

# Voyageur Award 1994...

## the countdown begins

◆ by Brenda Heward ◆

**F**ocus, focus, focus...is the advice of inaugural Voyageur Award winner Bob Thorssen. "Being the first recipient of the Voyageur is a great honour - the Award holds a very prominent position in my new office." And a new office it is, as Mr. Thorssen expands into 5,000 square feet in Central, under the name City Space Asia. He believes the key to being successful in Hong Kong and China is, "finding the right local business partners and patience - that doesn't mean sitting back waiting for something to happen." It's also about credibility, and an award like the Voyageur shows "staying power" - a quality that's key to being an entrepreneur in Hong Kong.

**Ed Rubin**, a member of the 1993 judging team, stresses, "One shouldn't underestimate his or her chances of

success with the Voyageur. The judges for 1993 were very open-minded and pleasantly surprised with the good quality of applicants." Making a choice was not easy, as the competitive edge a successful entrepreneur needs was evidenced in their applications.

**1994's** Chairperson for the Voyageur Award, Helen Wong, says, "Participating in the committee has allowed me to keep in touch with the Canadian community and to do something proactive for the Canadian Chamber of Commerce." One of her goals has been to increase circulation of the award nomination ballots and to increase Chinese-Canadian participation. Her committee has achieved this with the tremendous assistance of the Hongkong Standard and Sing Tao newspapers, who not only run ballots on a weekly basis,

but also interview potential "voyageurs".

**Hongkong Telecom** has also been a huge supporter and is the sole corporate sponsor of the award for the second year running. The company has been instrumental in the financing of, judging, and prize allocation for the whole program - a huge commitment from a company which, characteristic of a Voyageur, often forges ahead into unknown territory.

**A**n Award program can't succeed without an ambitious group of volunteers, sponsors, and committed entrepreneurs. Countdown for the announcement of the winner has begun and excitement escalates as we wait to find out who this year's winner is at the Chamber's Spring Ball on May 28. Stay tuned... ◆

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