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Vancouver Island Real Estate Board's second annual Commercial Building Awards

PARKSVILLE, BC - The second annual **Vancouver Island Real Estate Board's Commercial Building Awards** were a resounding success before a packed house at **Tigh Na Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre**.

InSight Developments of Nanaimo won Excellence Awards in the Mixed Use - Commercial-Residential category for **Hawthorne Corner**, and Senior's Housing for **Origin at Longwood**.

The City of Nanaimo's **Port of Nanaimo Centre** won the Judge's Choice Award for best overall entry, as well as the Excellence Award for Community Institutional.

Other Excellence Award winners were **The Ridge Phase II** of Ucluelet in Multi Family, the **Van Isle Veterinary Clinic** in Courtenay in Commercial/Retail, E.N.G. Sheet Metal Ltd.'s Warehouse Renovation in Courtenay in Industrial, the Meyers Norris Penny building in Nanaimo for Commercial Renovation/Restoration, the building at 125 Wallace Street in Nanaimo for Office, and **Black Rock Oceanfront Resort** in Ucluelet for Hospitality.



Commercial Building Awards, Winner of the Judge's Choice Award for best overall entry was won by the City of Nanaimo's Port of Nanaimo Centre. *Pictured left to right: Dave Hammond, Vice Chair, VIREB Commercial Council; Lucie Gosselin, Managing Partner, Meyers Norris Penny, Vancouver Island; John Ruttan, Mayor, City of Nanaimo; Ted Swabey, General Manager, Development Services Dept., City of Nanaimo; Jay Cousins, Past Chair, VIREB Commercial Council*

"The judges had a very difficult time making decisions about this group of nominations," says Event Chair **Jay Cousins**. "The Vancouver Island construction industry can take a bow for the fine work they produce each year.

There were over 30 finalists in the awards, representing properties north of the Malahat on Vancouver Island to Port Hardy, including Tofino and Ucluelet.

Meyers Norris Penny LLP Chartered Accountants & Business Advisors was the title sponsor of the event, with **Terasen Gas**, the **Business Development Bank of Canada**, **RBC Royal Bank**, and **Concept Photography** sponsoring categories at the gala.

“MNP is proud to support the Commercial Building Awards for the second straight year,” says **Wendy Lewis**, a partner with presenting sponsor MNP. “It’s our way of paying tribute to the commercial building sector and the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board for all the great work they do throughout the year.

“Not only are successful builders and developers important economic drivers for our local communities, but the commercial buildings they create also make the Island a better place to live and work.”

Nanaimo Mayor **John Ruttan** said “I was extremely impressed with the high calibre of architecture and design style evident in new building projects all over the Island, and of course I was quite proud that the Port of Nanaimo Centre received the Judges Award in its category.

“**Stantec Architecture**, **ITC Construction**, and the City project team deserve high praise for the work they did on the Centre, as well as all the other contractors and workers who had a hand in the project.”

Other awards and finalists, by category, were:

Mixed Use: *Award of Merit* - **The Portside** of Comox. *Finalist*: **The Moorage** of Ucluelet.

Senior’s Housing: *Finalist* - **New Horizons Care Facility** of Campbell River.

Multi-Family: *Award of Merit* - **Eaglewood at Qualicum Beach**. *Finalists*: **Creektrail Properties** of Duncan, **The Gales** of Ladysmith, **Marine Vista** of Nanaimo, and **Pacific Grande** of Parksville.

Community Institutional - *Award of Merit* - **Oliver Woods Community Centre** of Nanaimo. *Honorable Mention*: **Cowichan Valley Regional District’s** Trans Canada Trail - Glenora Staging Area in Duncan, **Fire Station #4** in Nanaimo.

Commercial/Retail - *Award of Merit* - **Country Grocer** in Nanaimo. *Finalists*: **Shoppers Drug Mart** in Comox, **Courtenay Toyota**.

Industrial - *Award of Merit* - **2459 Cousins Avenue** in Courtenay. *Honorable Mention*: **Shellbren Industrial Business Centre** in Nanaimo. *Finalist* - **Wash Me On Ludlow** in Ladysmith.

Commercial Renovation/Restoration - *Finalist* - **Pioneer Home Hardware Building Centre in Elmwood Park Plaza** in Campbell River.

Hospitality - *Finalists* - **Old House Village Hotel & Spa** in Courtenay, **Oceanside Village Resort II** in Parksville, and **Fourteen Thirty One at Cox Bay Tofino**.

Affordable Housing - *Honorable Mention* - **Tin Wis Staff Housing** in Tofino.

Island Westcoast Developments Ltd. and **Windley Contracting** of Nanaimo had three of their projects honored during the evening.

To be eligible for nomination, investment, commercial or industrial building, development or renovation projects located within the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board area (Mill Bay to Port Hardy, including Tofino- Ucluelet) had to have been completed between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008.

A video presentation of the awards can be seen at <http://www.conceptphoto.ca/vireb> . For photos of individual winners please contact VIREB.

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

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