

IF YOU BUILD IT, THEY WILL COME! TOUR A GREEN HOME AT THE HOME SHOW

COVER STORY BY MARISSA REAUME



The men and women responsible for building the Green Home at the home show are pictured after a planning meeting. Front row from left: Rose Gneo, Marquis Fireplaces; Kyle Gregoire, LapicoGreen; Elise Clark, Meloche Windows; Bernie Gneo, Marquis Tile; Timothy O'Neill, O'Neill, Harrington Interiors and Vern Myslichuk, BetterMade Cabinets. Back row from left: Dave Cartier, APW Electronics; Michael Matte, Granite Design Works; Allan LaMarre, Bay-View Glass & Mirror Limited; Paul St. Pierre, Landscape Effects Group; Rod Mahler, Meloche Windows & Doors; Stuart Galloway, Galloway Show Productions and Kriston Gene, Tsunami Glassworks. Missing from photo: Eva Milinkovic, Tsunami Glassworks; Stephanie Harrington-O'Neill; Kathy Weidl, Details and Kurt Suttis of Veteran Plumbing. Carhartt overalls supplied by Mark's Work Warehouse, Tecumseh Mall. Photo by Rod Denis.

On April 22, many countries around the world take part in environmentally friendly activities in celebration of Earth Day. Although we can all make a difference by turning off taps and dimming the lights to conserve the earth's resources, did you know that we can also use natural elements to our advantage while simultaneously contributing to a healthier planet starting with the homes in which we live?

Imagine an energy efficient home that not only promotes a comfortable living

space but also reduces damage to the earth. While this innovative concept may seem unreachable in the industrialized world, Windsorites need look no further than the 27th Annual Windsor Home and Leisure Show (WHLS) for a chance to tour a Green Home. The show operates from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, April 24; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 25 and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday April 26 at the Windsor Expo Centre. (Admission is \$5 for those 16 years and above, children are free to attend, more details at windsorhomeshow.com).

Produced by **Galloway Show Productions Inc.** (GSP, www.exposition.com) and sponsored by RE/MAX Preferred Realty for the third straight year, the WHLS includes almost 200 companies to source out a plethora of home related needs, from inside to outside, from products to services.

Making its official debut at the show is a Green Home presented by **Windsor Family Credit Union (WFCU)**.

"As an organization, Windsor Family Credit Union (wfcu.ca) is committed to investigating and implementing 'Green' initiatives," explains Martin J. Komsa, WFCU President & Chief Executive Officer. "Features like the 'Green Home' at the Windsor Home and Leisure Show are the resources needed to assist in demonstrating how businesses and individuals can do their part."

By making it possible for this home to appear at the show, WFCU is not only helping the environment, but also making the world aware of Windsor's drive to better the earth.

"Never before, outside of a Toronto show, has there ever been a home built within a show," explains Stuart Galloway of Galloway Show Productions, the WHLS Producer and Manager. "This says a lot about the character of this area as many local company owners worked together to build this home, in what seemed like an impossible task at its inception."

The project is a collaborative effort by local businesses which takes four weeks to build. The structure and exterior have been engineered by Lapico Homes (a division of LapicoGreen) and the interior designed by O'Neill-Harrington. The home will be finished inside and out by Meloche Windows & Doors, Better Made Cabinets, Marquis Tile, Marquis Fireplaces, Veteran Plumbing, Landscape Effects Group, Bay-View Glass & Mirror, APW Electronics, Tsunami Glassworks, Granite Design Works and Details.

"These reputable contractors are putting the very best in energy efficient products and design into the final product," explains Galloway.



Martin J. Komsa, WFCU President & Chief Executive Officer is proud to sponsor the Green Home built in only four weeks.

Galloway reveals that in its finished form, the three-storey Green Home presented by WFCU, will be 80% more energy efficient than a house built to minimum code and 70% more efficient than a home built to Energy Star standards.

"The Green Home will be 30' high, 42' frontage with 20' side walls and 1,000 sq. ft. of the home will be completed finished," says Galloway. "The house will more than likely be stored within the building after

the show."

