

# Ontario Natural Building Coalition

Natural Building Conference – April 7 and 8, 2018

## Conference Presenters



**Tim Krahn**

**PRESIDENT, Ontario Natural Building Coalition  
Partner, Building Alternatives Inc.**

<http://www.buildalt.com>

Tim Krahn is a professional engineer and partner in Building Alternatives Inc. He holds a Masters degree in geotechnical engineering and a Bachelors degree in civil engineering from the University of Manitoba. He has hands-on experience in residential and commercial construction and holds a certificate in carpentry and wood working from Red River College. Tim is also a LEED AP, an active member of the Timber Frame Guild's Timber Frame Engineering Council, and a member of the Natural Buildings Engineering Group.

Tim and his partner Dalila have lived in southeastern Ontario since 2010, moving from Manitoba to take care of her family's property and help to return the land to a managed hardwood forest. While in Winnipeg, Tim was active in the inner city housing community as well as at the University of Manitoba, where he was a sessional and technical instructor in the architecture and engineering faculties. Tim also spent two years as the coordinator of the Alternative Village at the University of Manitoba, which was founded by Building Alternatives principal, Dr. Kris Dick. His research interests include earthen construction, energy and material efficiency and sustainability in the built environment.

Tim is currently the engineering manager of Building Alternatives, which is a consulting engineering company licensed in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Nova Scotia and the North West Territories & Nunavut. They specialize in non-conventional structural and building envelope engineering at the residential scale, with an emphasis on low embodied energy materials and energy efficiency.



**Chris Magwood**

Chris is obsessed with making the best, most energy efficient, beautiful and inspiring buildings without wrecking the whole darn planet in the attempt. He is a founding director of The Endeavour Centre, where he brings this passion to life.

He co-founded “Camel’s Back Construction”, and over eight years helped to design and/or build around 20 homes and a few commercial buildings, mostly with straw bales and often with renewable energy systems.

During this time, he co-authored three books on straw bale construction: Straw Bale Building, More Straw Bale Building and Straw Bale Details. He was also the editor of The Last Straw Journal, an international quarterly of straw bale and natural building. He has contributed articles to numerous publications (including Mother Earth News, Harrowsmith, Home Power, and others) on topics related to sustainable building.

In 2005, he designed and started the Sustainable Building Design and Construction program at Fleming College. As the lead instructor for the program, he undertook innovative building projects with his students, creating some of the most exciting, sustainable buildings in Canada. In 2010, he introduced the Sustainable Renovations program at the college.

He now brings this experience and passion to his role as curriculum developer and instructor at Endeavour. He loves working with learners and collaborating with professionals and newcomers alike to create remarkable buildings and communities.

Chris was awarded the 2008 Excellence in Education Award by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC). He was named a Canadian Eco-Hero by Harrowsmith Magazine. He has won numerous design and teaching awards, including a Home Sweet Home Award for Affordable Housing. Chris is an active speaker and workshop instructor in Canada and internationally.



**Lisa Ker, Executive Director, Ottawa Salus**

Lisa Ker is the Executive Director of Ottawa Salus. She is a former vice-chair of the Ottawa Alliance to End Homelessness, and a former Board member of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association.

Lisa has worked in the government and community-based sectors for close to 30 years including the Ministry of Community and Social Services and Toronto Community Housing. While in Toronto, she volunteered for many grassroots and community organizations.

Lisa has a Master’s in Public Administration from Queens University and is currently studying at Ottawa U and the University of St. Paul. Lisa is a community representative on the Health and Social Services User Network for Gatineau and volunteers with a residential palliative care hospice in her neighbourhood.



### **Marianne Griffith**

Marianne Griffith, Director of non-profit organization, Building Better, which promotes and implements sustainable building technologies. She was trained as a carpenter through The Skilled Trades Centre in Burlington, and has worked in home renovation, furniture making, and off-grid housing. She has been employed on the Earthship international building crew in many countries, including Sierra Leone, Guatemala and Indonesia.



### **Chief Myeengun Henry**

Chief Myeengun Henry is the elected Chief of Chippewas of The Thames First Nation. He is the manager of Aboriginal Services for Conestoga College, and teaches traditional medicine and indigenous culture. He is an advocate for renewable energy and has played a major role in fighting against pipelines.

