

# Ontario Natural Building Coalition

Natural Building Conference – April 1 and 2, 2017

## 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.



**Emily Niehaus**  
**Founder/Director of Community Rebuilds**

Emily S. Niehaus is the Founder and Executive Director of Community Rebuilds, a nonprofit whose mission is to build energy-efficient housing, provide education on sustainability, and improve the housing conditions of the workforce through an affordable program. Emily holds a Master’s Degree in Applied Sociology and has worked as a social worker, a loan officer, and a bookkeeper. Emily furthers her passion of building affordable and energy-efficient housing through savvy networking, successful fundraising, and fostering emerging professionals. She lives

with her husband and son in Moab, Utah.

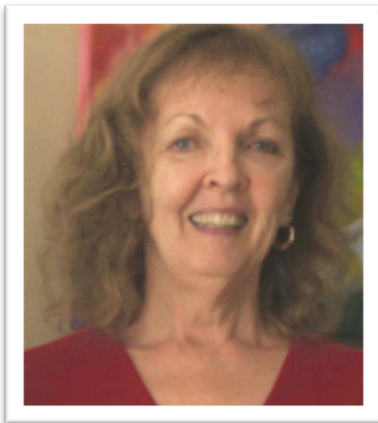
[www.communityrebuilds.org](http://www.communityrebuilds.org)  
[www.communityrebuilds.wordpress.com](http://www.communityrebuilds.wordpress.com)



**Will Winterfeld**

I come from a lineage of builders and see in my life that encompassing building/renovating homes, building relationships and building peace. My experience and passion is pulling projects and people together for the common good."

<http://isaacwinterfeld.wixsite.com/winterfeldgreenbau/about>



**Sally Ludwig**

**President, Co-founding member of Transition Towns, Guelph**

I'm a relational therapist, educator, and group facilitator practicing in Guelph, Ontario. I have long been interested in effective collaboration, ecological and social justice, and the inner dimensions of life as a human in these times. Nine years ago I was introduced to the Transition Movement and recognized it as the most powerful response I had found to the question, "How do you want to live?" Now I'm working toward community and personal resilience and empowerment as Lead Trainer for Transition in Southwestern Ontario, facilitator of The Work that Reconnects, and supporter of deep nature

connection and expressive arts. I love singing, collaborative art making, sound improvising, and growing food in my Permaculture city yard.

<http://www.transitionguelph.org>



**Nicole Bell**

**Assistant Professor, School of Education at Trent University**

Nicole Bell is Anishnaabe (Bear Clan) from Kitigan Zibi First Nation in Quebec. She is the mother of five boys and is passionate about Indigenous education. Nicole received her Bachelor of Education degree, Ontario Teaching Certificate, and Master of Education Degree from Queen's University. Nicole has a Ph.D. from Trent University in Indigenous Studies. Nicole is currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Education at Trent University. Her research areas include: Indigenous culture-based education, infusion of Indigenous knowledge into public schooling and teacher education, decolonization and healing, and Indigenous research theory and methodology.



**Craig Toohey**  
**475's Business Development Director**

Craig Toohey is 475's Business Development Director, a Certified Passive House Tradesperson (PHI) and Certified Passive House Builder (PHIUS) who brings a passion for sustainability and a wealth of building science knowledge to his presentations. A McGill grad and dual citizen currently living in New York City, Craig comes from a background of helping climate and energy-focused early-stage businesses and

nonprofits drive a transition to a low-carbon, sustainable, and efficient energy future, and has over the past few years helped hundreds of architects and builders design and execute airtight, well-ventilated, energy efficient structures using 475's solutions. He also plays the saxophone, and loves biking, hiking, skiing, laughing, cooking, and of course a great conversation

475 High Performance Building Supply is a thought leader in high performance construction in North America. Founded in 2011 by Architect Ken Levenson, co-President of the North American Passive House Network, and Floris Keverling Buisman, a dutch-trained Architect, building science consultant, and certified WUFI-ORNL instructor, 475 is dedicated to providing crucial knowledge and support for creating airtight, foam-free, durable, long-lasting, moisture-tolerant, and super energy efficient structures - from residential to commercial and institutional buildings across North America. Complementing their educational resources is a unique line of high performance building components from established European companies manufacturing Passive House-level components. 475 stocks and services these products for architects, engineers, consultants, and builders through [foursevenfive.com](http://foursevenfive.com) and [foursevenfive.ca](http://foursevenfive.ca).

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