

The Terrace wins national energy efficiency award

The Terrace Building in Regina Research Park was honored at the Natural Resources Canada's Energy Efficiency Awards for 2003, held on March 17 in Ottawa. The Terrace received the New Buildings Award, presented to Pettick Phillips Partners Architects Ltd. of Regina.

Criteria for the award includes: innovation, creativity and originality of design, degree of difficulty in achieving energy efficiency, comprehensiveness of the project at integrating technology in the design, scope of the project, contribution to the environment and cost effectiveness.

The candidate building must be at least 25 per cent more energy efficient than the same building if it had been constructed to meet the Model National Energy Code for Buildings (MNECB). The Terrace exceeded these standards by 60 per cent!

The Terrace Building, the signature edifice at Regina Research Park, marries striking design with innovative systems. The visually appealing and environmentally friendly structure is the product of a holistic approach to architecture.

James Youck, Partner Architect with Pettick Phillips, says, "The Terrace Building is not only architecturally striking but energy-efficient, as well as being oriented to the comfort of the tenants. It's very gratifying to receive this award in recognition of our efforts to accomplish

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Saskatchewan Wide Open Week May 12 - 16, 2003

Saskatchewan WOW! (Wide Open Week) is a special week to celebrate the economic successes our businesses and communities are achieving, and to highlight the opportunities that are available in Saskatchewan, such as business programs and services, entrepreneurship, post-secondary and continuing education and employment. The week also provides an opportunity to showcase the products and services Saskatchewan has to offer. There will be many exciting events taking place throughout Saskatchewan that will promote our province's innovation, creativity and success in technology and manufacturing. Here are just a few of the week's events:

Innovation Showcases - Regina and Saskatoon

Working in partnership, Saskatchewan Industry and Resources, Innovation Place, Regina Research Park, and Saskatchewan Advanced Technology Association (SATA) will host two Innovation Showcases featuring advanced technology and manufacturing. Park tenants and SATA members will involve visitors in an interactive, hands-on experience to show their technology or processing techniques in action.

Regina Showcase: The Terrace, 10 Research Drive, Regina Research Park

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 13, 2003 - 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Jackie Presnell, (306) 787-8359

Saskatoon Showcase: The Galleria, 15 Innovation Boulevard, Innovation Place

Date and Time: Thursday, May 15, 2003 - 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Contact: Jose Verwimp, (306) 933-7202

SRC Canada's Biggest Science Experiment

- Regina and Saskatoon

Thousands of grades 4, 5 and 6 students will converge simultaneously in Regina and Saskatoon to conduct a science project using a "secret" ingredient. The results will be part of a Saskatchewan Research Council science experiment that will benefit Saskatchewan's various industries.

Locations: To be confirmed

Date and Time: Thursday, May 15, 2003 - 10:00 to 10:45 a.m.

Contact: Wanda Brown, (306) 933-6666

"Big Innovation in Small Places"

- Regina and Saskatoon Luncheons

Can smaller centres compete against big cities in terms of leading-edge technology and innovations? The answer is yes, through effective cluster strategies, says Jim Bottomley, a cluster strategy and marketing consultant based in Peterborough, Ontario.

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Tastad named SOCO president, CEO

Mike Shaw, Chair of the Interim Board of Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation (SOCO), has announced the appointment of Doug Tastad as President and Chief Executive Officer of SOCO. Tastad had been Acting President and CEO since October 9, 2002.

Tastad brings to the position 24 years of experience in promoting economic growth through the development and management of Saskatchewan's world class research parks. He has played an integral role in the development and expansion of Innovation Place since

1979. From 1984 to 1998, Tastad served as General Manager of Innovation Place. In 1998, he was appointed SOCO Vice-President of Research Park Development.

Mike Shaw says, "The Board believes Tastad brings the energy and leadership necessary to enable SOCO to achieve its mandate of promoting economic growth in Saskatchewan."

Tastad will retain responsibility for both Innovation Place and Regina Research Park. He will continue to be based from his existing offices at Innovation Place in Saskatoon.

24 Hour Relay welcomes new corporate sponsors

New corporate sponsorships promise to bolster the success of the 17th annual 24 Hour Relay for Easter Seal Kids, says event organizer Carrie McComber with the Saskatchewan Abilities Council.

In Saskatoon, Innovation Place will once again act as the host site for the fund-raising event taking place June 7 and 8.

McComber says that Labatts will support the 24 Hour Relay Network across Canada as the National Founding Partner. Labatt's has committed \$10,000 to the Saskatoon relay.

Money Mart has signed on as the National Presenting Partner of the 24 Hour Relay Network, and will also contribute \$10,000 to the Saskatoon relay.

A third new sponsor is the Saskatoon Credit Union. "They are the newest Sprinting Sponsor, which is a commitment of \$5,000 to the Saskatoon relay," says McComber. "The Saskatoon Credit Union has also signed up their own teams to run the relay, so they're participating on that level as well."

McComber anticipates that a full roster of 35 teams will participate in the 2003 relay, with each team comprised of 20 members. For 24 hours, team members will take turns running, jogging, walking, inline skating or

wheeling their way around the course.

