

## News Release

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LONDON – January 8, 2010

### **Don Smith Commercial Building Award contenders named**

The Regional Commercial Council of the London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR) has named the fifteen contenders for the first Don Smith Commercial Building Awards, sponsored by CB Richard Ellis ,Filogix, and TD Commercial Banking.

To be eligible, properties must fit into one of the following categories: Commercial (including retail and office buildings); Industrial; Institutional (community); or Multi-family. They must also be located within LSTAR's jurisdiction of Middlesex and Elgin Counties and must have been completed between January 2007 and June 2009.

The contenders in Commercial are:

- Citi Plaza, 355 Wellington Street;
- Tepperman's Retail, Showroom and Distribution Centre, 1150 Wharncliffe Road South;
- Westwood Centre – Pad 11, 3075 Wonderland Road South;
- Wharncliffe Retail Plaza, 275 Wharncliffe Road North; and
- 1040 Wharncliffe Road South.

In the Industrial category are the following properties:

- CEVA London, 15745 Robin's Hill Road;
- Hanwha L&C Canada, 2860 Innovation Drive;
- Highbury Business Park, 1425 Max Brose Drive;
- Roxburgh Business Park – Phase 1, 2800 Roxburgh Road

Falling into the Institutional or Community category are:

- Matthews Hall Addition, 1370 Oxford Street West;
- Salvation Army Children's Village, 1340 Dundas St.;
- Sisters of St. Joseph New Residence, 485 Windermere Road; and
- UWO Student Recreation Centre, 1151 Richmond St. North.

There are two contenders for the Multi-family award, both high-rise luxury rental properties located in the heart of London's downtown: The Harriston, 500 Ridout Street North and The Renaissance, 71 King St.

The properties will be judged on how sensitive they are to the environment; on design and innovation; and on the extent to which they meet a specific developmental need within the community.

“When we undertook this Awards program, our intention was to recognize and reward excellence in commercial building in our Association's jurisdiction,” comments RCC Chair Mike Jakupi. “However, I don't think any of us realized just how much there really was to celebrate. The quality of the projects under consideration is truly impressive and that, in and of itself, is reason to celebrate.”

A distinguished panel of judges, comprised of respected industry leaders in the community, will determine the winners. The panel includes:

- Bill Code, *Professor Emeritus and Founding Director, Urban Development Program, The University of Western Ontario;*
- Gerry Macartney, *CEO/General Manager, London Chamber of Commerce;*
- John Fleming, *Manager of Land Use Planning City of London;*
- Paul Berton, *Editor-in-Chief, The London Free Press; and*
- Peter Whatmore, *Senior Vice President, CB Richard Ellis.*

The winners of the Don Smith Commercial Building Awards will be announced Wednesday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, during a reception at the London Club from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. Tickets can be purchased for \$25 by e-mailing Megan Silk at [megan@lstar.ca](mailto:megan@lstar.ca) or by calling 519.641.1400.

The Association's jurisdiction includes Middlesex and Elgin Counties, home to nearly 500,000 residents. An average of \$46,400 is spent in additional expenditure per real estate transaction in Canada. For the average of 480,120 homes processed annually through MLS® systems in Canada during the period between 2006 and 2008, spending attributable to moving totaled over \$22.3 billion per year – a significant contribution to the total Canadian economy. REALTORS® believe healthy communities depend on a strong economy, safe neighborhoods, a clean environment, access to housing and the protection of rights of property owners. The Multiple Listing Service® is a cooperative marketing system used only by Canada's real estate boards and associations to ensure maximum exposure of properties for sale. All of LSTAR's listings may be found on the public website at [www.REALTOR.ca](http://www.REALTOR.ca).