

## CHFA names Gallery 1/World Wide the 2010 Retailer of the Year

*Written by HGO Staff*

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario (25 October 2009) - Gallery 1/World Wide Furniture of Halifax, Nova Scotia has been named Retailer of the Year for 2010 by the Canadian Home Furnishings Alliance. This is the first time the association has awarded the honour to a retailer from Atlantic Canada.

The Retailer of the Year Award is dedicated to recognizing exemplary models of excellence and community service by Canadian furniture retailers, CHFA chairman Laine Reynolds said in a statement.



"Gallery 1/Worldwide Furniture is one of Canada's largest and most exciting furniture retail destination stores and has built a strong brand that has a bold presence in the Atlantic marketplace," he said, adding, "They have earned the Retailer of the Year honour through their many professional accomplishments and extensive community involvement."

Over the past 30 years, the privately-held retailer - which operates one store under the Gallery 1 banner, two World Wide Furniture outlets and a distribution centre as well as a Brick franchise - has become a major regional player in the Atlantic Canada market.

Indeed, Gallery 1 is the largest retail furniture showroom in Atlantic Canada.

Company president Joe Ramia will accept the 2010 Retailer of the Year Award at a gala celebration to be held on 08 January 2010 at the International Centre here. The annual gala is the traditional kick-off to the Canadian Home Furnishings Market, which officially opens for a four-day run the next morning.

Reynolds also noted that the Ramia family is very involved in a number of community organization in the Halifax area including institutions such as the Queen Elizabeth Health Science Centre and the Cancer Research Foundation.

Ramia and his family have endowed a chair in surgical oncology at Dalhousie University launched the Festival Angel, a program to help raise money and awareness for the Mental Health Foundation and show support for the emotional and physical sacrifices of Canadian Forces personnel. He is also a supporter of the Phoenix House for Youth program which serves at-risk and homeless youth between the ages of 12 and 24.

The 2009 Retailer of the Year was Sleep Country Canada. Prior honourees include Lastman's Bad Boy, the Mega Group, Stoney Creek Furniture, the Dufresne Group, the Brick, Tepperman's and Leon's.

For more information about the event, or to obtain tickets for the gala, contact CHFA president Murray Vaughan at 905.677.6561 or by e-mail at [murray@chfaweb.ca](mailto:murray@chfaweb.ca).

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