



COMMERCIAL DIVISION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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

## **Interest pouring in for Van Island Commercial Building Awards**

NANAIMO, BC - There is plenty of interest from the construction community for the first ever **Vancouver Island Real Estate Board's Commercial Building Awards**.

That's not surprising, since the VIREB territory covers from the Malahat north to Port Hardy, and almost every jurisdiction has new commercial or industrial development in the past two years.

**Tigh Na Mara Seaside Spa Resort & Conference Centre** is the site of the April 17 event, as organizers project a sell-out. Chartered Accounting firm **Meyers Norris Penny** is one of the main sponsors of the event.

"We've already had strong interest from people who have indicated they're submitting their buildings in the competition," says **Jay Cousins** of **RE/MAX of Nanaimo**, Chair of VIREB's Commercial Division.

"Just going by the developments they represent, the panel of judges is going to have a difficult time choosing a clear cut winner."

Entries for the awards themselves can be from 2007 and 2006, since this is the first annual program.

"The feedback we're receiving is very positive, as people appreciate the fact we're taking the time to recognize excellence in commercial construction," says Cousins. "It's about time we did this, and showcase the talent that lives, works and builds on Vancouver Island."

There are seven categories:

- Commercial Renovation/Restoration

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

Deadline for nominations is February 29, 2008.

Nomination applications now available, and can be downloaded from VIREB's website: [www.vireb.com](http://www.vireb.com), or by calling event coordinator **Business Vancouver Island** at 1-866-758-2684, or emailing them at [info@businessvi.ca](mailto:info@businessvi.ca)

To be eligible, a building or renovation project must meet the following criteria:

- Is it located within the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board area?
- Does it complement the surrounding properties and area?
- Is it esthetically pleasing?
- Are their unique architectural features?
- What is the level of finish (choice in construction materials)?
- Does it answer a specific development need within the community?
- Was it completed between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007?

A panel of independent judges, selected at large by VIREB's Commercial Division, will consider each nomination, look at the overall exterior design of the project, and determine how each fits into the surrounding area. Once all sites are evaluated, the judges will decide the winners.

“When the winners put their awards in their offices, it will be a strong confirmation of their accomplishments,” says Cousins. “Having ‘award winning builder’ beside their name certainly won’t hurt them when it comes to marketing their next projects.”

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For more information, contact

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