

## GREEN REPUTATION

✦ Glacier Creek Contracting Ltd. builds on its reputation and expertise with a focus on energy efficiency and green construction techniques. *By Staci Davidson*



All of the units in Glacier Duplexes at Rainbow in Whistler meet strict energy efficiency standards.

### Glacier Creek Contracting Ltd.

[www.glaciercreek.com](http://www.glaciercreek.com)

Annual sales: Approx. \$ 20 million

Headquarters: Whistler, British Columbia

Employees: 20

Specialty: General contracting

➤ **Last year was quite successful for** Glacier Creek Contracting Ltd. (GCCL), demonstrated partly by the numerous awards it received. The general contracting firm was recognized as a finalist for the Built Green British Columbia Builder of the Year and as a finalist for the Most Affordable Built Green Home Award, as well as the BC Hydro Powersmart Builder of the Year. It also received the Gold Georgie Award for the Best Public-Private Partnership from

the Canadian Home Builders Association and the Best Practices in Affordable Housing from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. Not that last year was unlike any other – Glacier Creek is recognized by many of its industry peers almost every year – but the awards do show that the company's dedication to quality work and satisfied customers remains consistent.

Based in Pemberton, British Columbia, GCCL is comprised of three companies. Glacier Creek Contracting is the commercial contractor, Glacier Creek Pacific Contracting is the residential contractor and Glacier Pacific Insulation is an insulation contractor for residential and commercial projects. Owner and General Manager Eric Prall founded GCCL in 2000

based on his love of the industry and armed with extensive experience as a subtrade, general contractor, construction manager and developer. GCCL works throughout British Columbia, primarily in the Pemberton, Squamish and Whistler areas.

### Higher Standards

One way in which GCCL has demonstrated its dedication to the environment is through its partnership with Climate Smart, which began in 2008. Climate Smart is an organization that works with small and medium-sized businesses to reduce their carbon footprints and address climate change. GCCL began its transformation by focusing on its internal processes and procedures.

*"Glacier Creek combines traditional building techniques and proven innovations with a common-sense approach to the environment."*

— Glacier Creek Contracting

The company's first step was to perform a waste audit to assess waste streams from its construction sites and divert as much possible waste from landfills. GCCL also began sorting its waste, separating recyclable materials from unrecyclable garbage. After making these changes, GCCL was able to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfills by 35 percent and emissions from landfill waste by 226 tonnes. The company also reduced its waste hauling costs by more than \$64,500 from the previous year.

While addressing its internal operations, GCCL also adopted a number of green construction practices and began using smarter materials, many of which are demonstrated at the Glacier Duplexes at Rainbow in Whistler. Overlooking Emerald Lake, this project has 80 duplex townhomes, all of which

have 2-pound polyurethane spray foam insulation throughout, triple-pane windows and a heat recovery unit for fresh air ventilation. GCCL explains all of the units meet or exceed the gold rating for BC Hydro Powersmart, which is a program that focuses on balancing the province's electricity needs with environmental concerns.

In its construction of the Glacier Duplexes at Rainbow, all homes were equipped with solar-ready conduits, enabling homeowners to install solar thermal hot water systems.

"Not only do the Glacier Duplexes at Rainbow from Glacier Creek Pacific Contracting meet the rigorous Power Smart Gold standards for energy efficiency, it also exceeds the Whistler Green voluntary standards for healthy homes, and the Duplexes are labeled Built Green Gold

or Platinum with a minimum EnerGuide rating of 80," the company says.

The company notes its focus on energy efficiency also was apparent during its work on the Whistler Olympic Village for the 2010 Winter Olympics. "As one of four builders providing homes for the Whistler Olympic Village, Glacier Creek worked with BC Hydro to ensure that its 147 units met or exceeded the Power Smart Gold Standard," the company says. "This commitment to sustainable home construction continued with the homes at Rainbow. Initially, Glacier Creek only was considering including air sealing methods. After using modeling techniques to explore the opportunities and benefits of additional energy-efficient technologies, Glacier Creek expanded its energy efficient design to encompass an entire slate of energy-efficient features." ●

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