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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Woman Entrepreneur Declared Finalist in Provincial Awards

Winnipeg, MB – The Women Business Owners of Manitoba (WBOM) are proud to announce, *Kelly Hunter, owner of Gone Scrappin' In Bloom*, has been declared among 23 Finalists in the 2010 Manitoba Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Awards! This annual gala event puts the spotlight on the successes and achievements of women entrepreneurs in Manitoba. The dinner, to be MC'd by Maralee Caruso of CTV, will take place at the Fairmont Winnipeg on Thursday, May 20th. The finalists' names are public, however the winners are not revealed until the evening itself.

This year's 23 finalists come from across the province, and represent businesses as diverse as a dog daycare in Winnipeg, a salon and spa from Brandon, a fitness facility in Morden and of course, a flower/scrapbooking supplies/gift /café store *in Rosburn*.

In 2007, Kelly Hunter decided to make her dreams a reality by purchasing a flower business, a heritage building and creating Gone Scrappin' In Bloom. Located inside a unique 1939 heritage general store in Rosburn, it offers fresh flowers, scrapbooking supplies, gifts, locally made items and specialty café. With a background in hospitality, tourism and marketing, Kelly continues to build the business through good service, unique products and innovative promotions. Kelly resides in town with her husband, Brett and their 3 young children. "As a wife, mother and business owner, it's a busy life but I am living the life I have always imagined!" says Hunter regarding her venture.

"Manitoba has some amazing women entrepreneurs whose stories are inspiring," said Christine Dubyts, President of WBOM and owner of Dubyts Communications Inc. "Anyone in business knows how tough it can be to keep that entrepreneurial spirit alive when the bills are mounting and the challenges exceed the triumphs – but when you believe in your business, in the vision you're realizing, your passion fuels your strength to carry on. The Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award is an exceptional evening of celebration and fun that recognizes outstanding achievements by women in business in our province."

Women represent a growing economic force in Canada:

Women entrepreneurs are one of the fastest growing segments of the Canadian economy: 4 out of 5 businesses are started by women; between 1991 and 2001, women's self-employment increased by 43%.

The 821,000+ women entrepreneurs in Canada annually contribute in excess of \$18 billion to the economy.

The number of women-owned businesses that focus on manufacturing, construction, transportation and communications is growing rapidly.

Tickets for the Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Award dinner are \$99 plus GST until April 30th and \$149 plus GST from May 1st to 18th and are available online at www.wbom.ca or by calling 775-7981.

A full listing of finalists is available online at www.wbom.ca.

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