

The GREEN ROOF MONITOR

Vol. I, No. 1, Summer 1999

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Green Roof Monitor, a quarterly report on current and emerging green roof events and opportunities.



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COALITION NEWS

ABOUT GREEN ROOFS AND OUR BUSINESS COALITION

Green roofs provide a wide range of public and private benefits. These range from improved stormwater management and smog reduction to better energy efficiency and new amenity space for building occupants. Green Roofs for Healthy Cities is a business coalition founded in March, 1999 to foster the development of a market for green roof products and services. Green roof development involves the creation of 'contained' green space on top of a human-made structure. This green space can be below, at, or above grade, but in all cases the plants are not planted in the 'ground'. A green roof is an extension of the existing roof, which involves a special root repelling membrane, a drainage system, a lightweight growing medium and plants. The Founding Members of the Coalition are **Doug Flynn**, Flynn Canada Ltd.; **William Bean** and **Brian Lambert**, Garland Canada; **Al Duwyn**, IRC Buildings

Sciences Group Inc.; **Frank Baxter**, Semple-Gooder Roofing; and **Colin Donaldson**, Soprema Inc. Please visit our website at www.peck.ca or e-mail **Steven Peck**, Director, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities at speck@peck.ca for more information.

GREEN ROOFS FOR HEALTHY CITIES COALITION LAUNCH EVENT

On June 14th, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities hosted a wine and cheese event to formally launch the Coalition. Held at Toronto City Hall, attendees enjoyed the view of a demonstration green roof from the windows of the Members Lounge while learning about the benefits of green roofs and the products and services offered by Coalition members. The event was well attended by councillors, staff and other interested professionals, and generated significant media attention. Special thanks go to **Councillor Brad Duguid**, Ward 15, City of Toronto for sponsoring the event.

LOCAL NEWS

ROOF GREENING AT TORONTO CITY HALL

Efforts are currently underway to generate financial support for a permanent green roof demonstration at Toronto City Hall. Beginning June 9th, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities initiated a one-week green roof demonstration project. The demonstration green roof was 20 by 20 feet in size and highly visible from the Members' Lounge. Soprema and Perennial Gardens Corporation supplied the necessary materials and facilitated the installation.

THE TORONTO HOUSING COMPANY BEING ENCOURAGED TO INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREEN ROOFS

On February 23rd, 1999, the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee, chaired by **Mayor Mel Lastman**, recommended that the Board of Directors of the Toronto Housing Company consider preparing a report that investigates the opportunities to establish rooftop and on-site community gardens on residential buildings owned by the Toronto Housing Company, with estimates of costs and possible sources of funding. For more information, contact **Monica Tang** at (416) 392-4058.

CHANGES RECOMMENDED TO TORONTO'S GREEN PROCUREMENT POLICY

On June 1st, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities made a deputation to the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee. The Committee unanimously accepted the following proposed changes to Toronto's green procurement policy:

- Given the environmental and economic importance of infrastructure, green procurement principles should be fully applied to construction design, processes, tendering and materials;
- Given that many 'green' products and services can produce a variety of tangible benefits, full consideration should be given to the long term and complete costs and benefits of green procurement.

The policy must go to the full Council for final approval. These principles, if adopted by the full Council, will help generate a market for green roofs and other green building technologies.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE SUPPORTS GREEN ROOF DEMONSTRATION

On June 15th, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities made a deputation to the City of Toronto Administrative Services Committee, chaired by **Councillor Lorenzo Beradinetti**. The Committee reports having:

- Endorsed, in principle, the concept proposed for a demonstration green roof at Toronto City Hall;
- Requested the Acting Commissioner of Corporate Services to submit a report to the

Administration Committee on the concept as proposed and the request for proposal suggested by the Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Coalition;

- Requested the Planning and Transportation Committee to invite representatives of the Green Roofs for Healthy Cities Coalition to make a presentation to the Planning and Transpor-

SEMPLE-GOODER ROOFING GREENS HOSPITAL ROOFS
Simple-Gooder Roofing is working with **Mary Jane Lovering** of Vertechs Design Inc. to finalize the drawings for the new green roofs at the Trillium Centre in Mississauga, formerly Mississauga Hospital. The design entails installing an intensive green roof system in a highly visible area of the hospital which includes approximately four small roof areas. Two of these areas will



GREEN ROOF, VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY, BRITISH COLUMBIA

tation Committee on land use planning and other tools that can be considered regarding this project;

- Requested the Toronto Atmospheric Fund to give consideration to providing funding assistance to the Coalition to help move the project forward.

The Coalition is now working to help implement the recommendations of the Administrative Services Committee.

have membranes prepared for green roof installation. This project will be completed in approximately three phases and will cover approximately 12,500 square feet of roof area. In addition to aesthetics, energy savings and an extended life span of the roofing membrane, research suggests that having green space in patients' view helps to speed their recovery. For more information, contact **Frank Baxter** at (416) 743-5370 or **Ms. Lovering** at (416) 925-6097.

