



EMBARGOED UNTIL 2PM, MONDAY APRIL 25, 2005

Baylake Bank Named Door County Industry of the Year

Monday, April 25, 2005

The Door County Economic Development Corporation announced today that Baylake Bank is the winner of the Door County Industry of the Year Award. The announcement came during the DCEDC annual investors meeting at Stone Harbor Resort & Conference Center in Sturgeon Bay.

Baylake Bank, a state chartered banking corporation whose first charter was granted in 1876, was known as Bank of Sturgeon Bay for much of its history. The Bank of Sturgeon Bay evolved in Door County over the course of many generations until 1994, when a strategic decision was made to aggressively grow the company beyond the geographic boundaries of Door County. The name was then changed to Baylake Bank to more accurately reflect the proposed growth areas of the lakeshore and Green Bay.

Through branching, acquisitions and mergers with other organizations, Baylake Bank has grown from eight financial centers in 1994 to twenty-seven in 2004, when its latest location was completed in West De Pere. The bank is currently building their largest and most ambitious facility to date, the 30,000 square foot Baylake City Center in downtown Green Bay, scheduled to open in June of this year.

In 1994, Baylake Bank had just over 100 employees. Throughout its 27 community financial centers, the bank now employs 340 people. Baylake Bank has grown to \$1 Billion in assets and \$750 Million in loans, and currently serves the counties of Door, Brown, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Outagamie, Waupaca and Waushara.

The Baylake Bank motto is "Helping Build the Good Life," based on the company's commitment to their customers and their communities, and doing what's right to contribute to and help create a better quality of life in Door County and Northeast Wisconsin.

"We are pleased to recognize Baylake Bank for their continued strong presence as an anchor of the Door County business community, and to salute the tremendous regional growth they have enjoyed and will continue to enjoy for many years to come," said DCEDC Executive Director Bill Chaudoir.

This year marks the 32nd year of the Door County Industry of the Year Award, first presented by the Door County Chamber of Commerce in 1973. The Door County Industry of the Year Award recognizes a construction, service or manufacturing business that has made a substantial impact on the community and enjoyed significant accomplishments during the past year. Last year's award winner was Bay Shipbuilding Company. Other recent winners of the Industry of the Year Award include Door County Memorial Hospital, Portside Properties, Hatco Corporation and Albert's Plastering.

Founded in 1989, the Door County Economic Development Corporation is a public/private partnership dedicated to improving the economic vitality of the county and its residents. Door County Economic Development Corporation is located within the small business incubator DCEDC founded in 1997 at 185 East Walnut Street, Sturgeon Bay. For more information, please contact DCEDC at (920) 743-3113, on the web at www.doorcountybusiness.com or by email at sam@doorcountybusiness.com.