



Community Profile

Editor's Choice - Heathwood Homes

Homes : Sunday, May 01, 2011

Innovative Green Home a measure of sustainability.

With the future in mind, Heathwood Homes has built the Green Home in Richmond Hill. Situated in one of Heathwood's newest communities, The Reserve, this very luxurious home has been constructed with green elements that go far beyond the ENERGY STAR® standard that all of Heathwood's homes in Richmond Hill are built to.

This Green Home will open to the public as a demonstration home — with a twist. Heathwood worked with the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at Ryerson University and Agilewaves to develop a sophisticated monitoring and control system that will collect real-time data on electricity, water and gas usage.

After being used as a demonstration home, it will be sold and monitored for at least a full year after occupancy. This summer, a family will move into an identical home at Heathwood's nearby Forestbrook community, built to ENERGY STAR® only, and it will be monitored during the same period of time as the Green Home. The results will be compared between the two homes, and the results will be a true indication of the benefits, both in terms of cost, as well as CO2 and water use reductions, which are created by the additional Green Home features.

"We already know that ENERGY STAR® works and saves owners approximately 30 per cent over homes built to Ontario Building Code," says Bob Finnigan, COO, Housing for the Heron Group of Companies, for which Heathwood is a builder. "The Green Home's added features will showcase the latest and greatest in readily available technology. As these things become more widely accepted, their prices will come down and we will know which of them is most cost effective for families."

Metres in the Green Home measure how much electricity, gas and water comes into the house. Electronic signals from the monitors are then sent to the system, and in the house there are large flat-screen displays showing how much energy and water is being used. Within the home, six designated circuits will be monitored, and these too can be displayed on the flat panels. In addition, there will be about 60 solar panels on the roof that will actually feed electricity back into the grid — further reducing the carbon footprint of the Green Home.

Heathwood commissioned Ryerson graduate students to oversee the program. The Ryerson team will be able to retrieve the data remotely. "What we're really showing is that families can live in beautiful, warm surroundings that are also extremely energy efficient," says Finnigan. "Unlike some of the austere demonstration homes out there, our Green Home is a house that people will really want to live in."

HEATHWOOD HOMES

The Reserve

Located at 213 Coon's Road,
west off Yonge Street, south of
Bloomington Road in Richmond Hill,
individual and group tours of
Heathwood's Green Home can
be made by appointment.
heathwoodhomes.com

