

## Green Building and Renovating

In this day of modern building practices, we are faced with a great many choices. When we walk into our local building center or lumber yard we can find ourselves surrounded by products that promise to be environmentally friendly or "green". This workshop will address the question of "what is green"? We will take a good look at the difference between some green building materials and methods and natural or sustainable building. Learn how to better understand the true implications of the choices you will make when creating or modifying your dream home, through an analysis of the environmental impact of the building industry, building materials and the environment, health concerns related to your choice of building materials, and energy consumption and services. Participants will engage in a group discussion in the morning followed by a look at some real building case studies in the afternoon.

**Co-ordinator:** Dale Brownson

Dale Brownson has been designing straw bale homes for the past seven years, following a life of working in the building industry as a carpenter, cabinetmaker and designer. The priority of his work is to spread the word about sustainable building practices and facilitate their use in today's complex building industry, as well as to nurture the development of creative approaches to building and living. He has now completed plans for fifty straw bale homes (including the Nolalu Eco Centre) and continues to face the challenges inherent in the use of sustainable building practices today. Dale has also been a practicing artist throughout his life and will continue to create and exhibit art for the rest of his days on this planet, hopefully combining this with natural building design at every opportunity.