



News Release

Halifax Regional Municipality Announces the Recipients of the First Annual Capital District Urban Design Awards

(April 27, 2004) - The Halifax Regional Municipality's Capital District held an awards ceremony on Monday, April 26 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, and announced the recipients of the first ever urban Design Awards.

In an effort to showcase and celebrate excellence in design, three categories were identified, including buildings, amenities and open space. Twenty four submissions were received from across the Capital District in all three of those categories. In addition, 120 votes were filled out to designate a "People's Choice" recipient.

"The interest in this awards program has surpassed expectation" says Marion Currie, Program Coordinator for the Capital District. "We anticipated having to run the program over a number of years to receive this level of attention. We were very excited by the level of participation, the quality of the submissions received and the overwhelming response to the People's Choice vote."

Mayor Peter Kelly and CBC Radio host Olga Milosevich presented the Award of Merit to two groups under the Building Category which made up the bulk of the submissions. The first award was presented to the project team of Lydon Lynch Architects, Southwest Properties, Vollick McKee Petersmann and the Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd for Bishop's Landing. The second award was presented to David Garrett for the restoration of 1566 Barrington Street, now home to Up Country. The Honourable Mention in the buildings category was presented to Special Projects Limited for their adaptive reuse of 1341 Brenton Street in Halifax.

The Award of Merit in the Amenities Category was presented to Victor Syperek for the

Economy Shoe Shop's side walk café on Argyle Street. Honourable mention in this category was presented to Atlantic News on Morris Street for their new entrance, innovative signage and door way mural.

The judges presented the Award of Merit in the Open Space category, to the Spring Garden and Area Business Commission for the revitalization of Victoria Park. The Honourable Mention in that category was presented to Vollick McKee Petersmann for South Battery Park at Bishop's Landing.

"The People's Choice Award created a great deal of discussion and debate, which was precisely what we set out to achieve" says Currie. "Staff from the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia stated that people had a hard time choosing the one project which had the greatest over all impact on the Capital District. This speaks to the quality of the projects submitted." In the end, the votes for People's Choice identified the project team of Lydon Lynch Architects, Southwest Properties, Vollick McKee Petersmann and the Waterfront Development Corporation Ltd. for Bishop's Landing.

The HRM hopes this program has provided a foundation for new ideas and a forum for raising public debate and discussion around excellence in design, which is seen as fundamental to the future vision of the region. As the Urban Design Awards are an annual event, the HRM looks forward to viewing the submissions which they hope to receive this time next year.

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