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Home Builder, Green Builders of the Year revealed

When you put 900 type-A personalities from the home building and land development industry into a room, you don't just hear the buzz, you feel it, and the room was definitely buzzing last Friday night at the 27th annual GTHBA-UDI Home Builder Awards.

Over the course of the evening, 44 awards were handed out covering everything from advertising to design to sales to the project and community-based honours.

Cheering sections among the friendly competitors kept the room full of life throughout the evening as large contingents took to the stage to accept the various awards—successful home building is a team effort and it was great to see that spirit of mutual celebration.

BEST HOME BUILDER

Mattamy Homes becomes the second two-time winner of the Home Builder of the Year Award for quality and service from the first point of contact with their home buyers through the post-occupancy phase.

Our survey of Mattamy's home buyers revealed that they had a fabulous experience with their builder. That might explain why Mattamy simultaneously holds the Ontario Home Builder of the Year Award, the top J.D. Power and Associates rating and now, our association's coveted Home Builder of the Year Award.

In accepting the award, Mattamy founder Peter Gilgan thanked all of Mattamy's valued customers, congratulated his staff and all of Mattamy's trade contractors and suppliers. Gilgan complimented all of the finalists and said he was "looking forward to the challenge of the other home builders for the future as we all strive to raise the bar on behalf of our home buyers."

GREEN BUILDERS

The inaugural Green Builders of the Year were Mason Homes (low-rise, and Tridel (high-rise).

Speaking on behalf of Tridel, Jim Ritchie said Tridel was very pleased

to win the inaugural award, adding that it "speaks well for the industry to be taking green seriously."

A surprised Sean Mason said going green was a lot of work and paid tribute to his wife Christine "for being relentless in pushing for such an important issue."

BEST OF BEST

While the winners list featured many of the perennially successful firms, some new names hit the red carpet (actually it was green, for obvious reasons) in dramatic fashion, including TAS Design Build with 4 awards including Best Community Development, high-rise and Best Building Design for M5V, FREED Developments taking Project of the Year, high-rise and two additional awards for 550 Wellington, and Berkley Developments taking 3 low-rise design awards.

The biggest trophy haul on the

night went to Rob Nicolucci of RN Design, who shared in Berkley's three awards as well as New Home Design Awards on behalf of clients Cachet Estate Homes, Eden Oak and Emery Homes.

On the agency roster, Montana Steele Advertising shared in five awards in total, four with client Baywood Homes for Bohemian Embassy.

LA Inc. matched Montana Steele's success sharing five awards with FREED Developments for 550 Wellington, and raised the ante with Lawrence Ayliffe being named the recipient of the prestigious Riley Brethour Award.

Andy Brethour, son of the late Riley, said the award celebrates his father's sense of leadership, creativity and innovation – "it's what he stood for." Speaking of Ayliffe, Brethour said "no one brings it to the table like he does, project after project."

In accepting the award, an emotional Ayliffe shared his gratefulness for all that he has "learned from everyone over the years."

MAGIC MOMENT

The other "magic moment" on the evening was the tribute to GTHBA-UDI staffer Suzanna Cohen, whose final contribution to the association before moving on to a new position was to deliver yet another outstanding awards Show.

Stephen Dupuis, CEO, presented Cohen with a special award for Best Director, Marketing, Communications and Events. In her acceptance remarks, Cohen complimented the staff for "harnessing the strength of the members. This has been an incredible way to top off 8 phenomenal years," Cohen declared.

We celebrated the best of the best and I compliment them all for making the homes we live in better every year!

The complete details of the 2007 Home Builder Awards can be found at gthba.ca.

Bob Finnigan is president of the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association – Urban Development Institute/Ontario



Bob Finnigan



Left to right: GTHBA-UDI President Bob Finnigan, Sean Mason from Mason Homes and Patricia Squires of Enbridge.



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