A new start time has been introduced for the 2003 relay. This year, the action starts at 9:00 a.m. on June 7 to 9:00 a.m. on June 8."

On-site activities add to the fun of the 24 Hour Relay. All the old favorites are back, including the ever-popular "tug of water" competition, tent decorating competition and a costume parade. Organizers will also introduce a new event: Late Night Twister!

Last year, Saskatoon's 24 Hour Relay raised \$94,000 for Easter Seal programs and services in Saskatchewan. "With the addition of our three new corporate sponsors, we're well on our way to surpassing last year's fund-raising total," says McComber.

It's never been easier to show your support for the 24 Hour Relay. Donations can be made on-line, by logging on to the 24 Hour Relay website at www.24hourrelay.sk.ca. Make a donation to an individual or team of your choice, or to a non-specified relay team. All pre-relay events and team fund-raising activities are also posted on the website.

An event this mammoth requires the help of hundreds of volunteers, adds McComber. Register your participation by calling the Saskatchewan Abilities Council at 374-4448.

Wide Open Week May 12 - 16, 2003

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Regina Location: The Terrace, 10 Research Drive, Regina Research Park

Date and Time: Tuesday, May 13, 2003 - 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Contact: Melissa Shepherd, (306) 787-4765

Saskatoon Location: TBD

Date and Time: Thursday, May 15, 2003 - 12:00 to 1:30 p.m.

Contact: Tammy Forrester, (306) 384-6044

Saskatchewan-Made Products Trade Show and "Saskatchewan Sewn" Luncheon Showcase

Saskatchewan Industry and Resources will host a trade show to display Saskatchewan-made products, with a focus on promotional items and corporate gifts. Manufacturers will show off their products to purchasers from government and private organizations across the province.

The trade show will also feature a noon-hour showcase of Saskatchewan-sewn products co-ordinated by the Apparel & Textile Association of Saskatchewan. The showcase will highlight a wide variety of innovative Saskatchewan-sewn products ranging from clothing and occupational apparel and supplies, to vehicle accessories and equipment covers.

Location: Ag-Ex Pavilion, Regina Exhibition Park

Date and Time: Wednesday, May 14, 2003 - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Luncheon Showcase: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Contact: Diane Phillips, (306) 787-4707

Farmers of North America working to improve profit picture for ag producers

The Farmers of North America (FNA) is committed to enhancing the profits and management efficiency of its farmer members.

The average farmer's return on assets is now a quarter of what it was only 15 to 20 years ago, despite the fact that production has significantly increased on the same land base.

Farmers of North America wants to restore balance in the marketplace to increase a farmer's return, says Steve Nixon, general manager of the organization headquartered at Innovation Place.

Saskatchewan farmer Jim Mann provided the impetus for the founding of Farmers of North America. Jim Mann is a farmer of 30 years, and was a Sask. Wheat Pool delegate for ten. The Mann family's concern over dwindling profits and the future viability of their farm operations was shared by four other farmers; they decided to take action as a group.

The farmers set out to improve their profit picture by reducing agricultural input costs, through group purchasing and negotiation.

"Initially, the group was able to make about a 15 per cent difference to their bottom line," says Nixon. "This made them realize, 'what could all the farmers do if they got together and organized themselves in a business-like structure?' This provided the spark for the incorporation of Farmers of North America in March of 1998."

By the end of 1999, FNA was 500-members strong, representing over 1.2 million acres of farm land. Five years later, the organization now represents a land base of 8 million acres. First established across Canada, FNA is now expanding at an incredible rate into the United States, says Nixon.

Jim Mann continues as president of the FNA, and remains very concerned about the plight of farmers. "He's very passionate about making sure the

industry survives. He's one of those rare people who have acted on that and taken a leadership role from the farmer's standpoint."

FNA has created a business-minded process for farmers, says Nixon. "We search the globe for opportunities for our members, on the inputs and on the marketing. We focused on inputs initially, because it is vital for farmers to reduce their production costs. Any business, any industry has to follow some golden rules: buy low, sell high. Farmers have to do the same thing."

"Our goals remain ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural system. We're also determined to make sure that there is an effective renewalship in agriculture."

– Steve Nixon

FNA has successfully reduced farm input costs for fuels, crop protection products, fertilizer, machinery and parts. "One of our major successes involves inoculants. Because of refusal of supply issues, we searched the market, found a quality inoculant, self-branded it and brought it to the marketplace. We are redesigning the way that farmers buy products," says Nixon.

"Our fuel program has been second to none. We have now just begun to launch our own line of farm lubricants. As well, we are researching a whole new way of applying herbicides that will substantially reduce costs and is more environmentally friendly."

FNA's objective is to help farmers gain control of the cost of production and maximize returns through marketing. "We do this by working with any entity that provides good, sensible business

solutions," says Nixon.

"We are not a lobby group. We are not a purchasing group. Purchasing is one of the things that we do, because it needs to be done. Once we have a good level of competitiveness within the supply industry, then we will no longer be required in this role."

