



Ontario R-2000 Homebuilders Recognized as Industry Leaders

Teixeira in Eastern Ontario and Rawlings in South Western Ontario each win major awards for energy efficiency

(Victoria, BC, February 22, 2002) Homebuilder Teixeira Construction Inc. of Portland (in Eastern Ontario) was presented today with the Cement Association of Canada's prestigious "Award for Outstanding Energy Efficiency" for an R-2000 home constructed in Balderson, west of Ottawa, Ontario.

The award is presented to the Canadian builder whose R-2000 home achieves the lowest calculated heating and cooling energy use. This energy consumption efficiency rating is determined using the "HOT2000" computer program and is calculated by a licensed R-2000 Plans Evaluator.

Two Ontario R-2000 companies have been recognized this month. Teixeira Construction Inc. joins Rawlings Homes of Ilderton Ontario as the second R-2000 builder to be recognized by the cement industry. Last week Rawlings was awarded a "Best in Concrete Living Award," sponsored by Texas based Concrete Homes Magazine, which celebrates groundbreaking creativity in contemporary concrete architecture. The Award was open to all cement homebuilders in North America.

"At Teixeira Homes we are committed to building a superior living environment for homeowners," said John Teixeira, President of Teixeira Homes. "By building homes with insulated concrete forms (ICF), in-floor radiant heating, and paying particular attention to the "tightness" of our homes, we are able to provide a healthy, highly energy efficient home for our homebuyers."

"Winning this Award shows that energy efficient homes can look like other homes and don't need to be bland," said Paul Rawlings. "Our company strives to combine the positive aspects associated with R-2000 homes and ICF technology in a creative way that appeals to our customers' sense of design. This Award motivates us to continue to create interesting housing that is good for people and the planet."

"Homeowners who choose ICF technology in home construction typically use 40% less energy to heat and cool their home," said Cameron Ridsdale of the Cement Association of Canada. "Using

concrete with R-2000 construction technology, the consumer benefits from lower energy bills and the environment benefits from reduced greenhouse gases.”

(more...)

“We are extremely proud of the efforts that Teixeira Construction Inc. and Rawlings Homes have made to reach such high levels of energy efficiency in home construction,” said Peter Love, President of EnerQuality Corporation responsible for the R-2000 program in Ontario. “They are truly deserving of their Awards and serve as an inspiration to all builders across Canada.”

One of the important features of R-2000 homes which makes them healthier than conventional homes is the use of a heat recovery ventilator (HRV). The HRV functions as the “*lungs of the house.*” It draws fresh air into the home where it is warmed by the stale humid air passing through the unit before being expelled. The HRV’s high quality filter ensures a steady supply of fresh clean air entering the home. Many people attribute the health benefits associated with their houses to the HRV, and the careful choice of the least toxic building materials.

Mr. Love continued, “In past years the benefits associated with building quality assurance and enhanced indoor air quality have been the selling features of R-2000 homes. This has begun to change. Recently, there is renewed interest in the energy efficiency attributes of R-2000 homes, the very reason why the program was first developed by the predecessor to Natural Resources Canada in 1982, in response to the energy crisis at that time. Both the Teixeira and Rawlings homes are excellent examples of creative builders responding to this renewed demand by customers and we wish them continued success in the future.”

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see also www.r2000.org

R-2000 homes go beyond the requirements of the building code. They are more energy efficient, offer better indoor air quality, and environmentally responsible products are used in their construction. An independent, third party expert inspects each house to make sure that it meets these requirements before it can be certified as an R-2000 home. Only licensed R-2000 builders who have been trained by the Government of Canada can build R-2000 homes. If it’s not certified, it is not an R-2000 home!