



COMMERCIAL DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 12, 2008



Photo Cutline: "Jay Cousins, Chair of the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board's Commercial Division."

Flood of nominations received for Commercial Building Awards

NANAIMO, BC – Organizers of the first annual Vancouver Island Real Estate Board's (VIREB) Commercial Division Commercial Building Awards report over 50 individual nominations have been received for the April 17 Gala Event at Parksville's Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre.

"The number of nominations far exceeds expectations. We're absolutely thrilled," says Jay Cousins of RE/MAX of Nanaimo, Chair of VIREB's Commercial Division, noting nominations closed February 29, 2008.

"This is about twice as many as we thought we'd have for our first time event. And the quality of the entrants is awesome."

Chartered Accountant firm Meyers Norris Penny is the title sponsor of the event, with RBC Commercial Lending, Impact Visual Communications, Safety Net Security and the Business Development Bank of Canada sponsoring categories.

"We're very, very pleased with the level of interest in our first Commercial Building Awards," says Cousins. "The nominations have come from all over the territory covered by VIREB. We've received them from Campbell River, the Comox Valley, Cowichan Valley, Parksville-Qualicum Beach, Port Alberni, the West Coast and Nanaimo.

"From what we've seen already, the judges are going to have a difficult time making decisions about which projects are the best, because they're all very, very good."

There are seven categories:

- Commercial Renovation/Restoration
- Community (including Seniors Housing)
- Hospitality (including hotel/tourist accommodation)
- Industrial
- Multi Family
- Office
- Retail

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

Nomination criteria required a building or renovation project to complement the surrounding properties and area, be esthetically pleasing, include unique architectural features, and answer a specific development need within the community. The level of finish and choice in construction materials will also be a determining factor for the panel of independent judges, selected at large from the professional and development community.

Nominees will be featured in a souvenir program.

“The success of the Georgie Awards has been well documented, and we have challenged ourselves to meet those high standards with the VIREB Commercial Building Awards,” says Cousins.

“We expect the event to be a sell-out, and an evening to remember for all who participate.”

Tickets are \$75 for the event, and reservations are quickly filling up. To inquire about an award limited number of event sponsorships or reserve tickets to the event, email Mark MacDonald at Business Vancouver Island at: mark@businessvi.ca.

- 30 -

For more information, contact

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

For Sponsorship or ticket reservations, contact event coordinator Mark MacDonald at either (250) 758-2684 or mark@businessvi.ca