While the home's interior and exterior will be amazing sights for visitors to see, the Green Home has another outstanding attention getter: Mike Holmes, "Canada's Most Trusted Contractor" and Host of HGTV's "Holmes on Homes",

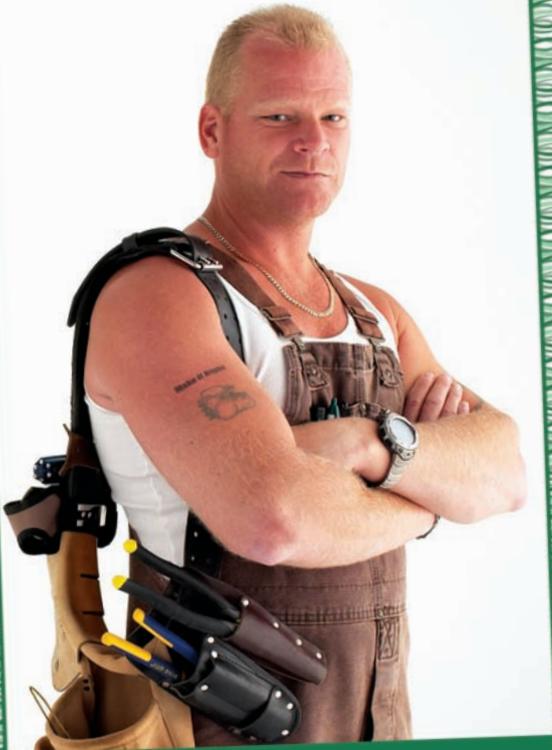
in person, chatting in the backyard. (See accompanying sidebar on page 28 for information on Holmes and what he discusses in two performances at the WHLS).

"Such exciting star power from the renovation industry is a first for Windsor," Galloway says.

THE GREEN HOME TEAM

The Green Home team was created when Elise Clark, President and Owner of **Meloche Windows & Doors** proposed her idea to create an energy efficient home at the WHLS to other Windsor companies.

"We all agreed to come together and explore this idea further," says Clark. As a result of her innovative idea, 13 Windsor companies, plus Galloway Show Productions, joined in collaboration to form Windsor's Green Home Team.



Mike Holmes, the Host/Creator of "Holmes On Homes" attends this year's Windsor Home and Leisure Show. The back of the Green Home is the stage for his seminars.

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in general and the construction of them, be sure to attend a presentation on Saturday April 25 at WHLS when Gregoire discusses building a Green Home and some of the products and systems available to incorporate. Gregoire will also use the back of the Green Home as a stage for his presentation.

THE GREEN INTERIOR

O'Neill-Harrington Interiors (OHI, oneillharrington.com), 12545 Riverside Dr. East in Windsor, is in charge of the Green Home's interior design. In business for 24 years, OHI is known for its professional residential and commercial interior design. For this reason, the company is making all decisions involving layouts, surface selections, colour schemes and coordination of the inside of the Green Home.

Stephanie Harrington-O'Neill, President and Timothy O'Neill, Vice President of OHI explain that their company entered this project when Meloche

Windows, OHI's client of over 15 years, invited them to participate.

OHI is a perfect candidate for the Green Home Team because it has been a humble proponent for L.E.E.D. (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for sometime now.

"Energy savings for one's home is not only good for the pocket book, it's good for the community and thus the planet," reveals Stephanie and Timothy. "We believe in high design and low impact. Everyone involved in this task wanted to show their best at being 'Green Friendly'."

Details, 1475 Tecumseh Road East in Windsor, adds the finishing touches to the interior of Green Home.

As a company which specializes in window treatments, upholstery, and beddings, Details is in charge of dressing the home's windows.

THE HEALTHY PLANET DETAILS INS & OUTS

Responsible for the home's entrances and exits is **Meloche Windows & Doors** (www.melochewindows.com). The 52 year-old company, located at 6144 Morton Industrial Parkway in Windsor, specializes in the manufacturing,



The team at O'Neill-Harrington Interiors from left are Ada Ng, B.F.A.; Stephanie Harrington-O'Neill, A.R.I.D.O. (Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario) and Timothy O'Neill, B. Sc. & A.R.I.D.O. The trio go over the "Green" materials used for the display model home. Photo by Rod Denis.

