local

Local contractor wins top awards

KMA Contracting wins awards for two projects

Mercury staff

GUELPH — KMA Contracting is building quite a reputation.

The local contractor won the 2010 Ontario Builder Award and Butler's 2010 Commercial Building of the Year Award.

"It's a validation of our capabilities and the quality of staff we have here," company president Keith McEwen said. "It gets us industry wide recognition."

KMA won the 2010 Ontario Builder Award for its construction of the Town of Halton Hills monument, the abstract arch near the solar power plant visible from Highway 401 east of Guelph.

Designed by Toronto's Joseph Bogdan Associates, the screen design, scaled to the highway, is an illuminated arc of approximately 160 metres in length.

"The Haltons Hills monument was fairly difficult to do. It took a massive amount of concrete," McEwen said. "You don't get an idea of the scale of it just driving by. It's an amazing structure."

The award's strict criteria included client and trade satisfaction, innovation, health and safety and quality of workmanship. KMA Contracting completed the project in the 180-day construction schedule and with no extra costs.

The award was presented by the Ontario General Contractors Association.

The second award recognizes KMA's work on the Royal Distributing Athletic Performance Centre, also known as the Marden Field House, north of Guelph in the Township of Guelph/Eramosa.

The sprawling public facility is the first of its kind in Wellington County. The Butler-engineered steel building includes an indoor artificial turf playing field, a four-lane running track, men's and women's change rooms with lockers and showers and a multi-functional boardroom.

The project was designed by Guelph's BJC Architects.

"We'll use it for our marketing campaigns," McEwen said of the awards. "How effective it is, it's tough to measure."

KMA is now constructing the city's new Civic Square, which includes a fountain, pavilion and skating rink at City Hall.

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