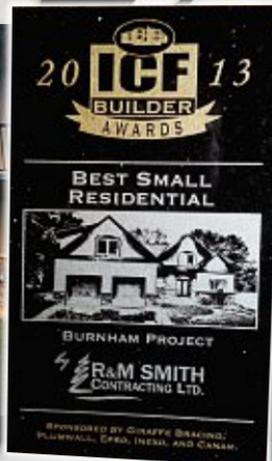


# Local Builder Wins First Place International Award



R & M Smith Contracting has been selected from over 500 entrants to receive the ICF Magazine 2013 Builder of the Year Award, for the Best Small Residential category. The company was also the deserving recipient of the Green Builder of the Year Award for both 2012 and 2013 in the Kawarthas.

The winning project is located on Burnham Line in Otonabee Township, Ontario, and features over 7,200 feet of ICF block. Short for Insulated Concrete Forms, ICF are hollow foam blocks which are fitted together and then filled with steel-reinforced concrete. The foam blocks then stay in place to protect the walls and insulate the home. The ICF Builder Awards competition strives to showcase the advantages of building using this method, while also recognizing the most talented and innovative builders in North America.

Utilizing ICF can significantly improve a home's energy efficiency, while making it much stronger and quieter, as sound cannot travel as easily into the house from outdoors. It is also relatively inexpensive, as choosing ICF costs only 3 to 5 per cent more than a conventional build. Homeowners can see a return on this investment in about three years from their energy savings alone.

"What differentiated our project from all the rest was the design," says proud winner and owner of R & M Smith Contracting, Randy Smith. "And the sheer amount of ICF that we used was impressive to the judges I'm sure." Randy & his Son Dave Smith were presented this award at the World of Concrete tradeshow in Las Vegas, Nevada on January 22.

"The Burnham house is incredibly strong, and like all ICF homes, it has been rated for category four hurricanes," Randy states. Category four hurricanes are storms characterized by sustained gusting winds of up to 250 kilometres per hour. "Another thing that is unique about this build is that there are no thermal breaks along the walls, making the home even more energy efficient." In order to accomplish this, the team had to suspend all of the flooring along interior walls instead of building the floor and walls on top of the foundation as is conventionally done.

"This award is important to us because it shows the strides we have taken as a company over the past 31 years," Smith explains. "To be recognized as a top builder in North America is amazing. It is also exciting to help Peterborough by bringing this international award to our city." Randy hopes that the publicity his award is getting will encourage more international investors to build vacation homes or businesses that can be located here in the Kawarthas.

Randy Smith is also the President of the Peterborough and Kawartha's Home Builders Association. To learn more about his business and the award-winning homes he and his team have constructed and built, please visit [www.rmsmithcontracting.com](http://www.rmsmithcontracting.com)



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