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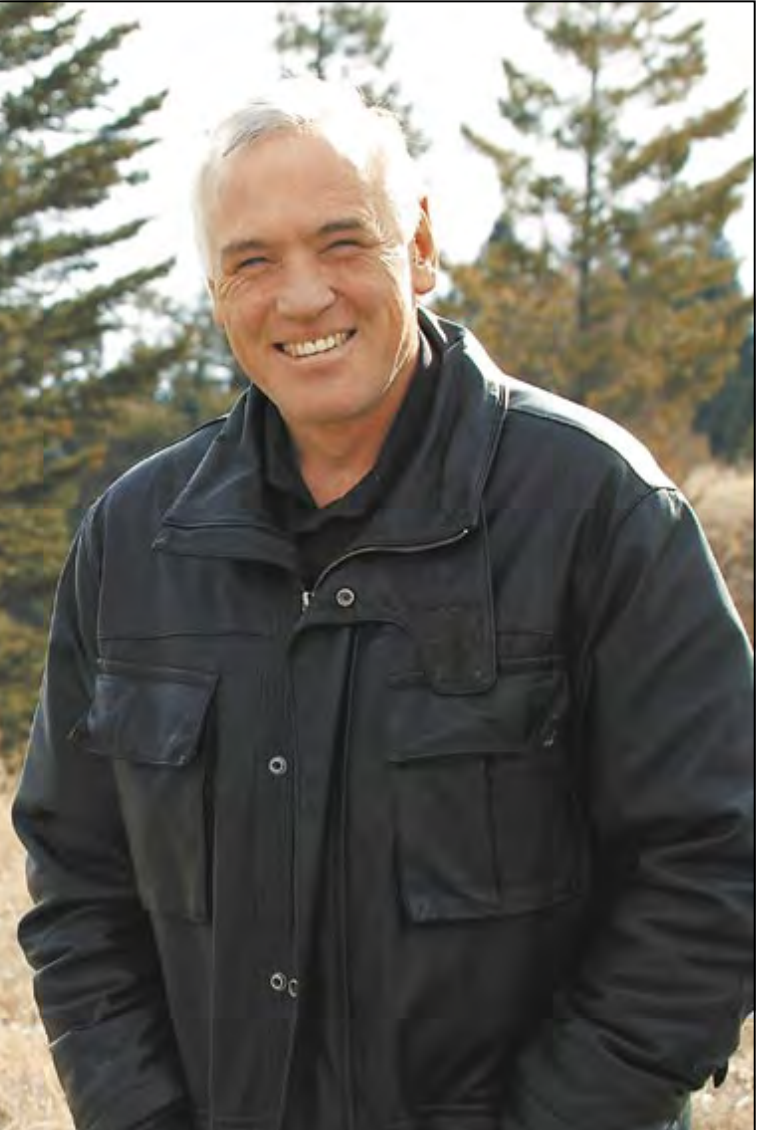


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Why is this man smiling?

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Mark Himmelpach is the chief owner of Grizzly Ridge Properties, adjacent to Invermere's town limits.
Photo by Bob Ede



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1441-17 Ave. SW |
| Auto Stop Car Wash,
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502-2nd Street SW |
| Bad Ass Jacks Subs N Wraps,
100-20 Crowfoot Crescent NW | Encana Place,
Main Floor, 150-9 Ave. SW |
| Bagelinos,
805-8 Ave. SW | Extreme Bean,
3333 Bowness Rd. NW |
| Big 4 Casino,
Stampede Park | Harry Hays Building,
220-4th Ave. SE |
| Big Rock Brewery,
5555-76 Ave. SE | Oh Canada,
815-7th Ave. SW |
| Bob Niven Centre
Canada Olympic Park | Planet 101,
83 Bowridge Dr. NW |
| Boyd's Lobster,
1515-14 St. SW | Planet Organic,
100, 10233 Elbow Dr. SW |
| Brewster Brew & Pub,
232-755 Lake Bonavista Drive SE | Second Cup,
2025-16 Ave. NW |
| By The Cup Plus,
2nd Floor, 736-8 Ave. SW | Sunterra Market,
1851 Sirocco Dr. SW |
| Cafe Gourmet,
101, 150 Crowfoot Cres. NW | The Other Place,
840-6th Ave. SW |
| City Hall,
800 MacLeod Trail SE | McKenzie Meadows Golf Course |
| Calgary Multicultural Centre,
835-8th Ave. SW | |
| Lake Bonavista Community Centre | |

Windermere home wins gold award



Werner and Mary Ann Rombach

By Adrian Bergles
Pioneer Staff

For Mary Ann Rombach and her husband Werner, a prize-winning dream home in Lakeview Meadows is the place to unwind after a lifetime of hard work.

"It's a culmination of Werner's life's work in Canada," said Mary Ann, 58. The home won the Canadian Home Builders' Association of Kelowna Gold Award for excellence in a single-family detached home over 4,500 square feet.

Werner, a retired mechanic and builder, acquired funds for the 5,000-square-foot home by selling 112 acres of land on the east side of the lake that he bought in the 1960s. That property has since become Lakeview Meadows.

The Rombachs, who have been married since 1979, moved into the house in December 2004, "even though there was still tiling and painting done under our noses," said Mary Ann.

The large home is a blend of traditional and modern features. Many windows highlight the building's stunning 180-degree lake views. "The concept was to feel like you were outside even when you were inside," said Mary Ann.

Werner, aged 73, came to the valley from Germany in 1957. His culture is reflected in the home's design and construction. Werner's cousin, an architect from Germany, came to Canada to design the home. "He told me this is the most beautiful house he's ever built," said Mary Ann.

No expense was spared in creating the home. "The only way I tried to save money was to shop like a maniac and get the best price," said Mary Ann who was the general contractor on the project. "I didn't want to spare anything on quality."

The home allows Mary Ann, a marriage and family therapist, to work out of her home. It also allows Werner, who has suffered two serious strokes, to get around comfortably. Among its features are ramps and widened doors to accommodate Werner. The third floor provides living quarters for Werner's caregiver.

The home also features environmentally-sound features like partial solar heating and German-made electric blinds which can be programmed to the home's thermostat. They keep the house cool in summer and warm in winter.

The home's insulation is even made of recycled newsprint and cardboard. The triple-paned, gas-filled windows were made in Austria.

The decision to enter the home in the running for an award was Mary Ann's.

She pressured Canadian Timberframes, a Golden-based company who did the timber frame work, to enter.

"They did such a great job I wanted people to be recognized," she said.



Wood beams soar above the rooms.

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