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November 3, 2015

## **Pearl Award Winners**

### **“Celebrating Excellence”**

MOUNT PEARL, NL - The 2015 Pearl Awards for Urban Design and Gardens Ceremony was hosted in Council Chambers at City Hall in Mount Pearl on Tuesday, November 3, 2015. At the ceremony, three awards and four honourable mentions were presented by Council.

The Honourable Steve Kent, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and Community Services, Minister Responsible for the Office of Public Engagement, and MHA for Mount Pearl North, joined members of Council in participating in the awards ceremony.

### **Pearl Awards for Gardens**

**Winner** of the Pearl Award of Excellence for Gardens was:

➤ **9 Chancery Place**

This garden beautifully combines aesthetics with function. Every inch of space is attractively designed, with areas dedicated to evening entertaining or day-time relaxing. Extensive ornamental beds and urban agriculture, with a variety of edible fruits and vegetables, complete this garden.

**Certificates of Honourable Mention** for Gardens were awarded to:

➤ **32 Hounsell Avenue**

The beautifully landscaped front garden of this property, with its colourful variety of plants and attractive garden sculptures, matching fence and shutters, create a rustic yet urban aesthetic to be enjoyed by all who pass by.

➤ **13 Rideau Place**

The unique details of the front garden and veranda of this home are rarely if ever seen in our northern city. The plants splash the property with exquisite colour and form, while the veranda's fabric, furniture and flowers create a serene place to observe and reflect.

### **Pearl Awards for Urban Design and Green Lens**

**Winner** of Pearl Award of Excellence for Urban Design was:

➤ **Reddy Kilowatt Credit Union – 885 Topsail Road**

The unique design of the building positively contributes to the existing urban landscape. The unique building form stands out amongst other buildings along Topsail Road and represents innovation in design. There is excellent attention to detail in design throughout the building, both interior and exterior. The development enhances the overall visual quality of the area. The high quality of materials utilized represents a dedication to long-term sustainability.

**Winner** of Pearl Award of Excellence in the Green Lens category was:

➤ **Reddy Kilowatt Credit Union – 885 Topsail Road**

The project implemented many green initiatives including geothermal heat pumps, LED lighting and energy efficient glazing. Very innovative building design, particularly the angled drive through. Many windows in the building provide natural daylight to each office and create a sense of security for the parking area. Several innovative design solutions: Rip rap basin to capture runoff from the sloped roof; terraced parking lots address the need for parking on a sloped site; and vegetable oil elevator hydraulics.

**Certificate of Honourable Mention** in the Urban Design category was awarded to:

➤ **Commonwealth Court – 50 Commonwealth Avenue**

Significant effort to improve the building's context within the community. Reduced building footprint to improve vehicle circulation illustrates a dedication to safety. Narrowing of the parking lot reduces asphalt and provides an enhanced landscape median along the street edge. Widened, covered sidewalks with façade lighting promote pedestrian activity along the storefronts. The façade of the building has been refreshed significantly and fits the context of the area.

**Certificate of Honourable Mention** in the Green Lens category was awarded to:

➤ **O'Neill Infiniti Motors – 912-924 Topsail Road**

Excellent example of adaptive reuse; utilized parts of the existing building in the new renovation. An innovative design solution given the derelict nature of the former building, a definite improvement over what was there. Have created a comfortable working environment for employees. Several innovative design solutions such as LED lighting and occupancy sensors. Integrated systems for disposal of waste liquids represents a dedication to environmental stewardship.

Certificates of Participation were presented to all applicants and nominees, and all submissions were celebrated via a visual display on-screen and at the reception following the presentation.

The City wishes to recognize partners in the 2015 Pearl Awards Program: The Newfoundland and Labrador Branch of the Atlantic Planners Institute; The Newfoundland and Labrador Association of Architects; and the Atlantic Provinces Association of Landscape Architects.

"We are pleased to celebrate continuous quality improvement in urban design and gardens in Mount Pearl," said Mayor Randy Simms, "and it is also inspiring to see the increase in innovative and environmentally sustainable developments".

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## **Backgrounder**

The Pearl Awards for Urban Design Program was initiated by the City of Mount Pearl in 2005 to promote excellence in urban design in Mount Pearl, enhance the quality of life and aesthetics in the City through architectural and landscape architectural design, and recognize the designers, developers, and property owners who have achieved success in urban design projects in Mount Pearl. In 2007, the awards program was expanded to two categories: Urban Design and Gardens. The Pearl Awards for Gardens program promotes excellence in floral display, tidiness, turf and ground cover quality, streetscape beautification, and environmental awareness.

In 2014, the City has added a new category, the Green Lens Awards, to celebrate property and business owners who are implementing green initiatives and innovative sustainable design solutions.

The deadline for applications/nominations was Friday, July 17, 2015. A Nominations Committee was established for the Urban Design component of the awards. A total of 11 nominations were evaluated by an independent jury for the Pearl Awards for Urban Design and in the Green Lens Category; and the independent jury for the Pearl Awards for Gardens evaluated 3 residential properties.