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installation and service of windows and doors and is producing and installing all windows and doors in the Green Home.

As the company who coined the Green Home idea, Meloche Windows recognizes

the fact that changes need to be made in Windsor during tough economic times.

“Windsor has the highest unemployment rate in Canada,” says Rod Mahler, General Manager of Meloche Windows. “We want to introduce citizens to

something uplifting, something that will save dollars. We are hoping this event and the Green Home can do this.”

This year’s WHLS is the 20th home show that Meloche Windows has participated in.

WALKWAYS & WARMTH

Sister companies, **Marquis Tile** (www.marquistile.com) and **Marquis Fireplaces** (www.marquisfireplaces.com), both located at 1825 Manning Road in Windsor, are supplying the Green Home with flooring and heat.

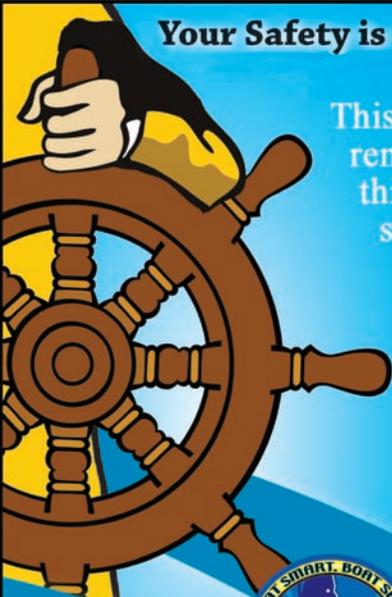
Established in 1996, Marquis Tile is the largest retailer of surface products for walls, floors, countertops, indoor and outdoor products. Opening two years later in 1998, Marquis Fireplaces retails hearth products such as gas, wood, pellet, bio-fuel and electric fireplaces, as well as decorative home accessories. Both companies offer products, installation and service.

Bernie Gneo, President of Marquis Tile and Rose Gneo, President of Marquis Fireplaces, explain that their efforts in the Green Home project are earth friendly as their companies are contributing renewable products such as Teragreen



Founder Bob Meloche (father of current President and Owner, Elise Clark) of Meloche Windows & Doors, a family owned and operated business established in 1957. Photo by Rod Denis.

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bamboo flooring and glass tile, and electric fireplaces to the home. "All products featured are environmentally conscious, practicing for cleaner air and minimum carbon offsets," assures the couple.

In addition to promoting a healthy earth through their participation in the Green Home construction, these two companies do what they can for the environment on a daily basis.

"We practice what we preach," assert Bernie and Rose. "We are very conscious in our own stores. We recycle and re use. We promote products that are efficient, conscious and socially responsible."

Concern for their community and the earth are reasons why these two companies decided to take part in this project.

According to the husband and wife team, "Our goal is to make a positive impact by educating consumers on products that are environmentally smart and promote healthier living, not only for the individual consumer, but for the environment."

AN EARTHY KITCHEN

The task of creating an environmentally friendly kitchen goes to **BetterMade Cabinets** (BMC, www.bettermadecabinets.com), 1428 Argyle Road in Windsor, which has been known for designing, manufacturing, and installing kitchens, vanities and wall units for over 20 years.

Owner Vern Myslichuk reveals that his company will, "Design and showcase a

'Green' kitchen using the four 'Rs' in Green design: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rethink."

Myslichuk explains why being aware of the environment is a priority for BMC:



BetterMade Cabinets hopes to make a "better" world for future generations. Owner Vern Myslichuk is doing his part as these custom cabinets are made with low VOC (volatile organic compounds) materials and water based finishes. Photo by Rod Denis.

"We want our clients to know we are environmentally conscious when designing their projects. Because we use CNC technology, we optimize the material used to manufacture your project, therefore there is no waste."

