Government Leaders Show Interest in Chapter’s New Green Building Advancement Strategy

On March 6th, Federal, Provincial, and Regional leaders were on hand at Downsview Park to introduce the new Transportation strategy for the GTA. Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced the collective commitment (titled “Flow”) to an audience of invited delegates from across the GTA. Andrew Bowerbank, Chapter Executive Director was at this event and took the opportunity to approach the Honourable John Baird, Minister of the Environment and Toronto Mayor David Miller to discuss the Chapter’s new Green Building Advancement Strategy. Although the meetings were very quick, John Baird liked what he heard and asked that a copy of the proposal be sent to his office when it is ready. David Miller was also interested; Andrew will be contacting the Mayor’s new Senior Advisor on Climate Change, Mary Macdonald, to follow up.

The Chapter’s Green Building Advancement Strategy is a new initiative designed to explore what support mechanisms are needed to increase green building design and development in Ontario. Industry Canada and Environment Canada are working with the Chapter to host a workshop with invited delegates from across North America and Europe on March 29th. The Chapter is also fortunate to have the sponsorship support of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Toronto Waterfront Revitalization Corporation, and Natural Resources Canada.

The workshop will begin with a review of which green building programs are showing success and then explore which new initiatives could be adopted or created. A full report will be compiled after the workshop with recommendations for next steps. “At this early stage we don’t even want to guess at what the Advancement Strategy will look like. We want workshop participants to think outside-the-box and fully explore all options” says Andrew Bowerbank. “Once we have a framework for the Strategy, only then can we begin to review program development, delivery agents, incentives, etc. We do know we want to pilot the initiative in Ontario and then, if successful, consider engaging delivery agents to adopt the program for national roll out”. www.CaGBC.org for further information.
Message from the Chapter Board of Directors

By Larry Brydon, Chapter Vice Chair

As your new Board weighed through the input and suggestions for a Vision and a Mission Statement, the attributes of aspiring to a notion of a “sustainable community”, a “green built-environment” or a “living city” were thoroughly and vigorously debated. Eventually the discussion turned to what constitutes a “sustainable” association (or in this case, Chapter) and what we resoundingly agreed on was membership.

Without membership, there are no associations. By definition, an association is the interaction of individuals with a common purpose.

Your association (The Greater Toronto Chapter) needs members. Through membership we provide value and collectively we can further each others goals and objectives. Our membership meetings are planned to be an equal part of information sharing and network interaction and I encourage each of you to bring a potential new member to each and every meeting. As the membership grows, so does your rolodex. A potential new customer or supply chain link is added with each and every new member we gain.

When next your conversation turns to sustainability, think about you Chapter’s sustainability… and hand them a Membership Form!

New Chapter Sponsor!

The Board of Directors and members would like to express their gratitude to the Region of Peel for their commitment to the Chapter. “We are working through final details of Peel Region’s contribution to the Chapter that will likely be in place for the next 10 years” says Andrew Bowerbank. This contribution was made possible thanks to the efforts of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVC) and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). CVC and TRCA are working with Peel to develop a regional climate change mitigation strategy. Supporting the work of the Greater Toronto Chapter is one of the key initiatives that was approved in early March. “We look forward to many years of advancing green building design and development throughout the Region of Peel and across the Chapter’s jurisdiction!”

Chapter Expands Jurisdiction, Members are Asked to Help Guide Growth.

Discussions are underway with the Ministry of Public Infrastructure Renewal to align the Chapter’s jurisdictional boundaries with their Places to Grow initiative. As outlined at the February Chapter meeting, the expansion of our Jurisdiction also leads us to consider a change in Chapter title to better represent the expanded boundaries.

Expanded Chapter Jurisdiction

Melissa Ferrato will be sending out a survey by early April. In this survey is a question that asks for members to pick from a number of new title options (or choose to keep our existing title). Please take the time to fill out this survey and think carefully about the title that could best represent the Chapter in our efforts to build capacity over the coming years. There will also be a space to fill in additional title options if you do not like what is listed. If the notion of a new title is supported by the members, the Board of Directors will review the choices to make a decision.

The next steps will be to establish a means to serve the private and public leaders within the expanded boundaries. The board is currently reviewing the growth strategy that will include further opportunities for members to get involved and benefit professionally.
Book Review

World Changing: A User’s Guide for the 21st Century is an impressive 600 page encyclopedia style reference book that reviews ideas, projects and people that are working to protect the earth from climate change. It is an impressive compilation that is divided into 7 chapters as follows:

- Stuff
- Shelter
- Cities
- Community
- Business
- Politics
- Planet

The editor, Alex Steffen, states that his introduction “this book offers ideas about how to change the world. These ideas invite changes in our daily lives and encourage planetary thinking. They show us at once how powerful we are as individuals, and how much we need each other; how imperiled the planet is at present and how great the future could be.”

The book also walks the talk! It is printed on FSC certified paper with recycled content and has a listing at the back outlining the resources saved in its production. The publisher also purchased windpower credits equivalent to the energy used to produce the book.

Chapter Meetings for Members & Associates

By Melissa Ferrato, Chapter Coordinator

The first Members’ Meeting of the year took place on February 28th, and what a success! We had a crowd of over 100 people from all sectors of the green building industry come out for the meeting. Our Chair and Executive Director outlined a number of exciting initiatives that the Chapter will be undertaking throughout the coming year, such as the development of a Green Building Awards Gala, a new Chapter Consultants Roster, a Student Scholarship Program and more. The proposed initiatives were met with much enthusiasm from our members and we all look forward to witnessing the success of these programs. Those who attended the meeting were also treated to an informative presentation from Erin Rae Hoffer of Autodesk’s Boston office entitled “Technology Strategy for Sustainable Design”. As always, one of the greatest benefits of attending the meeting was the opportunity to network with the other CaGBC-GTC members.

