

R Parsons Construction Island Retreat up for CARE

By Gandy Miel Writer

VICTORIA - R Parsons Construction Ltd. is going for the gold.

The company's most recent home, *Island Retreat* on Sidney Island, is a finalist for this year's **CARE Awards** in two categories: Best Single Family Custom Home under 3,000 square feet \$1 - \$2 Million and Best Interior.

This is not R Parsons first foray into the CARE Awards. The company has previously garnered two Silvers.

Company owner **Rob Parsons** notes that his current entry is truly unique.

"It was a very special project and a very large project for the company," he says. "And then there's the fact that it's on a remote island with no BC ferry service and, in fact, no ferry service whatsoever. It was challenging logistically just getting things there."

The homeowner had several lots on the island and, on the advice of his architect, chose a south-facing oceanview lot to build his vacation home.

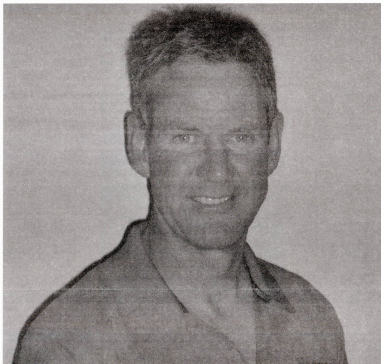
"The elevation and the views certainly made it the first choice to build on," Parsons says.

The home is completely off the grid, relying on solar panels and passive heat gain. As well as being self-sufficient for its power needs, it also has a water harvesting system that takes water off the roof and from other sources.

About 35,000 gallons of water flows in the property in various locations including filtered potable water.

For most people, the uniqueness of the design and the location of the house are striking. An immense terrace in front of the house takes advantage of views that appear endless.

Those same views are the focus indoors through a curved wall of floor to ceiling windows. The curved nature



Rob Parsons, owner of R Parsons Construction Ltd. in Victoria

of the house lends to its beauty but also came with its share of construction challenges, Parsons says, noting that this is the second curving house he has built on Sidney Island.

"After doing the other Sidney Island house we had a lot of ideas and ways to approach the curves that made the job effective and bit easier for us."

He points out that because everything had to be barged

in from Victoria, large curved beams and structural steel posts had to be exactly constructed. A crane also had to be barged to erect those beams.

"There were a lot of extra steps we had to take," he says.

Interior details include engineered rift-cut five-inch-wide White Oak board floors and Pennsylvania Bluestone in the bathrooms and service

rooms. VGDF cabinet fronts complement the granite countertops in the kitchen while elegant glass tile was used in the showers and on the kitchen backsplash.

Parsons started his career in the construction industry in New Zealand in the summer of 1972. The following year he attended a technical college in Auckland and studied various aspects of construction.

After completing an ap-

prenticeship in carpentry and joinery with a small company building architecturally designed custom homes, he worked with a partner building additions, renovations and new homes.

Parsons married a Canadian and travelled with her to Vancouver in 1982 where he worked on framing and concrete in Kitsilano and Shaughnessy. Returning to New Zealand in 1984, he started his

own company building custom houses.

In 1992 he and his family moved back to Canada, this time to Victoria, where he started R Parsons Construction Ltd. He recalls that he made his choice to go into construction very early in his career.

"I've always preferred to work outside," he says. I would rather be on-site than doing the office work. I like construction and I get a lot of satisfaction when I see a finished project and hand the keys over."

He adds that he also likes building relationships with his clients. R Parsons Construction Ltd. is known for high end custom homes and custom renovations. Parsons admits that he is also known as being a stickler for details.

"We give detailed personal attention. I'm probably a pain in the neck sometimes but I want to know exactly what people want and then I always try to be financially responsible and stick to the budget." Generally, R Parsons Construction is hired by architects who then introduce them to the client. Parsons notes that he works closely with both the architects and the clients.

"Communication is the key to completing the project successfully," he says.

R Parsons Construction has been working on Sidney Island for the past several years. Parsons says his next step is to keep stronger bonds in Victoria with architects and clients and to complete more projects on Vancouver Island. Already, he has strong team members in place in Victoria.

"The CARE Awards are helping us get exposure," Parsons says.

R Parsons Construction Ltd. is at 5919 Bear Hill Road in Victoria.

www.rparsonsconstruction.ca

AWARD WINNING KITCHENS AND BATHS
By Dan Johnson Woodworks Ltd.

Proud To Work With Ron Parsons!

New Design or Renovations
Visit Our Showrooms:
211-2011 Midway Ave. SIDNEY
Ph: 250-655-0050
www.danjohnsonwoodworks.com



PEGGY YELLAND & ASSOCIATES INC.
CERTIFIED GENERAL ACCOUNTANT

Congratulations - You're a Finalist!

Call us for all your accounting needs:

250-652-7845

www.peggyyelland.com

102-7851 East Saanich Road, Saanichton, B.C.

A full service lumber and hardware store serving the commercial and residential industries.

SLEGG LUMBER



Congratulations to the team at R. Parsons Construction. Building with you for tomorrow.

2030 Malvernview Ave. SIDNEY, B.C.
(250) 656-1125 www.slegglumber.com

Congratulations!

Custom windows and doors crafted with reclaimed and local wood.

Karmanah
Custom Joinery Ltd.

Aaron Stevenot
250.213.2733