In addition to utilizing earth friendly practices, Myslichuk also reveals that products the company uses are environmentally considerate.

"Finishes are water based or of low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds)," he says. "Sheet goods, along with having low VOC, are also comprised of wood particles, therefore reducing waste in our landfills. We also suggest LED lighting

which consumes very little energy. BetterMade Cabinets designs projects that are efficient and functional, while achieving your Old World or Contemporary design."

When asked why his company chose to participate in the Green Home project, Myslichuk says, "Everyone is becoming more and more 'Green' and we at BetterMade Cabinets are no different. BetterMade Cabinets wants a world that our children and children's children can grow up in and enjoy all that this world has to offer."

Also involved in the construction of the home's kitchen is **Granite Design Works** (GDW, www.granitedesignworks.com), a five year-old custom fabricator of natural stone kitchen and bath designs, located at

1260 Crawford Avenue in Windsor. GDW is constructing and installing a granite countertop for the Green kitchen.

President Michael Matte explains his company and its products by saying, "I am the preferred granite fabricator in Windsor; Natural stone is the most desired countertop surface because of its natural beauty, timeless appearance and value retention."

When selecting the type of materials to use for the Green kitchen's countertop, GDW kept the environment in mind.

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GREEN GLASS

You can even help save the planet in your home’s shower and glass designs! Responsible for this facet of the project for the Green Home is **Bay-View Glass & Mirror Ltd.**, www.bayviewglass.com, 1455 Matthew Brady Blvd. in Windsor, which is installing the home’s back painted glass and an all-glass shower, along with designer glass.

Owner Al LaMarre explains that Bay-View Glass, a company in business 22 years, is “a company that does both commercial and residential installations.

We specialize in custom designs and carry a large selection of designer glass. Our expertise is in all-glass shower stalls and mirror designs.” The company has also introduced a new product – back painted glass.

LaMarre admits that his company’s involvement in the Green Home construction is due to “the fantastic concept and the amazingly talented trades involved to accomplish this first-ever project.”

Bay-View’s contribution will be environmentally friendly as their glass is made up of 30% recycled glass and their back painted glass includes no isocyanate (a potential health hazard) and is air dried.

Although the Green Home is a creative project in itself, the artistic touches of **Tsunami Glassworks Inc.** (TGI, www.tsunamiglassworks.com) also add to the home’s originality.

Located at 1167 Mercer Street in Windsor, TGI, a four-year-old business, specializes in decorative blown and hot-cast glass manufacturing. The company, headed by Eva Milinkovic, Co-Owner and Creative Director, and Kriston Gene, Co-Owner and Principal, supplies retailers and designers across the US and Canada.

Milinkovic and Gene explain TGI’s involvement in the Green Home project by saying, “We are showcasing new hand-made blown glass sculptures from the WISP (glasses curving into and away from each other) series which resemble blades of grass ranging in heights as tall as 40”. We are also showing a sculptural water feature made out of reclaimed window glass.”

The company willingly accepted the

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MEET HOLMES AT THE HOME SHOW



Photo courtesy of Brian Dupuis.

Mike Holmes, “Canada’s Most Trusted Contractor” and Host/Creator of HGTV’s “Holmes on Homes” is the star attraction of this year’s Windsor Home and Leisure Show (WHLS).

“Holmes on Homes”, which has been the #1 show on HGTV Canada since the summer of 2004, also airs in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Germany.

Holmes is an ideal candidate to lead this year’s WHLS as he knows the importance of resourcefulness and craftsmanship. In 2006 he was acknowledged by Canada’s House of Commons as an “extraordinary craftsman” and “an accomplished master builder with a social conscience.” That same year Holmes launched “The Holmes Foundation”, a charitable Canadian foundation to support the training of youth in the skilled trades, through apprenticeships, scholarships and bursaries.

As the national spokesperson for Skills Canada and for World Skills 2009, Holmes is often invited to speak by professional organizations, such as the

Canadian Safety Association of Ontario, the Ontario Building Inspectors Association and the Canadian Association of Home Inspectors.

