

# Leaders of Tomorrow

Honouring Calgary's visionary business leaders

BY DEREK SANKEY

ALL PHOTOS BY MATHIESON & HEWITT PHOTOGRAPHERS

## The Judges

What defines a true leader who's a cut above the rest? That's the question Business in Calgary set out to answer by creating the Leaders of Tomorrow. The initiative is meant to recognize individual business owners that are contributing to Calgary not only through their company, but through contributions to the community and charitable organizations and, thirdly, by enhancing and developing their profession or field of practise.



Michelle O'Brien-Moran



Dan Doherty



Mike Carlin

"To me, I think the community involvement part was one of the most important areas," says Dan Doherty, president of D3 Strategies Inc. and a board member at the Haskayne School of Business at the University of Calgary. He served as one of three prominent judges in determining the Top 20 Leaders of Tomorrow.

"Businesses are producing growth and success within the community, but as our broader community has greater success, it's also creating a larger need for services and programs to enrich it, but secondly on the social services side because there is a major gap right now," Doherty says.

The criteria were fairly simple; wading through scores of nominations was not. The judges, which also included Mike Carlin from BMO Financial Group and Michelle O'Brien-Moran with Meyers Norris Penny, awarded 10 points on business achievement – measured by past growth and future prospects for the company, along with sustainability and other factors; five points were awarded based on community involvement; and five points were awarded based on contributions to the profession through involvement with industry groups and professional associations.

The judges were not looking for entrepreneurs who could write a cheque to a charity and had a strong business. Instead, they must have demonstrated a real commitment to the community and shown true vision in all facets of their lives. Leaders of Tomorrow are people who stand out from a crowd because of their willingness to push the envelope, whether it's in business, professionally or in the community.

Jon Dick, president of Jon Dick and Associates Realty, was a gold sponsor of Leaders of Tomorrow and says he took an interest because it's important to recognize those small- and medium-sized business owners who have the dedication and perseverance to drive the economic engine forward, while ensuring nobody is left behind. "The more successful you are,

the more responsibility you have for helping others," says Dick. "These people drive the economy and set good examples for us to follow."

Respect has a lot to do with those that ended up in the final 20. Respect for their businesses, their employees, their customers, their colleagues and the community. "We're always leaning towards measuring success by happiness or life balance, so we tend to overlook respect as a measure of success," Dick says.

Andy McCreath and Christian Darbyshire, owners of time-public Inc., have rubbed shoulders with the world's elite, from Bill Clinton to Tony Blair, as part of their business of bringing big names from around the world to speak across Canada, but they also took part in Bill Clinton's three-day conference to raise \$7 billion for charitable organizations around the world. Closer to home, they got involved in children's sports and agencies that aid the homeless – solid examples of what defines a Leader of Tomorrow.

Hannes Kovac, president of OPUS Building Canada Inc., has helped construct many landmark real estate developments around the city and found tremendous business success. Yet, at the same time, when his dog Rocco disappeared, he managed to create a national media search for the "member of his family," not to mention the countless hours he's spent helping agencies such as the United Way and Bill Brooks Prostate Cancer Foundation.

