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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**The U.S. Green Building Council Awards Local Nova Scotia Home  
LEED Platinum Certification for Green Homebuilding**

August 5, 2009 – (Halifax, Nova Scotia) Today, at the Herman's Island Association Annual Meeting, it will be announced that the Bullard House, Herman's Island, Nova Scotia was recently awarded LEED Platinum Certification by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) for achievement in green homebuilding and design. LEED for Homes is a green home certification system for assuring homes are designed and built to be energy- and resource-efficient and healthy for occupants. LEED certified homes complete a technically rigorous process that includes a home energy (HERS) rating and onsite inspections to verify that the home is built to be energy- and water-efficient, environmentally sound, and a healthier place to live.

The Bullard House is the first Platinum LEED for Homes project in Atlantic Canada. The home was conceived by the architectural firm of Solterre Design, which is known for its LEED expertise and commitment to sustainable design. Green homes have substantially lower utility bills<sup>1</sup> and may qualify for lower insurance rates and government incentives. Owners John and Laurie Bullard were committed to pursuing LEED certification from the early stages.

"Laurie and I are very concerned with climate change. We wanted to see how 'green' we could build using the LEED system. Solterre Design was the only local firm we could find with LEED experience and Jennifer Corson and her team guided us through the process. We have a home which, from a design standpoint, fits us perfectly. We love every minute here. And the design, construction, systems engineering and landscaping have earned it the highest LEED rating possible - Platinum - a first we believe in Eastern Canada. Because it's the first LEED home in the region, it was a learning experience for all of us. Norman Whynot of Kinburn Property Company and his crew worked to the exacting standards required and the end result is exemplary. Rosmarie Bradley and her partner Greg Lohnes of Helping Nature Heal Inc., did what their firm's name implies -- they helped nature to heal the wounds of a construction site with over a thousand local plants.

We hope by building the first LEED certified home, this can be an example for others who want to reduce carbon emissions while enjoying a first rate living environment."

- John Bullard

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ENERGY STAR (2007). *Residential Home Improvement: An Overview of Energy Use and Energy Efficient Opportunities* (August 2007).

**Specific Information about the home** Located less than four kilometres from historic and UNESCO-registered Lunenburg, Nova Scotia the home focuses heavily on reducing energy and water use.

The 5-bedroom passive solar design project features low-e argon windows, high-efficiency lighting fixtures and appliances, LED bulbs and Icynene® insulation. Other energy-efficiency upgrades include a geothermal heat pump, heat recovery ventilator and efficient plumbing design. Photovoltaic panels on an outbuilding's roof supply 20% of the annual electricity load.

Rainwater is collected and stored in a cistern and high-efficiency plumbing fixtures account for a 33% reduction in water use.

Salvaged oak timbers were used in the structure and all doors and hardware are salvage. Low VOC (volatile organic compounds) paint and Forest Stewardship Council-certified sustainably harvested framing and finish wood products have been used throughout the house. Committed to using local products, most of the framing and roofing materials are sourced within 800 kilometres of the home. Diligence during construction led to nearly 75% of waste being diverted from the landfill.

**About USGBC and CaGBC**

The U.S. Green Building Council is a non-profit membership organization whose vision is a sustainable built environment within a generation. Since USGBC's founding in 1993, the Council has grown to more than 20,000 member companies and organizations and a comprehensive suite of LEED® green building certification systems. For more information, please visit [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

As of March 2009, LEED for Homes is available in Canada through the Canadian Green Building Council (CaGBC). In Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Chapter of the CaGBC membership is represented by architects, designers, corporations, builders, material suppliers, contractors and research organizations. More information is available at [www.cagbc.org](http://www.cagbc.org).

**About LEED® for Homes**

LEED® for Homes is a third-party certification system for building and designing high-performance green homes that are energy- and resource-efficient and healthy for its occupants. Developed and administered by CaGBC, LEED for Homes awards points to projects in eight categories of environmental performance: Innovation & Design Process, Location & Linkages, Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Indoor Environmental Quality, Energy & Atmosphere, Materials & Resources, and Awareness & Education. To date, USGBC has more than LEED-certified 2,200 homes and over 14,600 registered and under development. For more information, visit [www.thegreenhomeguide.org](http://www.thegreenhomeguide.org).

<b>Project Team</b>		
<b>Company</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Solterre Design	House Design/LEED Manager	Jennifer
CorsonKinburn Property Company	Building Contractor	Norm Whynot
Fore Solutions	LEED Provider	Jen Huggins
Sustainable Housing & Education Consultants	LEED Rater	Terry Watters
Langille's Plumbing & Heating	Mechanical Contractor	Paul Langille
Outside! Planning & Design Studio	Landscape Design/LEED Rater	Sue Sirrs
Helping Nature Heal Inc.	Landscaping	Rosmarie Bradley
Fundy Solar Ltd.	Photovoltaic System	Woody Thompson