

# Ontario Natural Building Coalition

## Natural Building Conference - March 1 and 2, 2014

### Camp Kawartha, Lakefield ON

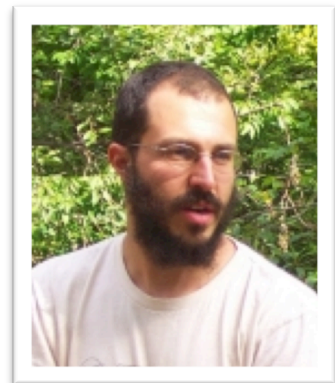
#### Conference Presenters



**Tina Therrien** - A former elementary school teacher, and current president of the Ontario Natural Building Coalition, Tina began building with straw bales 14 years ago when she became a partner in Camel's Back Construction, Ontario's first straw bale construction company. She is currently sole proprietor of the company, and continues to build, plaster, teach workshops, and do presentations across the province. Her team of talented camels, who are most dedicated in the field of natural building, specialize in plasters, including earthen, lime, and tadelakt. Tina has worked in the natural building field in Quebec, France and Thailand, and more recently, was involved in natural reconstruction efforts in Haiti. A new love of timber framing and a timber framer bring new direction to her personal world of work, and she continues to challenge herself in

acquiring new skills. A presenter at events for the Ontario Building Official's Association and the Timber Framer's Guild, co-author of *'More Straw Bale Building'*, one of the key organizers of the International Straw Bale Building Conference in 2006, and president of the Ontario Natural Building Coalition, (formerly the Ontario Straw Bale Building Coalition) she remains actively involved in the natural building movement.

**Jacob Deva Racusin** is co-owner of New Frameworks Natural Building LLC, offering services in green remodeling, new construction, consultation, and education featuring natural building technologies. Through his work as a builder, consultant, and educator, Jacob is able to merge his passions for fine craft, ecological stewardship, relationship to place, and social justice. His goal in this work is to create a meaningful impact on the built environment in developing healthy, resilient communities. Jacob is an instructor at the Yestermorrow Design/Build School, where he is the former director of the Natural Building Intensive Program. A BPI-certified contractor and Certified Passive House Consultant, Jacob has conducted field research on moisture and thermal performance of straw bale wall systems, which is featured in the book [The Natural Building Companion](#) which he co-authored with Ace McArleton (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2012). He has lectured and presented at universities, conferences, and other events across the Northeast. Jacob lives with his family in Montgomery, VT, in a straw bale house on his permaculture-inspired homestead.





**Chris Magwood** has been building sustainably for almost twenty years. He has developed a college certificate program in sustainable building, and is a director at the Endeavour Centre [www.endeavourcentre.org](http://www.endeavourcentre.org), a not-for-profit sustainable building school in Peterborough, Ontario. He has authored numerous books and articles on sustainable technologies, and has presented extensively world-wide.

**David Eisenberg** co-founded and has led the nonprofit Development Center for Appropriate Technology (DCAT) since 1992. DCAT launched their program Building Sustainability into the Codes in 1995 to create a sustainable context for building codes. David's wide-ranging building experience — from troubleshooting construction of the high-tech cover of Biosphere2, to conventional concrete, steel, masonry and wood, to adobe, rammed earth, straw bale — has grounded DCAT's work in both building and codes and standards. David served two terms on the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) Board of Directors, founded and chaired the USGBC Code Committee for ten years, served on the initial drafting committee for the International Code Council's International (ICC) Green Construction Code (IgCC), and was Vice Chair of an ASTM subcommittee on sustainability where he led the task group that developed the first ASTM Standard Guide for Design of Earthen Wall Building Systems. DCAT and David received ICC's 2007 Affiliate of the Year Award and a 2007 USGBC national leadership award. Current work includes helping lead the Safer Insulation Solution coalition to address toxic flame retardants in plastic foam insulation through changes in building codes. Other recent and ongoing work includes direct involvement with EPA's Tribal Green Building Code Working Group, developing the framework and much of the content for the EPA's Tribal Green Building Codes Development Guidance website, and helping develop a new EPA tribal green building and codes online toolkit. David is also a founding faculty member of the Emerge Leadership Project.



**Dawn Smith** President and Chair of ASRi (Alternative Solutions Resource initiative) - After a decade of working in grassroots natural building, Dawn and a team of local professionals founded ASRi with the goal of increasing the influence of alternative materials in the province of BC. She was the lead editor and project manager for the ASR straw bale manual. Although surprised to find herself an aspiring policy wonk, she claims it makes her very happy. Her family claims it makes her very boring, but that they love her any way. She spends her days on Vancouver Island attending college, running in the drizzle and scheming up ways to build a future worth living in. In her life before ASRi she worked with multiple communities engaged in natural building, including OUR Ecovillage, the Occidental Arts and Ecology Centre, and Emerald Earth. She's taught numerous workshops, and presented on topics relating to facilitation, natural building, and community skills. Her goal in college is to study how policies and regulations impact the sustainability of the built environment.