptional quality in every facet."

Nick Alberding, president of the Gardiner Board of Trade, said the board is pleased to recognize local businesses.

"If you look at companies that we're giving awards to -- like Maine Drilling and Blasting, an unbelievable family success story tucked in Gardiner -- you don't have to look very far" Alberding said Thursday. "They're right here in Gardiner quietly doing very well in tough times."

Maine Drilling & Blasting President and Chief Executive Officer Bill Purington said his company has grown in size and scope since 1966 but never strayed from its focus on local service.

"Therein lies our success," Purington said. "As we expand to serve new markets, we've made it a point to maintain a local presence in communities throughout the Northeast.

"My parents started the business at their kitchen table in Gardiner, and we're still here today. We're very proud of this award and its local focus."

Other businesses and individuals recognized are Dennison Lubricants; Paul Pidgeon and Kathleen Peters, who started Gardiner Family Chiropractic in 1989; Black Diamond Consulting Inc.; and Savings Bank of Maine.

Black Diamond is receiving this year's Technology Business of the Year Award. The company is made up of engineers, physicists, security and technology experts that focus primarily on the nuclear and security industries.

Since 2000, Black Diamond has expanded into the telecommunications industry, assessing and protecting high security locations and designing and upgrading features and technology on cell towers.

Black Diamond President Christian Hebert said the company is honored to receive the Technology Business Award.

“The employees at Black Diamond are dedicated individuals who apply new technology solutions to the complex challenges that face our clients.” Hebert said. “Their ability to engineer unique and cost-effective solutions is paramount to our corporate success.”

Pidgeon and Peters are receiving this year's Director's Award for the service they and their staff provide in “helping patients experience the best of life by attending optimal health.”

The board's Special Recognition Award will be given to Gardiner-based Savings Bank of Maine for “its tremendous support for Gardiner's downtown waterfront redevelopment project.”

Last February, the bank announced it would provide \$1 million to the project as part of its 2007 economic development credit program.

Dennison Lubricants, a family-owned company headquartered in Lakeville, Mass., won the New Business of the Year Award. A manufacturer and distributor of performance lubricants, the company opened in Gardiner's Libby Hill Business Park in 2008.

Tim Dennison, president of the company, said Gardiner is a strategic location for his business.

“The company's service area covers the entire state, so Gardiner provides a convenient location for product distribution,” Dennison said.

All the businesses are an important part the local economy, according to Jason Simcock, the city's director of planning and development.

“When you look at these businesses, they bring a diverse set of jobs to the community,” Simcock said. “Many of these bring in employees and visitors from outside Gardiner, which also supports the local economy.”

Alberding, managing partner of the Pine State Beverage Company, said the companies chosen for the awards are “doing exciting things and growing.”

“Dennison Lubricants constructed a building and moved into Libby Hill, we're excited about that new industry,” Alberding said. “And Gardiner Savings Bank is being recognized for all they've done for the waterfront project and the financial commitments they've made. So we're looking for businesses that are doing things to grow,”

This year's business awards presentation and “jazz party” will be held at the home of Amy Rees and Robert Lash. They own the former Central Street School building at 7 High Holborn St. Tickets are \$25. They can be reserved by calling Rees at 582-2302.