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Mississauga Board of Trade Chair's Gala welcomes business community and celebrates strong leadership

Mississauga, ON (May 12, 2009) – Nearly 500 people attended Mississauga Board of Trade's 'Masala Fusion' Annual Chair's Gala, held May 7, 2009 at Mississauga Convention Centre.

The event honoured 2008 MBOT Chair Jake Dheer, station manager at Rogers TV Dufferin-Peel, for his leadership efforts with the board of trade over the year. MBOT Chair Ellen McGregor and President & CEO Sheldon Leiba commented that Mr. Dheer contributed much more than could ever have been expected from a volunteer during a positive transitional year for the organization. Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion echoed similar sentiments, that Mississauga Board of Trade has significantly elevated its profile and business leadership role in Canada's sixth largest city.

South Asian music filled the hall as Jake and members of the head table procession made their grand entrance accompanied by live dhol drum players. Attendees were also treated to a live vocal performance by Miss India-Canada 2007 Meher Pavri, an energetic bhangra dance by Sonay Gabroo Punjab De and a lively Bollywood dance performance choreographed by Divya Kumar.

Appreciative and humbled by the recognition, Jake spoke about his experiences over 2008: "Little did I know when I accepted this position that it would mean a more involved role when MBOT was without a president," he commented, "but the strength of this organization and what it represents is something I am passionate and committed to, and taking on this role is something I considered an honour."

This year's gala also marked the inaugural presentation of MBOT's *Lifetime Business Achievement Award*, which was presented to Harold G. Shipp, Chairman of Shipp Corporation.

"Harold is a fine 'young' man," joked Mayor McCallion, but was sincere in her appreciation of his many accomplishments, business endeavors and community contributions.

"He is a great philanthropist and community leader," emphasized Jake, who was happy to share the evening with Shipp. Harold spoke warmly to attendees as he accepted his award, noting he has been involved with MBOT since its inception in 1976.

The gala was one of MBOT's most well-attended - double the number of attendees from last year's event. Mississauga Board of Trade sincerely thanks all of its event sponsors and volunteers who helped make the evening a huge success!

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As the voice of business since 1976, Mississauga Board of Trade is a private-sector, not-for-profit business organization representing approximately 1,500 businesses, employing 65,000 people in Mississauga. MBOT is well positioned to meet the needs of business by using its considerable influence at all levels of government. As the forum for business, MBOT works together to influence public policy and promote a better understanding of the marketplace among policy makers, media and the general public.

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