Holmes performs two shows (they are not taped for TV) at the WHLS during Earth Week. He is looking forward to coming to Windsor and enjoys meeting home owners and providing them with information. His stage is the back of the three-storey “Green Home” presented by Windsor Family Credit Union. The shows take place Sunday, April 26 at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Holmes will provide consumers with his “Make It Right” message and will cover such topics as how to hire the right contractor and how to make sure your renovation is done right the first time. He will also offer green renovation information. In addition, there will be a question and answer session where audience members can find answers to their specific problems.

Tickets to see Mike Holmes are \$20 each and also include free admission to the WHLS. They are available at the Chrysler Theatre Box Office, online at www.chryslertheatre.com.

offer to take part in this project and feels honoured to have the opportunity to work with the esteemed participating companies.

As a glass manufacturer, TGI is aware of the ways in which glass and its production affects the environment.

“We recognize the importance of exercising Green ways of living to contribute to the solution of stabilizing the environment that we live in,” state Milinkovic and Gene. “We also recognize that glassmaking is a major consumer of energy and contributor to greenhouse gases. We, at Tsunami Glassworks, recognize that we cannot eliminate the energy that we use, but we can reduce our consumption of it.”

While glass production can have certain adverse effects on the environment, Milinkovic and Gene outline TGI’s strategies for reducing the stress it puts on the earth: “We are interested in reusing existing glass to make a body of work that does not require the amounts of energy to make glass out of its raw ingredients...we are taking measures to increase the efficiency of our glass studio including plans to switch to an electric furnace. Currently, we have retrofitted our studio with energy efficient lighting, and are using a heat exchanger to reclaim heat from the furnace to heat the studio in the winter, and keep it cooler in the summer.”

In addition, TGI operates on the philosophy that reusable objects produce less waste, and thus, less damage to our planet.

“We provide beautiful hand-made objects that have a perceived value that transcends the mundane objects that can be purchased for less money,” they say. “These mass produced items have filled a niche in our seemingly ‘disposable’ society. We believe that there is more merit in producing fewer objects at high value versus the widely embraced mass produced object that consume massive amounts of energy and resources.”

EARTH FRIENDLY ELECTRONICS

The involvement of **APW Electronics** of Chatham (www.apwelectronics.com) in the Green Home project, demonstrates that home electronics can be safer for the earth than we may believe.

Since 1978, APW, a Cedia (The European Confederation of Agronomist Associations) Certified Electronic Systems contractor, has been designing, selling, and installing media systems, integrated lighting control, dedicated home cinemas and lifestyle entertainment.

As for the company’s involvement in the Green Home project, Owner and Lead Designer Dave Cartier explains that APW “is displaying flat panel monitors, integrated lighting control (showing the possibilities of energy saving by single touch light dimming), media management systems and other cool entertainment concepts.”

Cartier’s company was more than eager to participate in the project. “We became involved after learning that an on-site

three-storey custom home would allow us to demonstrate the ‘Green’ approach to home entertainment with less equipment, controllable lighting and single remote control,” he says.

A GREEN OUTSIDE

The Green Home project will make sure that every detail of the home is environmentally friendly – even the front yard. Ready to take on the task of outdoor landscaping is **Landscape Effects Group (LEG)** (www.landscapefx.com), 1125 County Rd #42, R.R.#1 in Belle River. LEG is known for its 16 years of work in pools, patios, fencing, landscaping, irrigation, lighting, roof top gardens, and more.

Company President Paul St. Pierre talks about his company’s task in the Green Home project and how they became involved: “We are building an entire life size front yard as you would see in any residential area. We were invited to participate and we obviously believe in the Green movement working with plant material each day.”

LEG’s involvement in the project extends even further as St. Pierre reveals that his company can really relate to the project at hand.

“We truly are committed to bring awareness to our community and catch up with the rest of the world,” says St. Pierre. “We are years behind and truly it starts by letting people see what is possible. We have been building commercial Green roofs for five years now and the residential market should not be an exception.”