



FOR IMMEDIATE MEDIA RELEASE
March 5, 2009

2008 REALTOR® of the Year & REALTORS® Care Awards winners announced at gala



<Cutline group photo on left> REALTORS® Care Award winners, from left, Jim Hoffman and Subhadra Ghose; from right, John Tillie and Coast Capital Savings representative Lisa De Leeuw surround REALTOR® of the Year Roy Grant (middle)

<Cutline photo on right> 2008 REALTOR® of the Year Roy Grant (left) receives award from Coast Capital Savings representative Lisa De Leeuw

NANAIMO, BC – The Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) announced the 2008 REALTOR® of the Year and winners of the 2008 REALTORS® Care Awards, at a gala banquet held February 26, 2009 at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo.

Campbell River/North Island REALTOR® **Roy Grant** was named both REALTOR® of the Year and a REALTOR® Care Award winner for 2008. Also winning Care awards were Cowichan Valley REALTOR® **John Tillie**, Nanaimo REALTOR® **Subhadra Ghose** and Parksville/Qualicum REALTOR® **Jim Hoffman**.

“I was absolutely humbled,” Grant explained following the event. “There were other very worthy REALTOR® Care Award nominees in the running from other zones, who have contributed significantly to their communities and could also have been chosen.”

The REALTORS® Care Awards are among the highest honours VIREB can bestow on its members, evolving with the longstanding REALTOR® of the Year program. Following a call for nominations that closed in December, 2008, REALTORS® Care Award winners are identified from VIREB’s six zones by an independent panel of judges. The VIREB REALTOR® of the Year was also selected from the entire list of nominees.

The awards criteria saw the judges considering nominated REALTORS® for their industry success as well as dedication to excellence that had a profound influence on the quality of life in the communities they serve and an influence on the professional image of Vancouver Island REALTORS®.

“When I heard that a few of the REALTORS® in my office were putting together a nomination. I was quite honoured that they felt I should be recognized for my community efforts,” Grant said. “I am proud to be a REALTOR® and a member of VIREB.”

Grant has been a successful licensed REALTOR® for 19 years. He is a past Director of VIREB. He is on his third term elected to the City of Campbell River Council, a past President and past Director of the Campbell River Chamber of Commerce, Vice-chair of the new Strathcona Regional District Board and he is currently the President of the North Island 9-1-1 Corporation.

One significant accomplishment of this REALTOR® of the Year winner was his efforts in securing a duplex lot at no cost to the Habitat for Humanity organization in Campbell River. He has also earned an award for officiating over 3,000 ice hockey games.

On the biographies of the other REALTORS® Care Award winners: **Jim Hoffman** in Parksville/Qualicum has been a licensed REALTOR® for 22 years. He is a past President of VIREB, having spent 14 years in various Board positions, and has spent 32 years volunteering with the Parksville Lions Club. He is a Past Lions Club President, and President-Elect of the Parksville Curling Club.

“I was very surprised to be named. It was great to be in that exclusive company,” Hoffman said. “It’s great to be appreciated. Just being nominated was a big thrill.”

In Nanaimo, **Subhadra Ghose** has been a licensed REALTOR® for 19 years. She has been involved with VIREB since 2002 and is the immediate Past President for 2008. Ghose is a Director of the Vancouver Island University “Sangeet-Mala” music program, a member of Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce, the Nanaimo International Folk Festival Society, the Multicultural Society and many other worthy causes.

“I am still in shock. Overwhelmed, deeply touched and happy,” she said. “I encourage every REALTOR® to do their part, do some community work and give back to the community. My community is always so good to me, so I always felt I should give back.”

The Cowichan Valleys’ **John Tillie** has been a licensed REALTOR® for almost 29 years. He is a past President of VIREB, President-elect of the BC Real Estate Association, sat on Queen of Angels School Board, and has also coached minor hockey and baseball.

“I am humbled to be included in this group of award winners and Past Presidents. It is an honor to receive a REALTORS® Care Award,” he explained, “but the real reward is simply the involvement and

responsibility that all of our award winners have accepted to be an active participant in their communities.”

A final thought on the event, from the 2008 REALTOR® of the Year: “I will continue to volunteer my time and effort to make my community a better place for all of us and will continue to help those who have difficulty helping themselves,” Grant said.

Major event sponsor Coast Capital Savings is Canada’s second largest credit union with total assets under administration of \$11.9 billion, 380,000 members and 51 branches in the Metro Vancouver, Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island regions of British Columbia. The credit union was named one of BC’s Top 50 Employers in 2009, is one of Canada’s 50 Best Managed Companies and the recipient of the Canadian Co-operative Association Innovations in Co-operative Governance Award. To learn more, visit www.coastcapitalsavings.com.

VIREB represents approximately 1,100 licensed REALTOR® members in more than 85 member offices on Vancouver Island (north of Victoria).

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