



## **Rawlings Homes wins national award for home design excellence**

Lake Louise AB – February 22, 2006 — Rawlings Homes of London, Ontario has won the 2006 Award for Design Excellence honourable mention presented by the Cement Association of Canada for building an environmentally friendly home that uses a variety of innovative concrete solutions.

The award is one of five presented at a special Cement Association of Canada Housing Awards pre-conference luncheon ceremony at the 63<sup>rd</sup> National Conference hosted by the Canadian Home Builders' Association in Lake Louise, Alberta. Recipients of the 2006 Award for Design Excellence were selected by a panel of independent judges from Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Natural Resources Canada (NRCan).

Not only beautiful, but energy efficient too, the Rawlings home was built with a system known for its superior energy efficiency – Insulating Concrete Forms (ICF). These hollow foam blocks or panels are connected with plastic ties and filled with reinforced concrete. The left-in-place forms provide a continuous insulation and sound barrier, as well as a backing for drywall on the inside and stucco, lap siding, or brick on the outside. ICF homes generate less construction waste, are quiet and comfortable to live in and require less maintenance.

The ICF exterior walls used by Rawlings Homes combine with activity-level in-floor radiant heat to economically maximize the size of the dwellings placed on smaller, less expensive lots in an upscale London neighbourhood. The concrete walls also accommodate increased ceiling height and large windows to provide an open concept and exceptional interior design flexibility.

“Rawlings Homes has demonstrated discerning innovation and foresight,” explains Cement Association of Canada President François Lacroix. “Armed with the knowledge that escalating fuel prices will be hammering homeowners, this builder recognizes the important role that concrete can play in minimizing residential energy costs. They have provided hard evidence that insulating concrete forms are the best home building solution for marrying energy efficiency with superb aesthetic potential.”

*The Cement Association of Canada is an industry association representing Canadian cement manufacturers. The Association's core mandate is to increase and expand the proper use of cement and concrete in Canada. We adhere to the values of sustainability and seek to increase awareness of cement and concrete's contribution to vibrant communities, environmental improvement and a strong economy.*

**Note to editors:** Photographs of the award-winning dwelling are available for publication. Please visit the Cement Association of Canada web site at: [www.cement.ca](http://www.cement.ca) under News & Events > Press Releases.

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