



## The best in the province

- The gold Georgies are the top prizes handed out annually by the B.C. branch of the Canadian Home Builders' Association

By **STEVE MacNAULL**

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**Mike Ohman** has the most demanding customers. "The level of detail a customer demands when it comes to designing, selling and installing electronics is incredible," says Ohman, the owner of Kelowna's Beyond Audio.

"These are incredibly discerning people." But that's OK because Beyond Audio does outstanding work and has satisfied customers. So outstanding, in fact, that Beyond Audio won the Outstanding Subtrade/Supplier/Manufacturer category at the recent Georgie Awards.

The gold Georgies are the top prizes handed out annually by the B.C. branch of the Canadian Home Builders' Association. "We've won silver Georgies (the category finalist prize) three years in a row, so winning gold isn't exactly easy," explains Ohman.

"I think what caught the judges attention this year was the level of customer demand on such a big project, and that we delivered".

The work Beyond Audio was specifically recognized for the more than \$ 300,000 worth of home theatre, house-wide audio/video, lighting control and related systems it did in a multi-million dollar home somewhere in the Okanagan.

"There's lot's of secrecy about this 10,000 plus square foot home," says Ohman. "We can only say it's a private residence in the Okanagan. And it's luxury all the way if you call an 1,800 square foot bedroom luxury."

Ohman jokes that it isn't Arnold Schwarzenegger's house. (The actor of Terminator movies fame is rumored to have a massive luxurious home at a secret location somewhere in the Okanagan.)

Beyond Audio was involved in the project for four years – right from the the foundations were being put in to the time the house was finished including a huge home theatre, automated lighting and the best sounding house-wide audio system Ohman has ever heard.

"There's built in speakers in every room with 16 different stereos all linked together," he explains.

But Ohman is quick to point out you don't have to spend a fortune to incorporate good electronics into your home. "Careful planning and good shopping will give you good sound," he says.

More and more home plans now include pre-planning for all the electronics from lighting, phone, TV cable and satellite to computer hook up, home theatre, video and stereo.

"If you plan before the house is built or while the house is being built you can build speakers in and hide most of the wires," states Ohman. "Planning also goes a long way when you're putting a system in."

Ohman is the vice president of the Kelowna branch of the Canadian Home Builders' Association and will become president of the group in June 2000 when home builder Ray Wynsouw of Joray Homes steps down. The association won association of the year for all of Canada earlier this year.