

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, December 17, 2009: Mayor Kathleen Chroback, along with the City Planner, Mary Jane Thomas traveled to the State House on Friday, December 11th to accept the first ever “Governor’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Preservation of Indiana’s Historic Places”. The award recognized the rehabilitation of the historic train depot, now know as Central Station Plaza.

The award was presented to the City by Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, during Indiana’s 193rd birthday, Statehood Day Celebration. Two other awards were presented: the Governor’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Preservation of Indiana’s Historic Records to John Newman of Brookville and the Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Teaching of History to Debra Shields of Poston Road Elementary School in Martinsville.

Central Station Plaza now serves as the offices for the Greater La Porte Chamber of Commerce, the Greater La Porte Economic Development Corporation and Leadership La Porte County. The Executive Director for the Chamber, Mike Seitz was at the ceremony for the presentation of the award. The Troyer Group, the project engineering firm, represented by John Leszczynski., Kent Schumacher and Ed Kowalczyk attended the ceremony as well.

Mayor Chroback stated, “This is such a great honor for many reasons, one, to be the first recipient of this award and two, to be recognized for the tremendous amount of effort that went into this project. Five different administrations, with Four different Mayors and Councils, everyone contributed in some way to keeping this project together until finally it was able to be completed. Believe me, it was almost to the point of no return when the final pieces started to fall into place. I feel privileged to have been a part of this project almost from the beginning, first as a Councilwoman and then to see it progress and come to completion as Mayor. A great deal of credit goes to our City Planner, Mary Jane Thomas. She was literally the glue that held this project together. I dare say, it would not have been completed without her dedication to the project.”

See photo below



Picture of **Mayor Chrobak** and the award, alongside: (on her right) **James A. Glass**, Director of the Historic Preservation and Archaeology Division of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources and (on her left) Indiana Senator **James W. Merritt, Jr.**