

Local companies go head to head with B.C.'s best at Georgie Awards

RDC FINE HOMES, SCHREYER CONSTRUCTION UP FOR FIVE AWARDS

By Braden Dupuis

Two Whistler construction firms — both perennial contenders on the awards scene — have done it again in 2014.

Both RDC Fine Homes and Schreyer Construction have been named finalists at the 2014 Georgie Awards to be held February 27 in Vancouver.

"It would be great (to win)," said Bob Deeks, owner of RDC Fine Homes.

"It's great publicity and branding, that's for sure. People — more and more as the years go by — seem to respect the Georgie awards."

This year RDC is a finalist for two awards: Best Multi-Family Kitchen and Multi-Family Home Builder of the Year.

RDC is already a six-time Georgie winner.

The annual awards ceremony — owned and produced by the Canadian Home

Builders' Association of British Columbia — is a province-wide celebration of excellence in home building.

Making it to the finals serves as a good indicator for how your company is doing, said Katarina Schreyer of Schreyer Construction.

"It's so competitive... it's for the whole province, and there were like 500 entries this year again, so you have to have really good, strong projects to enter."

This year Schreyer is up for three awards: Best Kitchen Renovation over \$100,000, Best Outdoor Living Space and Best Renovation (Any Room).

All three awards stem from a project Schreyer did on Treetop Lane in Whistler.

"For me it's a little bit of marketing, and measuring how we are doing compared to the big companies in Vancouver and in the lower mainland," Schreyer said.

"It confirms that just because you're a smaller outfit that doesn't mean you cannot do quality."

This is Schreyer Construction's fourth trip to the Georgies, having brought home at least one trophy in each of its prior visits.

For RDC, the streak is going on 10 years.

"More than anything else, that starts to create some stress for me, as you start to

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run that record," Deeks said with a laugh.

"Because you know, if you miss it every once in awhile it doesn't become a

big thing, but now that we've been there consistently probably for 10 years, it's like, 'Wow, this will be really disappointing if we don't make it to the finals.'"

While the thought of potential awards is nice, it doesn't change how the two companies go about their projects.

"The quality is something that we're always focused on," Deeks said.

"The award is a nice sort of feather in your cap, (but) we don't build the quality to get the award."

That being said, Deeks always has his eye open for potential award-winning projects.

"We certainly put a lot of importance around entering something every year, and we try hard to make sure we've got something that we can put forward that we think is a quality project," Deeks said.

"It's very gratifying when we get to the finals, and even more so when we actually have an opportunity to hoist one of the trophies in the air." ■