

High River homes win building awards

■ Two houses in Montrose honoured with SAM's

BY EVAN CAREEN
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For a builder in Alberta nothing is more prestigious than winning a SAM award. The SAM awards by the Canadian Home Builders Association recognize excellence in building and are coveted by industry. Recently a Calgary couple that have been building homes in Montrose walked away with two first place awards and two second place awards.

One of the first place awards, in the category of Best New Home is for their showhome in Montrose, titled "The Florence." The other was for a home they built in Turner Valley.

The second place awards were for a private residence they built in High River and the other was a Grand SAM for being a builder of merit.

The couple, Paul and Kelly Bellissimo of Homes by Bellia Inc. have been in the construction business for close on 20 years and started this family-run company in Calgary six years ago.

"We came out here from Toronto and it was very difficult at first," Kelly said. "But now we're finally getting recognition for our work and it's great."

They said the process for applying for a SAM was long, taking about six months with all the paperwork and photos. This is the first time they threw their hat into the ring, and they said they were very happy with the recognition.

"It's just nice to be recognized," Paul said. "It's a lot of hard work."

Of the three homes they entered two came in first place. They said they were met with skepticism when they first started building in High River.

"Everyone thought we were crazy building these types of homes here," Kelly said. "They thought they were too different. In reality we've had nothing but success here."

Photo by Evan Careen

Paul and Kelly Bellissimo of Homes by Bellia won four SAM awards recently — two first places and two second places. They are pictured in the showhome in Montrose in High River, The Florence, which won them a first place award.

The SAM awards are now in their 22nd year and the Bellissimo's said they believed this is the first time a High River home has been so honoured. In addition to Montrose the couple has built homes in Highwood Village, Turner Valley and acreages.

"We're so happy with High River," Kelly said. "It's a beautiful place to build and a great town for families."


