

■ **LANDSCAPING COMPANY RECOGNIZED**

Provincial award for Washago firm

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Each year, the Awards of Excellence competition recognizes Ontario's finest landscape construction, maintenance and design projects. The 2010 winners were announced in a ceremony attended by over 500 industry leaders on Jan. 12 at Doubletree Hilton Hotel, Toronto.

"Seeing the winners impresses me more every year," said garden celebrity Denis Flanagan, Land-

scape Ontario public relations manager. "Award-winning projects consistently show outstanding design sophistication and horticultural knowledge."

Stems Interior Landscaping Inc. won the award of excellence for interior landscaping design/installation.

The awards program is an initiative of Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association that has a membership of 2,200.

It is the largest landscape trades association in North America.



Local Company Wins Provincial Honours

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Stems Interior Landscaping Inc. won the awards of excellence for Interior Landscaping design/installation. The company's website is www.stems.ca. Stems has been greening up office space for over 12 years in the Toronto area and is now expanding into the Muskokas.

"I think everybody knows that plants are not only aesthetically beautiful but are a huge benefit to people both physiologically and emotionally. Studies have now proven that flower-power is a force to be reckoned with", said Hella Keppo, President of Stems Interior Landscaping Inc. Recent findings prove the astounding benefits of interior plants in the workplace. Plants have proven to enhance productivity by 12%. Employees exposed to plants exhibit positive emotions such as happiness and assertiveness, while plants have been shown to diminish negative emotions among employees such as sadness and fear. Interior plantscapes are dramatically improving both the recruitment and retention of top employees. Plants have proven to be



an economical tool in managing the growing risks and liabilities associated with poor indoor air quality (IAQ). Finally, interior plants are providing offices with a much-needed touch of humanity while stimulating a more productive environment.

The lush green of plants and the beautiful colors of flower arrangements will go a long way toward de-stressing even the busiest worker.

Hella Keppo is a professional interior landscaper, specializing in indoor plant and aquarium décor. She can be reached at hkeppo@stems.ca.