Message from the Chair

Our last official Chapter event was the Board elections held late last year. The event was well attended; it included some lively discussion regarding the Chapter’s future, and resulted in the election of what is already becoming a very effective Board (please review details of the new Board members at www.cagbc/chapters/toronto.php). In the upcoming year the new Board will be managing the transition from a focus on start-up activities, to a focus on operations. As we are all aware, there is increasing demand for green buildings and green communities. The Board recognizes that the Chapter best achieves its mission if our members succeed in fulfilling and further accelerating that demand. To that end, our focus over the coming year is to increase the value of services to our members, helping to ensure their success. The first step in this process is ensuring that we understand what is needed. There will be discussions regarding our strategic direction in upcoming membership meetings, and a survey to get direct feedback on what members want. Please engage in these efforts to help ensure we develop and retain the right focus.

On behalf of the Board, I look forward to working with you over the next year to create a building industry that develops the infrastructure for better cities, a better economy, and a better environment.

Appointment of Executive Director

One of the key actions of the new Board for January was to appoint an Executive Director. This is a new, crucial position for the Chapter that will help to ensure that growth and responsibilities are effectively developed over the coming years. The hiring of an Executive Director is an initiative that is being adopted by Green Building Council Chapters across North America. To date, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Cascadia have shown great success with this strategy. Already, Cascadia Chapter has grown to support 7 full-time employees. (www.cagbc.org to review Cascadia initiatives).

The Greater Toronto Chapter Board of Directors is proud to announce that Andrew Bowerbank has been appointed to Executive Director. Andrew has been involved with the Chapter for 3 years now, participating on the Board as Chapter secretary for the past year and a half. He has been working for the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) for the past 5 years. In his role as Manager of Sustainable Development at TRCA, he has been effective at leading and participating in green building projects around the GTA. TRCA has been very generous in their offer to allow Andrew to work as Executive Director on a part-time secondment basis for 2007 or until the Chapter has the resources in place to support a full time position. On behalf of the Chapter, The Board wishes to congratulate Andrew in his new role. 2007 will be an exciting year.

February Members Meeting

The first Chapter members meeting of the year is scheduled for February 28th from 5:00pm to 8pm. Special thanks to Autodesk for providing the venue for this meeting (they have an impressive presentation centre with 10 permanent interactive projectors). The location is at 210 King Street East. This will be a very important meeting to review Chapter initiatives for 2007, meet the new Board of Directors, network with colleagues, and more. We will also have a number of short presentations; Autodesk will be showcasing some of their software initiatives that support green design and Montgomery Sisam Architects will present their latest green Building initiative. We look forward to seeing you at the end of February!!

New Green Building Program

Discussions are underway with Environment Canada, Industry Canada, CMHC, PowerStream and others to secure funds for the development of a new Chapter-driven green building support program. The intent of the program will be to help industry professionals advance the uptake of green building design & technology. “The framework for this program is still under construction, but we should have a first draft for review by early March” says Andrew Bowerbank. “We are currently conducting market research to determine issues such as: program format; what funding support will be available to professionals; and what sector would best benefit from a green building support program. Ian Orchard at Environment Canada would like to see the Chapter...
facilitate the program in a pilot phase, then have it rolled out nationally as a contribution to Climate Change mitigation.

An Inconvenient Truth
The Greater Toronto Chapter and the Toronto & Region Conservation Authority have been given permission to distribute copies of Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth. Paramount Pictures and Blockbuster Video have donated 60 copies of the film to the Chapter and TRCA in an exclusive Canadian initiative. Designed to engage sector leaders and support efforts to transform the marketplace into a cleaner, greener community, this initiative will help to demonstrate how industries are beginning to work together to address the growing concern of climate change - or as Al Gore phrases our planet’s current state - climate crisis.

Chapter Green Building Magazine
The Chapter has take the first steps to producing the first Green Building magazine in Ontario. Discussions are underway with a predominant publishing firm to create a magazine that will focus on the needs of the Greater Toronto Chapter membership activities. The publication will also address the communication needs of sector leaders connected to the building industry that are looking for up-to-date information on green building design and development in Ontario.

To facilitate the development of the magazine, the Chapter will be establishing a communications committee (no larger than 4 participants) to oversee production, coordinate articles and photographs, and approve design layout. If you have an interest in graphic design, creative writing, publishing, etc. please consider being a part of this new committee. Names will be collected at the Chapter members’ meeting on February 28 or you can contact Melissa Ferrato at the Chapter office to express your interest - mferrato@trca.on.ca.

Passing the LEED Exam
The Chapter is working with Sholem Prasow, VP at Teknion Furniture Systems to conduct a series of LEED exam study sessions. These sessions (conducted over a 10 week period) are designed to complement CaGBC National’s -LEED Canada NC: Technical Review Workshop. Sholem has been working with CaGBC and USGBC for a number of years now to develop the study sessions. He is proud to say that there is a 95% success rate of session participants passing the exam. The Chapter is currently working with CaGBC National and Teknion to have the first sessions available for Chapter Members and associates by the third week in March. In order to participate in the Study Sessions, you must have completed one of CaGBC’s LEED Canada NC Technical Review Workshops. If you have not yet participated in a Technical Review Workshop, the next one in Toronto will take place on March 14th at the St. Andrew’s Club. Go to www.cagbc.org for more information. We want to thank Sholem for his generous Chapter support and we look forward to many new LEED accredited professionals in Ontario! Further details will be provided at the Chapter member meeting on February 28th.

News from National
Canada Green Building Council -National has launched the Municipal Green Building Tool Kit to provide implementation strategies, case studies and information about municipal initiatives across Canada. The Tool Kit is for municipal decision-makers who are ready to develop policies and programs that will increase the number of high performance buildings in their portfolio. The document explores key issues and processes related to ‘greening’ buildings, with a focus on the important role of municipalities as influential facilitators of private and municipal projects in their communities. The document can now be ordered on line at www.cagbc.org. Shipping will begin on February 15, 2007.

Chapter Competition!!
Some of the primary Chapter initiatives under development include the revised strategic plan, the new business plan and the financial strategy. The Board expects to have documents for review by mid-March. The one element that is presenting some difficulty is the formation of an effective vision statement that can guide the Chapter forward. There are many issues to consider that would best represent the goals of the Chapter, and the Board wants to ensure the members are supportive and in agreement. Therefore, the board has recommended that a competition be established to engage the members in the development of the Chapter vision. Submissions will be accepted until February 20th. The top three will be reviewed at the February 28th members’ meeting to determine the final vision statement. Top 3 winners will receive DVD box sets and film/television promotional material donated by our friends at 20th Century Fox in Los Angeles, California. Go to the Chapter website for details. Please send you submissions (and/or questions) to Melissa Ferrato- mferrato@trca.on.ca.

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