

was top notch and very quick, even though it was a hard tire to find. The staff realized I was upset and uncomfortable but they were very professional and kind. I would recommend Serbu tire for great value and service." A wide selection of competitively priced tires to fit both domestic and imported vehicles plus the McDougall location specializing in truck tires, made Serbu Tire a natural choice for this "Oscar". Check out Serbu Tire's services on the web at www.yzca.com/serbutire

ALL-STAR COMMERCIAL ENERGY EFFICIENT DESIGN

Passa Associates Architect
802-374 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor

This category salutes excellence in energy efficient commercial architecture and design. The Judges were unanimous in their decision to give the honours to Passa Associates Architect for their innovative concepts incorporated in the new St. Christopher Catholic Elementary School behind Devonshire Mall on EC Row Expressway. For the St. Christopher School project, Passa Associates, run by Joe Passa, utilized "Green Architecture" methods to produce a building that is 70 percent more energy efficient than required by the Ontario Building Code. Varying intensity lighting systems, low flow plumbing fixtures, high insulation levels in the walls and ceilings, and even a 5,000 square foot "green roof" covered with living native plants, all combine to make St. Christopher the most energy efficient school in Ontario and to rank it in the top five Canada wide. St. Christopher Principal Melissa Farrand says, "The staff and students have embraced their new energy efficient environment. Thanks to Passa's innovative designs, reminding students to turn lights on and off is a thing of the past. The green roof has offered countless teachable moments about our air quality and global warming, as students are able to view its ongoing growth from the large second floor windows." To see more of Passa Associates award-winning designs go to www.passa.ca

EMERGENCY RESTORATION EXPERTS

Parker Construction
2910 Jefferson Blvd., Windsor

You've had a fire or flood and your home or office is a mess. As you survey the damage all you can think is "What do I do now?" The *Biz X* "Oscar" for Emergency Disaster Experts is given to the company that demonstrates expertise and exceptional customer

service in restoring your building when disaster strikes. It was the solid reputation and glowing recommendations from readers and past customers for Parker Construction, started in 1988 by Jim and Patricia Parker, that swayed the Judges' votes. Mike Southern of Southern Sign Company says, "We sustained water damage caused by bad storms and Parker Construction had us up and running that day. They are quick and efficient and their top priority is the comfort of their customers." With offices in Windsor (2910 Jefferson Blvd.) and Leamington (124 Oak Street) the folks at Parker Construction are on call to serve emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week. From something as simple as a broken window to all kinds of wind, water, smoke and vandalism damage, Parker Construction has the expertise to get the job done. For a complete listing of services, photos and customer testimonials visit their website at www.parker-construction.ca

THE SUPREME PLACE TO STORE YOUR STUFF

Guardian Storage & Mailboxes
5505 Rhodes Drive, Windsor

The Judges picked the winner of this category based on a combination of criteria. Security, cleanliness, location, easy accessibility and competitive rates, were all factors that played into the Judges' decision to determine the overall winner - Guardian Storage. Opened in November of 1998, General Manager Marlene Lajoie works to provide Guardian's customers with quality affordable solutions to storing a wide variety of items with 579 storage units. We originally thought this meant just stashing small house items away, but Guardian can even store big items like RVs, boats and other vehicles on the premises, with its 477 parking spots! Twenty four hour access, a new state of the art video camera system, security patrols, electronic gate, all-night lighting and even a mailbox service, complete the package of services. Many customer comments praised the knowledgeable and friendly staff for making customer service a top priority. Guardian Storage collected over 75 signatures and emails from satisfied customers. One client proclaimed, "Storing your stuff at Guardian feels like storing it in your brother's garage!" For extra peace of mind customers can access live web cams to monitor the grounds and storage locker area as well. Visit Guardian Storage & Mailboxes on line at www.guardian-storage.com.



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US AWARDS

THE HOTEL MOST DESERVING THE HONOUR ROLL

The Townsend Hotel
100 Townsend Street, Birmingham, MI

Whether on a business trip or just for a relaxing weekend, the winner of this "Oscar" takes comfort and convenience to new heights. Since 1998 (and an expansion in 2000), The Townsend Hotel in downtown Birmingham has welcomed travellers with unparalleled service and luxury in a quiet suburban setting. Guest rooms and suites are appointed with only the finest amenities including 100 percent Egyptian cotton sheets, marble bathrooms with deep soaking tubs and wireless Internet access throughout the hotel. It is a Mobil 4-Star and AAA 4-Diamond Hotel and, in fact, many celebrities stay here when visiting or performing in Michigan. But there's

lots more to the hotel including the accompanying award winning Rugby Grille which offers a menu of original American-Continental cuisine and is complemented by a world-class wine list. Judge Hotham says, "In choosing that special place for an overnight stay that offers it all, the Townsend Hotel is for you. It provides unmatched elegance, class and beauty, fine dining and an intimate setting for a quiet cocktail and conversation with that special person in your life." The Townsend Hotel is

also equipped to handle a wide range of events from weddings, parties, and showers to business meetings and conferences. The ability to accommodate groups as small as 16, or parties as large as 500, makes the Townsend a first choice when planning a function. As well, on-site professionals are available to co-ordinate and plan any or all aspects of your event. For a complete listing of all of the Townsend Hotel's services or to make a reservation you can visit their website at www.townsendhotel.com



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