

First annual Commercial Building Awards a hit, winners announced



Judge's Choice award went to Tseshaht First Nation in Port Alberni. From left: Chris Colclough, Re/Max Mid-Island Realty (nominator); Nene Van Volsen, Tseshaht Director of Operations; Gerry Boyko, Tseshaht Project Manager; George Clutesi, Tseshaht Elected Councillor; Wendy Lewis, with sponsor Meyers Norris Penny; and Alex Cayer, Tseshaht Project Superintendent.

PARKSVILLE, BC – A sell-out of over 200 people packed into the Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre in Parksville, for the first annual Vancouver Island Real Estate Board's (VIREB) Commercial Division Commercial Building Awards.

Commercial Division Chair Jay Cousins, with VIREB, says the winners were chosen from 25 finalists selected from over 50 nominations to the first-ever commercial event.

"We were really thrilled with the turn-out and the enthusiasm for this event. The caliber of all of the commercial submissions was excellent and we believe everyone is a winner for taking part," he says, noting finalists and winners came from all VIREB zones, including Campbell River, Comox Valley, Cowichan Valley, Parksville-Qualicum Beach, Port Alberni, the West Coast and Nanaimo.

To be eligible for nomination, an investment, commercial or industrial building, development or renovation projects had to have been completed between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007.

A team of independent judges, selected from the professional and development industries but not members of the Commercial Division, made the selections.

The Judge's Choice Award, selected from the nine Awards of Excellence winners, went to Tseshaht First Nation in Port Alberni, for their new 16,000 sq. ft administration building on traditional ground overlooking the Somass River.

Tseshaht Chief Councilor, Les Sam welcomes the recognition. "We can all be proud that our house of governance is being recognized. The recognition will only enhance opportunities for our Nation as we continue to move forward with community and economic development activities."

Winners of the Award of Excellence, Award of Merit and Finalist Awards in the nine categories are:

- Commercial Renovation/Restoration: Gusola Block in Nanaimo (Award of Excellence) and the Lantzville District Offices (Award of Merit).
- Community Institutional: Tseshaht First Nation in Port Alberni (Award of Excellence), Ladysmith RCMP Station (Award of Merit) and the Faculty of Management Centre at Malaspina University-College in Nanaimo (Award of Merit).
- Community Seniors Housing: Berwick Manor in Comox (Award of Excellence), Kiwanis Soroptomists Suites in Nanaimo (Award of Merit), Ironwood Place in Campbell River (Award of Merit), Nanaimo Seniors Village (Finalist Award).
- Hospitality (including hotel/tourist accommodation): Old House Village Suites & Hotel in Courtenay (Award of Excellence), Pipers Pub in Nanaimo (Finalist award).
- Industrial: Delinea Place in Nanaimo (Award of Excellence), Inland Kenworth in Nanaimo (Award of Merit), and Cap-It Campbell River (Finalist Award).
- Mixed Use: Comox Quay II in Comox (Award of Excellence) and Gian Place in Duncan (Award of Merit).
- Multi Family Apartment: Trumpeter's Landing in Courtenay (Award of Excellence).
- Multi Family Townhouse: Quail's Gate in Ladysmith (Award of Excellence), Millstone Stationhouse in Nanaimo (Award of Merit), Creekside Commons Cohousing in Courtenay (Award of Merit), Woodbridge Estates in Nanaimo (Finalist Award) and Rockland Place in Duncan (Finalist Award).
- Retail: Uplands Business Centre in Nanaimo (Award of Excellence), Starbucks in Campbell River (Finalist Award) and Boston Pizza in Parksville (Finalist Award).

Adds Cousins: "As a Commercial Division, we really wanted to find a way to come together and recognize and honour the best in commercial building north of the Malahat on Vancouver Island."

Joining title sponsor Meyers Norris Penny, category sponsors included RBC Commercial Lending, Impact Visual Communications, Safety Net Security, Business Development Bank of Canada, Nanaimo Daily News, Western Investor and Business Vancouver Island, which is the event coordinator.

About VIREB's Commercial Division: The Commercial Division of VIREB, now into its 3rd year, is dedicated to: the advancement of excellence in commercial development; providing access to Canadian and provincial online commercial networks (such as ICX.ca and clslink.ca); and promoting the expertise of the commercial division to members of the public.

Commercial Division members handle industrial, multi family, retail and commercial needs of their clients.

For more information, contact

VIREB Commercial Division Chair Jay Cousins, (250) 751-1223
VIREB Communications Coordinator Drew Harris (250) 390-4212

Drew Harris

Communications & Government Relations Coordinator
Vancouver Island Real Estate Board
(ph) 250-390-4212, fx) 250-390-5014
dharris@vireb.com www.vireb.com