GARLAND INSTALLS CONDO GREEN ROOF IN PORTLAND
Portland Oregon's condominium community is among the first in North America to embrace green roofing. The Garland Company, a manufacturer of waterproofing and green roofing systems, has recently landscaped a condo community's rooftops with plants native to Portland, willowy wildflowers and verdant ground covers. For more information about the ecological, functional and health benefits of this high performance green roof system contact **Brian Lambert** at blambert@garland.com or call 1-800-321-9336.

trians, who can see the waterfalls from near and view the turbines inside the building from the skylights on the roof. For more information, please contact **Marie-Anne Boivin**, Soprema, at 1-800-463-2382.

CITY OF TORONTO'S GREEN ROOFS IN DISGUISE

There are a number of green roofs in the city of Toronto. Since many are at street level, most people are unaware that they are green roofs.

- The new Metro Convention Centre Roundhouse Park (street level)
- Ryerson University athletic

NATIONAL NEWS

CMHC PUBLISHES REPORT QUANTIFYING THE BENEFITS OF GREEN ROOFS

CMHC has recently published a report prepared by **Steven Peck**, Peck & Associates, **Monica Kuhn**, Architect and **Dr. Brad Bass**, Environment Canada entitled, *Greenbacks from Greenroofs: Forging a New Industry in Canada*. The report highlights the quantitative and qualitative benefits of green roof and vertical garden technologies, barriers to the widespread adoption of these technologies as well as a proposed national action plan to overcome existing barriers. To obtain a free copy of the report, please contact the Canadian Housing Information Centre at 1-800-668-2642 or e-mail chic@cmhc-schl.gc.ca



OFFICE GREEN ROOF, VIENNA, AUSTRIA

SOPREMA INSTALLS A GREEN ROOF FOR A HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT

La Centrale Hydroelectrique des Chutes-de-la-Chaudiere, promoted by Ennergex, is the first project in North America where an extensive green roof has been incorporated into the overall design. Soprema has recently been working to install a green roof with hardy perennials on 8 inches of growing medium, and shrubs on 12 inches. The central building of the electric dam project is covered by an accessible deck for tourists and pedes-

- complex (street level)
 - Downtown Sheraton Centre (above grade)
 - Mountain Equipment Co-Op (above grade)
 - Nathan Phillips' Square Peace Garden and flower beds (street level)
 - Royal York Hotel (herb garden, above grade)
 - Manulife Centre (amenity space, above grade)
-



**ACCESSIBLE GREEN ROOF,
RYERSON POLYTECHNICAL UNIVERSITY,
TORONTO, ONTARIO**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

**CHICAGO GREENS ROOFS
TO COOL CITIES**

The City of Chicago's Department of Environment plans to implement green roofs on several city buildings over the summer as a way to help cool cities and reduce smog. The planned projects will demonstrate different garden designs, different kinds of plants that can be used and help to work through a variety of construction challenges for different types of roofs. The City will take advantage of opportunities afforded in different parts of Chicago, such as greening roofs along elevated train tracks where passengers can see and enjoy them. The City of Chicago's Department of the Environment is working with the US EPA and the US Department of Energy to measure the ability of these efforts to help cool cities. For more information about the City of Chicago's Rooftop Gardening

Initiative, contact **Brendan Daley** at (312) 742-0150 or b.daley@bi.chi.il.us

**DACH AND WAND '99 ROOF AND
WALL CONFERENCE IN
EUROPE**

Frank Baxter, vice-president of Semple-Gooder Roofing, recently visited this major industry show in Stuttgart, Germany and reported that approximately 20% of the trade booths featured green roof or vertical garden products and services. This has grown from less than 2% four years ago. As of 1996, over 10 million square metres of green roofs were installed in Germany, and since then the industry has been enjoying a rapid rate of growth.

OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS:

MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT CO-OP
In 1997, Mountain Equipment Co-op contracted Soprema and **Heinz Vogt** of Stone Kohn McQuire Vogt Architects to design a green roof as part of their ongoing commitment to

integrating environmental and economic values. **Ed Horner**, Assistant Manager of the Co-op, indicated that they get a lot of visitors from the hotel adjacent to the building, who look down on it and want to learn more about it. The roof covers 60,000 square feet, contains 6 cm of material and is home for a variety of grasses, wildflowers and sedum. Although not designed for recreational use, it is possible to arrange a visit to the green roof. For more information contact Anne Lesperance at (416) 340-2667.

**TOUR OF GREEN
ROOFTOPS**

On the morning of Tuesday, September 28, 1999, the Rooftop Gardens Resource Group and Green Roofs for Healthy Cities will co-host a walking tour of various green roofs in downtown Toronto for members of the Coalition, media and other interested parties. The tour will begin at 9:00 A.M. in front of the Peace Garden in Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West. Please RSVP with Stephanie Tencer, Coalition Coordinator, Green Roofs for Healthy Cities, 971-4484, or e-mail stencer@peck.ca

If you wish to receive the Green Roof Monitor by e-mail, send an e-mail message to stencer@peck.ca

Please visit the Green Roofs for Healthy Cities website and our electronic journal on urban sustainability, the New Urban Agenda at www.peck.ca