

# A Green First for Ontario

## TRCA Unveils Ontario's First Platinum-Certified Green Building

Toronto and Region Conservation's (TRCA) new Restoration Services Centre has been awarded the prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification by the Canada Green Building Council for its innovative sustainability features. This is the highest level of environmental certification available and a first for an Ontario building.

Currently, there are only four other structures in Canada with the LEED Platinum designation. TRCA's building was awarded 56 LEED points, the second-highest score among all four buildings to date (NOTE: This statement is only true as of the date of certification).

The two-storey, 1,095-square-metre building serves as a showcase of sustainable design and houses staff from the TRCA's Restoration Services and Parks & Facilities divisions in support of TRCA's resource management, archaeology and conservation area recreation programs.

"The restoration services building is a physical testament to the progress we are making in creating a fully sustainable living city," says Dave Rogalsky, Manager, Resource Management Projects for TRCA. "We are also proud to say this achievement has generated interest from international groups to build similar structures and sets a benchmark for future LEED-certified buildings in Ontario, across the country and around the world."

LEED is the most reputable rating protocol in North America. Buildings are judged on the basis of numerous criteria and

rated as one of four levels: Certified, Silver, Gold or Platinum. LEED credits are awarded for meeting specific requirements in key categories including sustainable sites, water efficiency, energy and atmosphere, materials and resources, indoor environmental quality and innovation and design that is expected to deliver 57% in energy savings. Features that earned TRCA the Platinum certification include:

- Reducing indoor potable water-use by 80% through composting toilets, waterless urinals and low-flow faucets;
- Optimizing energy-cost performance by using ground-source heat pumps and heat recovery ventilators to reclaim the heat of the air being exhausted, transferring it to the incoming fresh air stream; and
- The use of recycled materials including reclaimed brick, recycled crushed concrete instead of asphalt and materials with a high recycled content.

The building was a collaborative project between TRCA, Montgomery Sisam Architects, Enermodal Engineering mechanical and electrical engineers, Percon Construction Inc. and LEED consultants that began April 2006. The incremental cost to construct the environmentally friendly building was 9.3% more than it would have been to develop a nonenvironmental structure.

"Inspired by TRCA's vision for the living city — where human settlement can flourish forever as part of nature's beauty and diversity — the building has been designed to have a symbiotic relationship with its natural surroundings," said Santiago Künzle, architect



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with Montgomery Sisam Architects. "The building harvests natural light and ventilation, geothermal energy and directs all rain water to replenish wetlands that provide habitat for birds, turtles and insects. The design focuses on using simple, low-cost solutions to drive high-performance sustainability outcomes while creating a comfortable and inspiring environment for the client. Superior indoor environment quality is achieved through extensive natural light and ventilation, low-emitting finishes and low-velocity fresh air supply."

*With over 50 years of experience, TRCA helps people understand, enjoy and look after the natural environment. Our vision is for the living city — a cleaner, greener and healthier place to live, for you today and for your children tomorrow. For more information, call (416) 661-6600 or visit us at [www.trca.on.ca](http://www.trca.on.ca). ■*

