

Fire hall's design captures N. American prize

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Stouffville's year-old fire station has won gold for its architectural design.

The award is from the industry trade publication Fire Chief, which, for the past 10 years, has been recognizing outstanding architecture and design of fire halls throughout North America.

"For me, this is exciting and thrilling and it's an honour," said Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire Chief Rob McKenzie.

Fire station No. 51, which cost \$5.71 million, won gold in the volunteer/combo category. It is also the first Canadian station to win gold, in any category, according to Mr. McKenzie.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CHIEF

"It's just a huge opportunity for us to showcase the place," he said. "It's kind of a big thing for us in our little corner of the world."

According to Mr. McKenzie, he and former chief Chris Powers combed through back issues of Fire Chief, which is published out of Chicago, to see what previous winning stations included in their designs when they were creating the new fire hall.

Although Mr. McKenzie took over as chief earlier this year, when he submitted the application, he put Mr. Powers' name down as the chief of record.

"I thought I would enter just on the off chance we'd win. Just as a tribute to him," Mr. McKenzie said. "For him, it's like a feather in his cap."

Over the past year, the Weldon Road fire hall staff has provided more tours through the station than ever before and fire chiefs from Brampton, Barrie and Guelph, along with Uxbridge council, have gone through to get ideas for their new fire halls, according to Mr. McKenzie.



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Stouffville's Weldon Road fire hall is the first Canadian station to win gold in a contest run by a Chicago-based publication.

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