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2007 BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALIST

STELLA Gan

With Stella Gan at the helm of the Days Inn in Barrie, clients truly do rest easy. As part owner and General Manager of the successful 78-room hotel, she is constantly being recognized for taking guest services from ordinary to extraordinary.

Colleagues say her hard work is the reason the business has won over seven awards since 2004, including the Bell Canada Award for Best New Business, Days Inns Canada Humanitarian Award, Bell Canada Award for Hospitality Excellence and the Days Inn Canada Chairman Award for Quality 2007.

"The Chairman Award for Quality is only given to a very small percentage of properties within the Days Inn brand. It is awarded to hotels that consistently meet and exceed the high quality assurance standards," explains Ally Wesson, a business associate who nominated Stella. "Stella's hotel exceeds brand standards as well the expectations of its many guests."

Stella obtained her education around the globe. To name a few academic accomplishments, she received her Bachelor of Science with a concentration in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Boston University, graduated from Hosta Ecole Hoteliere in Switzerland, and also completed a two-year internship at the Four Season's Hotel, before working her way up in the chain. This experience laid the groundwork for becoming known as one of the best in the business.

"She is constantly calling with new ways she has found to improve the quality of her business," says Wesson. "And, with



her involvement in the Northern Ontario Alliance, she continues to suggest marketing initiatives that she has researched and believes will benefit all involved."

She also encourages humanitarian efforts at work, by supporting such causes as the United Way, Juvenile Diabetes Association, and the Red Cross.

"She is one of the hardest working individuals I have ever encountered," says Wesson. "It is amazing but she finds the time to run a hotel, broaden her education, donate her time to fundraising and charitable efforts, all the while being a devoted mother to a young child. Stella is a great role model."

Stella says being able to meet and exceed customer's expectations is the biggest reward she receives from her job.

"I chose the industry because I like to please people, that's what I strive for every day," she said. "I love serving people and delivering the kind of service they come here for in the first place."