

HEALTHY AND GREEN HOUSE TOUR

Professors Helen Hoy & Tom King, who is also the federal NDP candidate, opened their new home to U of G engineering students, faculty and Eco House residents in March. It was a unique opportunity to learn about one of the most environmentally innovative housing projects in Guelph. Architect David McAuley and lead builder Peter Hofland were on hand to answer questions about all aspects of the project: passive solar heating & shading, breathable walls, recycled & natural materials, low energy appliances & reduced electromagnetic radiation were just some of the special features of this beautiful home.

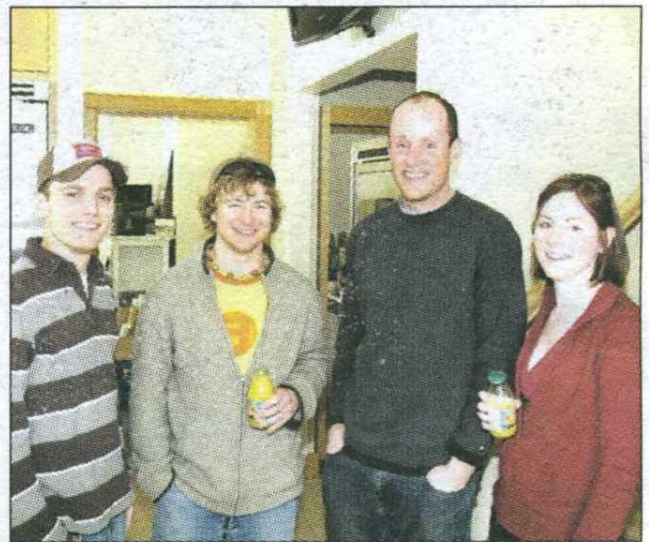
Photos by Simon Bell



A green & healthy home



Tom King with builder Peter Hofland and architect David McAuley



U of G students Brad Dixon, Torben Ruddock, Michael Trudell & Carley Gratrix



Environmental engineering students Victoria Sharpe, Katy Falk, Kim Jusec, Sondus Jamal & Madavine Tom

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Home built to last more than century

What's old is new again

By DUNC HALETT
Guelph Tribune

A new eco-friendly home custom built for a local couple is designed to last for centuries - centuries without air conditioning, no matter what global warming may bring.

"We are going to save money on the air conditioning, because there isn't any," and there's no way it can be installed later, Prof. Thomas King told a group of U of G engineering students and faculty gathered Friday at the house facing Beryl City Park. The house custom-built for King and Prof. Helen

Hoy, which has radiant in-floor heating downstairs and radiators upstairs, is designed to be cooled naturally. Six-foot overhangs provide protection from the heat of the sun, all windows open for cross-ventilation and there are ceiling fans to use when needed.

"This is not the be-all and end-all of environmental housing," but it provides city residents with an example of what can be done in terms of a new home that is environmentally friendly, healthy to live in and built to last, King said.

Doing something different is "kind of scary," he said, and "at least now we have one house in town, probably more, that you can look at."

Architect David McAuley said the house is "more sustainable" than other new homes, as it's designed to last 100 to 200 years without major renovations. Most new homes being built these days are built to last "maybe 50 years at the most" before they need major renovations, he said.

The house at the corner of Water and Mary streets is thought to be the first in Guelph with "breathable walls" made from big blocks of a material made from wood fibres and cement that's normally used for highway noise barriers. This material, which allows transmission of moisture and air and acts as an effective sound barrier, "would be a great change from standard stuff construction" if it came to be commonly used in homes, King said.

Except for some plywood, there's nothing in the house to emit unhealthy gases, and the garage is separate from the house to improve air quality in the house, King said.

"The best part of it is the air quality in here is quite good," compared with previous places he's lived, he said.

Lead builder Peter Holland said a crowd of more than 30 assembled in the big open area

on the home's main floor that he enjoyed being part of the project. "I've never built something like this before, and I'd do it again," he said.

"It was neat."



U of G professors Thomas King and Helen Hoy pose with the low-water, low-energy dishwasher in the new eco-friendly home where they live with their son.
DUNC HALETT FOR THE TRIBUNE