A special thank-you to Autodesk for allowing the use of their Viz Studio, a superb venue that is both aesthetically pleasing and technologically equipped. Thank you to all of our members who were in attendance. You made it a success. Our next meeting will take place during the week of April 15th, details to follow. Join us, and bring a friend!

News from National

On February 16th, Thomas Mueller, President of CaGBC National and staff hosted a LEED for Homes workshop at the St. Andrew’s Club in Toronto. The intent of the workshop was to initiate the first steps in introducing LEED for Homes as a National rating system for low rise residential green construction in Canada.

Jay Hall from the USGBC was on hand to review the current status of the rating system in the United States. A number of existing programs in Canada were also reviewed including Energy Star presented by Corey McBernie of EnerQuality; The BuiltGreen program presented by Holly Chabidon of Built Green Society in Alberta; and Equalibrium (formally Net Zero) presented by Bill Semple of CMHC. Larry Brydon and Andrew Bowerbank from the Chapter (representing their “other hats”) were fortunate to be invited to the event and look forward to participating in program development. Thomas would like to see the first draft of the Canadian rating system ready for pilot use by early 2008.

CaGBC National is also working hard to bring LEED for Neighbourhood Development to Canada in Pilot phase by 2008. “there is a high national demand for these two programs” says Thomas, “CaGBC needs to address that demand and the Chapters need to be in a position to support implementation”. A National residential committee has now been established to create the Canadian LEED for Homes Rating System, chaired by Andrew Pride of Minto Developments. More news will be provided to Chapter members as these initiatives develop.

Committee Spotlight

A regular feature for future issues of the Chapter Newsletter will be the Committee Spotlight to keep members informed of activities and individuals involved. In addition to our established Tech Ed committee, we will be forming 3 new committees over the coming months including:

- Events & Membership
- Communications
- Business Development

To begin the process of establishing these committees, the Chapter will be hosting a ½ day orientation workshop on April 11th at the Chapter’s Downsview Park office. For those volunteers that signed up at the February Chapter meeting and for members who were not at the meeting but wish to get involved, Melissa Ferrato has also sent out a general invitation to attend. We look forward to seeing everyone there!
Green Building Project Showcase

This will be a regular feature for our newsletter that will highlight key green building projects from all building sectors in Southern Ontario. Chapter members are encouraged to submit project articles no longer than 3-4 paragraphs in length, accompanied with a corporate logo, 1-2 high resolution jpeg images, and a credit caption for photograph use. Contact Melissa Ferrato in the Chapter office for more information.

The Sustainable Condo to Find a Permanent Home at the CNE
By Mark Salerno, District Manager, GTA, CMHC
Chapter Treasurer

The Sustainable Condo is a full-size presentation suite that displays green technologies and sustainable products, all of which are currently available. Visitors can tangibly see how to reduce energy and resource consumption, improve indoor air quality and help the environment. The Sustainable Condo is a project by EcoSmart Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Vancouver. The condo was designed by Busby Perkins + Will Architects and supported by the Government of Canada and numerous other Canadian partners. Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and EcoSmart Foundation are pleased to present "The Sustainable Condo" as a feature exhibit at three high-profile Toronto venues in 2007. These include REALTOR QUEST, The Green Living Show and the Canadian National Exhibition. Combined, these venues will draw over 1.4 million visitors. Thereafter the Condo will become a permanent exhibit at Exhibition Place in Toronto where work is currently underway to renovate the Music Building - likely to be rebranded as the Green Living Pavilion. Key supporters of the 2007 tour include the Ontario Power Authority, the City of Toronto, GTHBA-UDI, The Royal Bank of Canada, Minto Urban Communities and OZZ Corporation.

The 2007 tour follows after a successful tour through Toronto in 2006. Venues included the IIDEX NeoCon Canada Show, the International Home Show, the Toronto Regional Green Building Festival and Construct Canada. More than 20,000 people, including industry professionals and consumers, visited the condo. For more information or to become a 2007 supporter, contact Mark Salerno at msalerno@cmhc.ca
Photos: EcoSmart's Sustainable Condo TM
Exhibit Courtesy Busby Perkins + Will Architects

Royal Bank of Canada Centre

The RBC Centre is a proposed 42-storey, 1.2 million square foot office building which is aiming for LEED Silver certification. It will be constructed as part of Simcoe Place in downtown Toronto. New York’s KPF Architects, one of the most highly regarded architectural firms in the U.S. today, have designed this environmentally friendly building with cost efficiency as a primary focus.

A number of green features will be incorporated throughout the building. Deep-lake cooling and steam heating will maximize efficiencies and minimize operating costs; a flexible HVAC will allow for individual cooling control; floor to ceiling windows will provide for plenty of natural daylight; automated sensors will control lighting requirements; exposed concrete ceilings will be higher and more light reflective; and operable windows up to the 10th floor will allow for maximized natural ventilation. These features not only add to the sustainability of the building, they also create a pleasant office environment with plenty of natural daylighting and comfortable heating and cooling. Construction began in August 2006, it is expected to be finished by 2009.

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