The FNA wants to modernize the industry and provide farmers with the same advantages and methods of operations as other industries. This means researching and formulating alternative marketing opportunities for farmers.

The organization also foresees playing a great role in the actual operations of its members, through provision of detailed crop analysis, business planning, access to equity capital pools, access to custom equipment and access to skilled seasonal labour.

FNA works closely with other organizations committed to the success of agriculture, and is on the board of the Saskatchewan Agrivision Corporation.

FNA will continue to take its lead from the marketplace, and will continue to gain the advantages that come from collective negotiation.

"Our goals remain ensuring the sustainability of the agricultural system. We're also determined to make sure that there is an effective renewalship in agriculture. Less than 10 per cent of farmers now are under the age of 35. We're very concerned who is going to farm this land in ten years," says Nixon.

Farmers of North America is headquartered at Innovation Place, located at 224 - 111 Research Drive in the Atrium Building. A staff of eight works from the corporate head office; an additional 30 employees work out in the field in Saskatoon, with 12 more employed in the U.S. "Our goal is to have 60 employees within the Saskatoon area when spring seeding begins," says Nixon.

updates

Who's new to Saskatchewan's research parks?

Join in welcoming the following new companies to Innovation Place:

- **iEQ Development Inc.** is an information technology company newly located in The Concourse Building at 112I - 116 Research Drive. Contact Kevin Aebig at (306) 683-4373. Email: info@Theiquake.com Website: www.ieqdev.com.
- **Siemens Canada Limited** has opened offices at 319 - 15 Innovation Boulevard. Contact Garlon Bird at (306) 652-3101. Email: Garlon.bird@siemens.ca Website: www.siemens.ca

On the move...

Please note the following changes of address for these Innovation Place companies:

- **OneWorld Research** (formerly Canadian Digital Music Solutions) has relocated to 103-116 Research Drive.
- With AgriFood Equity Fund's move to the Rural Service Centre, **Agriculture Research Branch** is now the sole occupant of 304 - 111 Research Drive.

Announcement

Bill Sitter, General Manager of Innovation Place, has left his position effective April 10, 2003. Sitter had been with Innovation Place since November of 2000.

Changes of address or other updates can be directed to: Wonda Kirychuk, Innovation Place, 114 -15 Innovation Boulevard, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, S7N 2X8, or call (306) 933-6581. Email: wkirychuk@innovationplace.com.

Conference eyes future of bio-based resources

Bio-Products Saskatchewan Inc. and Ag-West Biotech Inc. are excited to announce their inaugural bio-products conference, Bio-Logical Futures, taking place June 14 to 16, 2003 in Saskatoon.

The Bio-Logical Futures Conference will feature dynamic presentations by 23 national and international experts in the bio-based industry. Sessions will cover:

- Public and private industry examples of current practice given by industry leaders
- Bio-energy, bio-fuels, and bio-lubricants
- Renewable feedstocks and high value molecules
- Biomaterials
- Environmental solutions
- Reports on the key studies impacting policy directions
- Impact of future developments in the urban/rural interface in Canada

The conference's opening address will be given by Dr. Craig Venter, President of the Institute for Biological Energy Alternative. He is the former President and Co-founder of Celera Genomics.

Dr. Venter is known internationally for his vital role in sequencing and analyzing the human genome. His current research centers on the development of an artificial organism that will assist in the generation of clean fuels. Dr. Venter will outline key technologies that will impact on the future of bio-energy and bio-product development.

Our province's abundant bio-based resources, agriculture strength and key scientific infrastructure are positioning Saskatchewan to become a leader in Canada's growing bio-based economy, which by 2020 could generate \$100 billion of the national GDP.

For more information about the conference program, visit the Bio-Products Saskatchewan website at www.bio-products.sk.ca.

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the goals set for the building by the developers of Regina Research Park."

Ken Loeppky, General Manager of Regina Research Park, notes that "our tenants have told us that the building is very comfortable, as well as being a pleasant and unique atmosphere in which to work."

The building's most eye-catching feature is its enclosed rotunda, rising more than four stories and creating an open and inviting space for public events and meetings. A 10-meter wide skylight crowns the rotunda, and floods the structure with natural light.

This central open space acts like a chimney, helping to regulate air temperatures throughout the building. "Air from the wings of the building is drawn in to the rotunda where the warmer air rises toward the skylight. This warm air is either vented to the outside or fed into the mechanical room where its thermal energy is recycled," says Youck.

Heating and cooling is provided by an innovative four-pipe fan-coil system. Sophisticated control systems minimize energy consumption and boost efficiency.

The double-glazed windows feature low-e coatings and are recessed to accommodate extra insulation. Many windows are fitted with solar shades.

"The challenge was to design a modern, functional and comfortable building. As a signature building, it had to define the look of all future structures here and attract tenants not only to the building, but also to the technology park," says Youck.

"There's a sense in the local high tech community that the Terrace Building and Regina Research Park is the place to be. This award will help reinforce that perception."

The Innovation Place Newsletter is published monthly for Saskatchewan's research parks by the Armstrong Creative Group. For information, call Jeannie Armstrong at (306) 249-2459, or email: armstrongcreative@shaw.ca