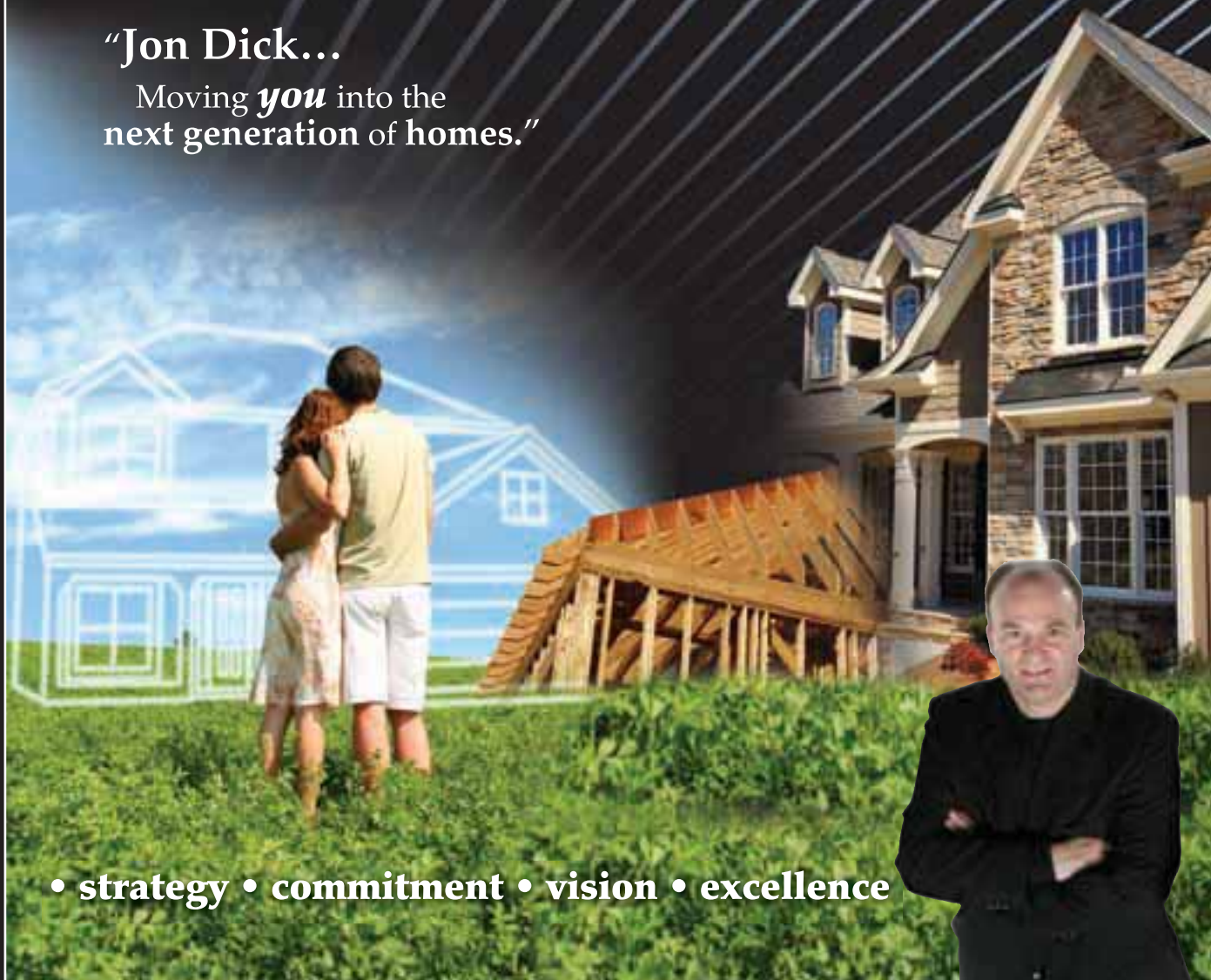
These are just a few examples of the qualities that set visionary leaders apart from the rest. While the Leaders of Tomorrow isn't a ranking – Business in Calgary selected the 20 people who best embodied the values described – it serves as a means to honour and recognize those innovative business owners who act as role models for the next generation of young entrepreneurs. It's a celebration of what true leaders can really achieve and the impact they make every day in Calgary.



**JON DICK**  
& Associates Realty

**“Jon Dick...**

Moving **you** into the  
next generation of homes.”



• **strategy** • **commitment** • **vision** • **excellence**

*Proud sponsor of the Calgary Flames 50/50*  
Proceeds to the Flames Foundation for Life



Jon Dick, Broker/Owner  
Jon Dick and Associates Realty  
jondick@shaw.ca  
(403) 238-3113