

GREN Minutes for Thursday, January 21, 2010

**Cambridge City Hall, 50 Dickson Street (in downtown Galt)
Daphne and Gord Nicholls' home, 36 The Crestway, Kitchener**

7:15 pm: Tour of this "green" Cambridge City Hall, led by Bob Paul, director of facilities management and development, and Adam Cheney, corporate services, for Cambridge.

Principle architect: Diamond and Schmitt Architects Inc.

Designed by Dr. Allan Darlington of Nedlaw

General contractor: Vanbots

LEED consultants: Enermodal Engineering Ltd

It is the first city hall in Canada to achieve the ranking of gold in the Leadership Energy Environmental Design (LEED) from the Canada Green Building Council. It is the largest capital project in the municipality's history and is setting a new standard for energy efficient design.

The building costs, including furniture which meets green standards, were \$22 million. (on time, on budget). Projected energy savings are about \$160,000/year.

Guiding Principles incorporated into the design of this state of the art city hall:

1. implements LEED (Leadership Energy Environmental Design) concepts
2. preserve Heritage concepts
3. serve as an Emergency Operation Center for community
4. facilitate Public Participation
5. Healthy environment to work

Features include:

1. **Green Wall in atrium & over 3,000 plants in building:** plants act as biofilter, humidifier, aesthetic points of interest; behind the "green wall" is a fan system to forcibly draw building's air through plants to maximize filtration of contaminants; bio-filtering is tied in with ventilation systems
2. **Green Roof/135 m² Experimental farm**
3. **Weather station on roof**
4. **Water cistern (10,000L) on roof: for "waterless" urinals**
5. **Solar potential:** City is considering leasing roof space to solar companies
6. **Air Quality:** automated system tracks temperature, humidity, carbon dioxide to determine ventilation needs
7. **Energy savings:** 70% of lighting requirements provided by sunlight; Skylights with opening windows which are programmed to open based on

temperature, wind and rain parameters; T5 fluorescent lighting; motion sensors which turn lights off after 15 minutes

8. **Buy local:** 90% of materials
9. **Waste:** 80% is recycled
10. **Flooring:** low-maintenance ceramic tiles and carpet tiles from recycled products which can be cheaply and easily repaired
11. **Global's GREENGUARD certified products** used in partitions and office furniture to minimize off-gassing, pollutants
12. **Bullfrog power** supplies electricity

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GREN executive was chosen September 2008. Nominations /elections for a new executive should take place on or before September 2010.

Brainstorming on GREN goals and work for 2010

The following ideas, in no particular order, were proposed, and will be discussed at the next GREN executive meeting and the next GREN general meeting.

- Air Quality; e.g. Anti-idling by-laws; drive-through ban; promotion of roundabouts which minimize idling; better public transit; tree by-laws
- Meet and collaborate with other environmental groups in the Grand River region
- GREN website needs help
- Media presence with regular environmental columns; Record, NOW media
- Land Use: parking lots/parking garages; gravel pits
- Elections: prepare questionnaires for candidates
- Pipeline committee work
- Amalgamation
- Provincial policy statement is being revised
- Trails: year-round, off-road, along rivers, creeks, pedestrian rights
- Artificial water fluoridation referendum in October municipal election
- Water quality/toxics monitoring
- ROPP: put pressure on communities to implement
- Hidden Valley

Next Meeting: Wednesday February 17, 2010, St. John's Kitchen at 97 Victoria St N, Kitchener

Meeting chaired by John Jackson: jjackson@glu.org

Minutes prepared by Carole Clinch: caclinch@gmail.com