

# VICTORIA NEWS

## St. Patrick's celebrations No Blarney stone Vic West pub honoured

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**Spinnakers** continues to be a favourite among locals and visitors alike

Neighbourhood pubs, if they're worth their salt, tend to create a distinct appeal and develop a following as much for their brewed product as their atmosphere.

When that appeal reaches further afield, it's clear that something more special is going on.

As Canada's oldest brew pub - it opened in 1984 - **Spinnakers** Gastro Brew Pub has frequently been placed on the 'best of' lists of organizations at home (including this newspaper's Best of the City reader poll) and has received regional and national recognition.

Recently **Spinnakers** was named winner of its second straight pub of the year award by the Victoria chapter of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), an international organization devoted to the promotion and consumption of natural, crafted beers.

"We've been fortunate that way," said **Spinnakers** owner Paul Hadfield of his establishment's awards record. "The local chapter of (CAMRA) has been kind to us for sure."

As well as the local award, Spinnakers was chosen B.C.'s best brew pub for 2007 in a reader's poll done by the Northwest Brewing News, which is published in B.C., Alaska, Washington, Oregon and Northern California.

"They've got readership all over the Pacific Northwest," Hadfield said. "These are people who have travelled through B.C. That's really cool that we are perceived that way."

While the pub's appeal has kept it in the marketplace for nearly 25 years, Hadfield said he believes a large part of its popularity comes from the fact brewmaster Rob Monk and his staff have been "adventuresome in making beers" and have offered many new products to suds lovers around the region over the years.