

First Don Smith Commercial Building Award Program a great success

The winners of the first Don Smith Commercial Building Awards, established by the Regional Commercial Council (RCC) of the London and St. Thomas Association of REALTORS® (LSTAR), and sponsored by CB Richard Ellis, Filogix and TD Canada Trust Commercial Group, were announced on February 3, 2010 to a capacity crowd at the London Club. According to RCC Chair **Mike Jakupi**, RCC Chair, the awards program was established, “to recognize, reward and celebrate excellence and innovation in commercial building right here at home.”

The program was named after **Don Smith**, legendary co-founder of Ellis-Don, a world-renowned construction company with London roots. “Don Smith is a remarkable man,” says Jakupi, “a titan of industry and a pillar of his community. When faced with a biography like his, the question was not, ‘Who should we name the award in honour of?’ but ‘How could we name it after anyone else?’” No stranger to awards himself, Smith has the distinction of having received the National Benefactor Award, the Giffen Award, the Human Relations Award and the prestigious Order of Canada in the course of a life conspicuous for its public service.

To be eligible, properties had to be within LSTAR’s jurisdiction and completed between January 2007 and June 2009. The fifteen entrants were judged by a distinguished Panel of Judges comprised of **Bill Code**, Associate Professor and Director, Urban Development Program, UWO; **Gerry McCartney**, 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, CBRE.

The criteria used by the Judges included how environmentally sensitive the individual buildings were; design and innovation; and the extent to which they met a specific developmental need within the broader community. The entrants were. . . .

In Commercial:

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

In Industrial:

- 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

In Institutional:

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

In Multi-family:

- The Harriston, 500 Ridout Street North;
- The Renaissance, 71 King Street.

The winners announced on February 3 were:

- Best Commercial Renovation – Citi Plaza, 355 Wellington Street;
- Best Commercial New Build – Tepperman's Retail, Showroom and Distribution Centre, 1150 Wharnclyffe Road South;
- Best Institutional – Sisters of St. Joseph New Residence, 485 Windermere Road;
- Best Industrial – Hanwha L&C Canada, 2860 Innovation Drive; and
- Best Multi-family – The Renaissance, 71 King Street.

Also present at the event were **Richard Thyssen**, 2010 LSTAR President, Members of the RCC Executive, **Greg Harris**, the incoming Chair of Ontario Commercial Council of the Ontario Real Estate Association (OREA) as well as **Phil Nanavati**, current Ontario Commercial Council Chair, and from the Canadian Real Estate Association, **Bonnie Prior**, Manager of the Canadian Commercial Council.

Don Smith, his wife **Joan Smith** and daughter **Lynn Cram** were also in attendance at the event as the RCC's very special Guests of Honour.