

# Kelowna's Weninger at the top of its game

By Goody Niosi Writer

**KELOWNA - Weninger Construction & Design Ltd.** in Kelowna is at the top of its game.

This year the design/build company was honoured with a coveted Gold Tommie award in the category Excellence in Single Family Detached Home \$1 - \$1.5 Million. The recipient of the award is the Inuksuk Lodge in Feathertop Estates at Big White Ski Resort.

Company co-owners Pauline and Marlin Weninger describe the project as a true dream getaway. Built on a steep slope the four-bedroom, four-level 5,000 square foot lodge is a luxury ski-in-ski out vacation home.

Like all the projects Marlin Weninger designs, he started with learning everything he could about his client's needs. The biggest challenge Weninger faced was the site itself.

"We had a limited building envelope on the site because of the steepness."

With the design completed, Weninger submitted an exact quote and began the building process. Many factors went into making the home unique, he says, including high lofted ceilings, three natural stone fireplaces, a large theatre room, in-floor heating, heated outdoor decks, a three-car garage and a



From left: Josette Genest, Marlin Weninger and Pauline Weninger

also boasts a steam shower as well as an infrared sauna. Another eye-catching feature in the home is the kitchen with its solid wood cabinets. Bars in the great room and games room match the rustic wood of the kitchen.

Weninger says that winning a Gold Tommie for the project

"I grew up with construction," Weninger says, noting that his father, Ron, and his uncles were in construction.

Ron Weninger provided for his family by building homes and he ensured that each of his sons learned the trade. Marlin studied design and drafting and provided the family businesses with building plans. After a brief hiatus doing what he calls "regular jobs" he decided it was time to start his own company.

In 1991 a passion for skiing drew Weninger Construction's attention to the then undeveloped potential of Big White Ski Resort. The company became one of the first contractors to build a luxury ski chalet in the Snow Pine Estates subdivision. Weninger Construction then spent the next decade building custom chalets, and the award winning 22 unit Grizzly Ski Lodge at Big White.

Weninger says that he happened into the business through the family connection but what kept him in is a love of what he does. Design is a particular passion and talent. Using a 3D program for both new building and renovations, clients have the opportunity to see their completed house conceptually before the earth is even turned.

"I strive to give the customer what they want," Weninger says. "And I'm very good at maximizing a site for how much building can fit on it. For commercial and condominium projects I know how to get the best use out of the property. When you're buying land for a condo project and your floor ratios are set by the city and land is so expensive, you want to squeeze

every square foot out of that building that you can."

Although Weninger is known for a diversified range of projects including commercial and residential, both new and renovations, he admits that custom high-end homes are his favourite. They provide a tremendous outlet for creativity and innovation, he says.

"Our main goal is to satisfy the customer and make them very happy with the job no matter what the job is."

Weninger Construction & Design is also no stranger to development. In early 2000 the company designed the environmentally friendly Black Mountain Golf Course and the surrounding 750 home master plan community called Black Mountain Golf Community.

Weninger has built several homes in the subdivision. The company is also involved in developing Feathertop, a single family community at Big White. About half a dozen homes have been built if the development where Weninger offers design/build services along with home sites.

Weninger says he is doing exactly what he loves and has no plans to change. His wife, Pauline points out that the company is also well known for its renovations and its 3D design work that allows people to see exactly what a proposed renovation will look like.

"It's really nice when people can visualize it," she says.

Weninger Construction & Design Ltd. is at 103 - 200 Dougall Rd. North in Kelowna.

[www.weningerconstruction.com](http://www.weningerconstruction.com)



mass of built-in electronics that allow the homeowner to control his heating, sound and lighting systems from anywhere he has Internet access.

Perhaps the most overpowering feature is the views through massive high windows. The house was very much oriented towards those views. Two of the bedrooms have fireplaces and the ensuite bath features a steam flower. the in-home gym

was thrilling. The company hasn't entered the awards since 2001 when it won a Silver Tommie for the Grizzly Lodge at Big White.

Pauline and Marlin Weninger with his parents, Ron and Elfrieda Weninger, founded their company in 1989 and incorporated in 1991 but the Weninger name has always been associated with construction in the Kelowna area.



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