

# DOERING BUILDING GROUP WINS BIG

Three Tommie Awards for Vernon builder

**D**oering Building Group Inc. in Vernon is a big winner. In 2012, after entering the Canadian Home Builders Association Tommie awards for the first time, the company walked away with three awards. This year, company owner Harry Doering, repeated his success by again taking home three top Tommies in the categories:

*Excellence in Master Suite Single Family Dwelling between \$350K – \$750K Edgewater*

*Best Urban Infill – Commercial*  
*Best Commercial Retail*

Doering, who moved to Vernon from Ontario in 2011, said, “I’m pretty delighted with that.”

The master suite, in a spec house overlooking Kalamalka Lake, is expansive and spa-like. The bathroom adjoins the bedroom with its lake views and large walk-in closet.

“The ensuite also has a view overlooking the lake,” Doering said. “We have heated, tile floors, a soaker tub right below the window looking out on the lake, and there’s a large walk-in shower, at least six feet in length. It’s the type of place where you can get quite comfortable and pamper yourself. It’s a place where you can enjoy a retreat in your own home.”

The other two Tommies were for the same project: a 7,000 sq. ft. professional doctor’s office building at 27<sup>th</sup> Street near 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue.

“It’s a great location,” Doering said, noting that prior to construction the area had several neglected homes. Since construction completed, two other developments have broken ground and a third is about to get under way.

“It stimulated a significant amount of interest for new projects,” Doering said. “I think the building enhances the overall character of the area.”

The building received extensive input from the doctors who were involved right from the concept stage. Doering also worked closely

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**HARRY DOERING**  
OWNER, DOERING BUILDING GROUP INC.



Harry Doering and his wife, Maura, moved to Vernon in 2011



The winning master bath has a spa-like feel

with the building designer to create a building that was architecturally pleasing while also being highly energy efficient. The design incorporates a great deal of glazing to allow natural light to flow into the building. At the same time, the challenge was to prevent overheating in the summer. The building uses passive solar energy and also incorporates energy efficient appliances and hot water on demand.

Doering noted that one of the most pleasing aspects of the building is its extensive use of wood to soften the strong contemporary architectural lines. Throughout the building, an emphasis was placed on high quality materials

that will last, like the standing seam metal roof. Wood accents were also carried on into the interior to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

Doering started his company in Ontario in 1983 but began his career in the trade even before that.

“You could say that I was born into it,” he said, noting that he began working for his mason-contractor father when he was only 13 years old. He apprenticed with his father’s company, went to university, and started building homes when he was 23 years old.

“I really have a love for the building profession,” he said. “It’s so rewarding to have an opportunity to



The medical building uses wood to soften a contemporary exterior



Wood accents and warm colours welcome people into the award-winning medical building

create something. At the end of the day, if you can stand back and be proud of what you put up, that’s a fantastic feeling. That’s what draws me into the business so much.”

Doering began with single-family homes. As a registered builder in Ontario, he garnered his share of awards in that province too. In the 1990s he began answering requests from customers to do design/build projects and became increasingly involved in the condominium and commercial market.

He went on to complete a full gamut of building projects and also worked with the Home Warranty Program with an emphasis on better building practices and industry education.

In 2011, he decided to move his family to Vernon to be closer to his wife’s family. Equally important, he said, was the quality of life the Okanagan has to offer.

“It’s been a fantastic move,” He said. “We couldn’t be happier. Certainly there were challenges.

In Ontario I had excellent trades and suppliers, some of whom I had worked with for 30 years. But I’ve been quite fortunate here that the group of people I’ve worked together with have been very professional and outstanding with regards to the efforts they’ve put in to help me make the vision come true.” In fact, Doering said he couldn’t have won the awards he did without the people he works with.

He said that he hopes to continue building exceptional projects that will hopefully lead to more awards in the future.

“We’ll continue on in the same light. We may not win awards on every single project as we have been doing, but I’m sure that the quality of the work will continue to be there – and that it will improve on everything we work on.”

Doering Building Group Inc. is at 120 Odin Road in Vernon.  
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