

A well known environmentalist, Bruce Cattle, past away on December 16, 2006.

At 'The Festival of Bruce', a living memorial celebration with Bruce shortly before his death, a plaque was presented to him, honouring his work for the environment. The Citizens' Award read:

"Outstanding Sludge Disturber ~ Bruce Cattle ~ for his irrepressible, irreverent, irascible, irreplaceable contributions to life and the environment in Prince Edward County.

The grateful citizens, September 30, 2006"
Bruce Cattle was also a talented poet.

A Murder at Sunset

by Bruce Cattle

They swoop over fields north of town in mass alarm

It's a flock, it's a congregation, it's a murder

Dusk creasing the western horizon

in fading sooty orange

A winged black horde fills the air with raucous

caw-caw 'cawphony of calling

Windborne and circling

Flocking and dispersing

A breathing, vibrant airborne unit

Eyes darting and scanning for meagre carrion morsels
on harsh winter's day

Hovering perhaps for one last scavenge?

Yet their only imperative now is to gather in ever
increasing numbers.

These most intelligent of feathered beings

Revered and worshipped and reviled

Depicted in ancient cultural myths,

some say omens of evil and death

To others they are teacher, guide and friend

Also known as karasu, koronae and rocas

Corvus Brachyrynkos

Family to the raven and the bluejay

and the magpie, too

Dozens of dark projectiles fill the late afternoon sky

I reflect on how they are lovers of unity,

not separation

That if we humans don't get this message,
we're really lost.

Then as soon as they burst on the scene,
they are gone.

This single-minded black mass veers groundward

Disappearing into overnight hideouts -

their communal roosts.

I walk home amazed and next day awaken

to the sad news

of a dear old friend dying.

Sustainability Series - Part 1 Housing continued

Builder Peter Sage of Elliott Sage Design and Construction has been interested in green technology for many years. In fact, Peter was involved in the installation of ground source heating in Toronto back in '89, just before starting Elliott Sage in the County. Since then, the company has built many homes here and is an Energy Star certified builder. Energy Star homes meet strict guidelines for energy efficiency. Currently Peter has a project that he is particularly enthusiastic about.

Town Hill Place condominiums will be built at, as the name suggest, the top of the town hill at 4 Bridge Street, in Picton, and will incorporate sustainable, low maintenance construction and alternative energy technologies. The homes will feature R-50 insulation and poured concrete floor structures with solar supplemented in-floor radiant hot water heating. "They will be extremely energy efficient," says Peter, who adds that each unit will also have a heat recovery ventilation system, and gas-fired tankless, on-demand, hot water heaters. But sustainability is more than the technology for Peter.

"It's about building something that will stand up over time," he emphasizes. It's also about long term housing implications relating to an aging community.

"Each of the townhomes has been built to accommodate an elevator," says Peter. Buyers don't have to install one, he explains, but he contends that as residents age, this will help them maintain their independence and promote self-reliant living.

Residences in town are an important means of cutting down on CO² emissions from car travel as well, as people are close to amenities and medical facilities. Institutions to house the elderly are costly, Peter points out. Generally, these are not highly energy efficient buildings either, and it is probably a fair assessment to say that we all cherish our independence. Building highly energy efficient homes with the long term in mind is another aspect to consider for sustainable living.

Renia Tyminski chose to install geothermal heating in her existing, older stone home. "When I bought my house in Picton there was an aging oil tank in the basement which supplied the forced air furnace," says Renia. "I was told the tank was due for replacement, which would cost \$1500 for the removal and installation of a new one." With oil prices steeply on the rise, and a dislike of the emissions produced by burning oil and having so much toxic fuel stored on her land, she decided to make the long-term investment in a ground source heat pump, also commonly referred to as a geothermal unit. "Friends had had one for years and were very pleased with it, and I had the necessary space for 10 x 85-ft deep bore holes on my property for the laying of coils. Fluid is circulated through these coils and is heated (in winter) or cooled (in summer) to the relatively constant below-ground temperature of 13°C. A heat exchange system transfers the warmth in the winter, or coolness in the summer, and blows it through the ductwork of the house. In the winter, this is supplemented by electric back-up heat. The primary heating cost is then the differential between the below ground temperature and whatever the thermostat setting is, "in my case 17°C or 18°C," says Renia. Cooling/dehumidifying costs are negligible compared to con-