They have partnered to work on the Chippewa Sustainable Living Site that will showcase

sustainable buildings, food production, water collection, and host a cultural space for sweat lodging and cultural bridging. Marianne and Building Better are building sustainable tiny homes that use new technologies and salvaged material to showcase in both eco-tourism rentals and affordable housing rent to own models. Chief Henry is planning his own off-grid home on the site, and strategizing to engage his community in this movement and encourage other First Nations communities to do the same.



### **David McAuley, Architect**

David McAuley is the founder and president of J. David McAuley Architect Inc. located in Guelph. He is a graduate of University of Waterloo with undergraduate degrees in environmental studies and architecture. He has established his practice in June 1978. In his designs he brings together learnings from Building Biology, the Passive House, Net Zero, BioGeometry and Biophilia. Having completed many innovative homes throughout Ontario using natural materials such as earth sheltered, straw bale, light clay straw, log, heavy timber and stone, David continues to bring these construction materials and traditional knowledge to the design of multi-unit dwellings, schools, childcare and

wellness facilities.

His company has implemented many measures, which have seen considerable reductions in electrical costs, water consumption, transportation, waste and embodied energy whilst reducing the impact on the environment, supporting healthy lifestyles, environmental sustainability and

energy efficiency. The firm's focus is community related buildings, including health care, sacred places, specialized housing such as co-housing, live work, Habitat for Humanity, educational and recreational projects, regeneration of heritage buildings and sustainable infill in healthy walkable communities.



### **Chris Vander Hout**

Chris has been working full time as a builder in the green construction industry for more than a decade. He lives with his wife and son in Ayton Ontario where they actively manage a 28 acre hardwood forest and grow crops for their own needs. Their home includes straw bale construction, a living roof, composting toilets and lots of other alternative construction details. He is the co-owner of Evolve Builders Group out of Guelph Ontario where he works as a project manager and specializes in developing construction procedures and details associated with alternative construction. Alongside co-owner Ben Polley, Chris developed the straw bale portable classrooms-mobEE in which he oversaw design, construction, shipping and the installation of multiple projects. If you don't find Chris actively managing green construction projects, you will find him coaching sports or spending time with his

family and working on their homestead.



### **Shane MacInnes**

Shane has been active in the building world for over 12 years and is currently an instructor with The Endeavour Centre in both the Sustainable New Construction and Sustainable Renovation programs. When Shane isn't getting dirty and rambling philosophically at Endeavour, you can find him in Toronto instructing both an introduction course to architectural/fabrication design and carpentry at George Brown College. Shane also teaches drafting software design with Endeavour and George Brown. When not in the classroom, Shane is a consultant with a leading renovation firm in Toronto to help improve their sustainability mandate, leading monthly workshops on sustainable design, project management, client management and high performance

building techniques. Shane is a Red Seal Carpenter and a former graduate of Endeavour's SNC. Shane has also completed his Passive House Certification Training, BCIN Training, LEED Training and is currently studying Adult Education.





### **Bobby Ilg, Ilg and Ilg Architecture**

Bobby Ilg is currently the president and principal architect at ILG and ILG Inc. Bobby has extensive professional architectural experience, which includes a wide range of projects in commercial, residential, and institutional settings. He has performed under the supervision of several production teams on projects, and is currently the architect on record for his firm's current projects.

Bobby's architectural emphasis is the health and ecology of buildings, focusing on natural building systems and the related occupant health. Bobby is also a part-time professor at Algonquin College in the Bachelor of Interior Design Degree program. The professors in the Interior Design program at Algonquin College are in the process of integrating and teaching Building-Biology principles to their students. The primary Building-Biology principles being integrated are related to the health of occupants in the various interior spaces.

Bobby is a co-founder of Build Wise, a natural prefabrication company, focusing on clay and straw/fibre building systems. The building methods established in the prefabrication of clay and straw wall panels are currently being used in the production of Bobby and Elizabeth's residence in Ottawa, Ontario. The Ilg / Saikali residence is being completed in collaboration with EcoNest (Robert Laporte and Paula Baker-Laporte). These clay and straw prefabrication building techniques evolved from EcoNest's extensive experience and history of building with clay and straw, and the necessity created by the site restrictions of urban construction. The Ilg / Saikali residence is also the first clay and straw building in the City of Ottawa, and is a prototype for the numerous prefabricated clay and straw buildings to come.

### **Kris Bailey, Dwellings**