



GREEN ECHOS THROUGH the Toronto Condo Show 2008

By Stacey Fruitman, Ecolnspirations

When I moved back from New York City five years ago and started working at Tridel, I was asked to work on a Green website called naturallybetter.ca. That was back in August of 2003 with the launch of a new condo called Element, one of the first green condos in Canada.

This intrigued me. It was the beginning of the Green condo movement and I knew it would make a positive change. Next, in the spring of 2005, working with the Canadian Green Building Council, both Tridel and Minto launched the first condos registered for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification, and received tremendous press coverage.

Since then, many other developers have launched Green communities. TAS DesignBuild launched M5V that uses Bullfrog Power. Huge developers like Monarch, Bazis, and Freed have all launched substantial Green condo communities within the last year or so. This is excellent news for home owners and of course, for Mother Earth.

When Denise Lash and I met to discuss the upcoming Toronto Condo Show, we both felt it made sense for the show to support all these developers. This year there is a strong Green theme to the show.

Most importantly, the show itself will reduce its carbon footprint substantially. We partnered with the Metro Toronto Convention Centre (MTCC) to create a ZeroWaste event - between 94-99% of all waste being diverted from landfills. Already the MTCC has taken great strides to be more Eco-conscious with a Green roof on the South Building and initiatives such as having leftover food being donated to Second Harvest and being connected to EnWave, a deep lake

water cooling system. Even the carpet is made from recycled material.

Next, we partnered with Bullfrog Power who will inject Green, renewable energy to the grid to match the amount of electricity being used by the event. Bullfrog Power has introduced Green power to condo owners, both for common areas and individual suites - information will be provided at the show or go to it website at www.bullfrog.com.

Education is an important focus for the show, and therefore we decided to create a Green speaker series. Seminars include Energy Retrofits with Olivia Chow, Lisa Kay and Derrick Finn, Eco-friendly interiors with Andrea Kantelberg and Eco-retrofits with Rebecca Best from the Healthiest Homes, along with Sandra Pella from Toronto Botanical Gardens to share ideas about condo gardening.

The Condo Show allows people to stroll at leisure, ask questions and have an interactive experience. Several Green exhibitors will be attending like AutoShare and Zipcar, along with the Canadian Green Building Council who will have further educational information about Green condos. Many of the developers will have Green condos showcased as well.

Over the past five years, Green condos have started to take root. Toronto is a world-class city with beautifully designed high-rise towers and it is becoming a world leader in Green condo development. Personally, I feel the difference in my new Tridel Green condo - it feels clean, fresh, and I remain aware of my water and energy usage - plus it always feels good to make a difference.

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