



GREG AGNEW/TIMES & TRANSCRIPT

LeBlanc Custom Homes Inc. builds many styles of residences, including these condominiums on Rockley Lane, a part of the Mountain Woods at Magnetic Hill development.

# Industry recognizes local building success story

**Builder of the Year Award is high praise, says building association spokeswoman**

BY YVON GAUVIN  
TIMES & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

Builder of the year is the Canadian Home Builders Association's most prestigious award from a builder's perspective and would be a feather in any builder's cap. Sylvio LeBlanc and LeBlanc Custom Homes Inc. of Dieppe have certainly earned that feather, winning the award last year along with two other association recognitions, the membership support award and the energy efficient community award.

The company won the EnerGuide award in 2008 for building the highest number of houses meeting EnerGuide ratings, helping not only the homebuyer save on energy costs, but also helping reduce green gas emissions for years to come.

The Builder of the Year Award recognizes the "outstanding contribution of an individual in the residential construction industry to the advancement of quality housing," and is presented to an active member who "has shown outstanding leadership in construction and who has promoted the Home Builders' Association," says the home building association.

The Energy Efficient Community Award recognizes a builder's and/or developer's "promotion of and commitment to energy efficiency by incorporating energy efficiency as a focal aspect of the communities in which they develop."

The Membership Support Award is given to a builder or renovator who "has used the most CHBA-NB members in the construction or renovation of their project."

LeBlanc Custom Homes employed no less than 35 professionals, trades people and suppliers from within the association for its home construction program in 2008, with owner Sylvio LeBlanc explaining

that these were consistently the best professionals who continue to do excellent work making sure the product is what was requested.

He has his select group which he employs throughout the year assuring continued high quality work and satisfaction.

LeBlanc has been a member of the association since 2006 and is currently vice-president of the Greater Moncton Home Builders Association and a director of the provincial body.

Claudia Simmonds, executive director of the New Brunswick chapter of the Canadian Home Builders Association, praised LeBlanc for his remarkable achievements and "awesome" support of the association and its members as an inspiration to all.

The Moncton local has about 140 members and is the largest of the five association locals in the province.

LeBlanc chose to hire within the association, whether it was concrete finishers, material finishers, siding, just about everything that house building entails, she explained, adding he "has done a lot of the right things" to reach where he is today.

He not only joined the Canadian association but also the Atlantic Home Warranty Program, of which he is a great believer, and continues to attend industry education courses and also volunteer his time and effort for the association, she said. He also saw the importance of energy efficiency right away and immediately got involved.

There are about 40 home builders in the Metro Moncton market making it pretty competitive, and about 100 province-wide.

For Sylvio and wife Josée to reach the stage where they are now in 10 years' time is impressive, she said.

As for the housing market, Simmonds wasn't quite ready to guess the future without a crystal ball. However, she believes the province is doing very well at the moment in comparison with other parts of the country.

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