

Award for Lumber Baron's House design

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Speaker Reporter

HAILEYBURY -- For a second year in a row, one of the historic homes belonging to Presidents' Suites in Haileybury has been the subject of an interior design award.

The 2015 Interior Decor Excellence Award (I.D.E.A.), presented

ed by Interior Decor Resources Canada (IDRC), has been awarded to Renelle Laliberté for Renelle Design for her interior design work at the Lumber Baron's House at 604 Brewster Street.

Previously she was the recipient of the award for her work at the Presidents' Suites Prosektor's House at 320 Rorke Avenue

in Haileybury.

Ms. Laliberté, who has connections in the area and was born in Haileybury but now runs her business in Toronto, met the owners of the Presidents' Suites a few years ago when she was staying as a guest, and since that time has been collaborating with them on some of their projects.

PRESENTATION

The award will be presented to Ms Laliberté at the Vendors Showcase at the FabX on May 30.

She commented, "I am so incredibly honoured and grateful that my work has been recognized for a second year in a row." She added her congratulations to Ms. Guertin and Mr. Blais, and her gratitude to the contractors who were involved in the project.

Ms. Guertin told The Speaker that the Lumber Baron's House has been increasingly used for retreats and "people are very pleased" with the energy in the home.

She added that the Lumber Baron's House is "very different" from the Presidents' Suites' other five properties.

During the design process, pine was added in some areas, and other areas were restored. Some beams were restored, and others were added. Some of the furnishings were custom-made, and Ms. Laliberté designed the drapes used for the window treatments, and also added upholstery to some of the furnishings.

The five-bedroom home includes a conference or meeting room upstairs which can seat 20 to 25 people. In that room, the ceiling was raised to create a suitable space.

All the while, Ms. Laliberté was choosing decor which blended throughout the house.

An original pine ceiling was discovered in the kitchen, and an original pine wall was also discovered in one of the bathrooms. Dressers were transformed to become beautiful bathroom vanities.

In some cases, frames and doors were recreated to match the original features.

Stained-glass artist Carmen Cantin was called upon to create stained-glass pieces for the windows in the kitchen, Ms. Laliberté related.

HISTORY OF HOME

The Lumber Baron's House was purchased by President's Suites in December, 2014, and work began on the project in February, 2015, Ms. Guertin said. The bottom floor was opened to the public in May, 2015, and the top floor was opened in August.

The Lumber Baron's House, like the majority of the other properties owned by President's Suites, is close to the original President's Suites home located at 620 Lakeshore Road.

The Lumber Baron's House was constructed by silver-mine owner Bill Powell in 1907. It was purchased by Howard Dunbar in 1921, and was one of the homes which survived the Great Fire of 1922. After that event, Mr. Dunbar raised the roof of the home to add a second floor for extra bedrooms. The home remained in the Dunbar family for more than 60 years.



The living room in the Lumber Baron's House incorporates wood beams, draperies by Renelle Laliberté and many other features to enhance the theme and traditional design of the historic Haileybury home. (Supplied photo)