

ANDY KESTELOO: ENVIRONMENTAL VISIONARY AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN ADVOCATE

The original sustainability consultant on the Millennium team, Andy Kesteloo is remembered by his colleagues as a provocateur who was uniquely positioned to help green building break through to the mainstream. Although Andy passed away on January 15, 2007, he defined the sustainability goals for the Millennium Water project and left a legacy of sustainable building learning and awareness in his wake.

Born in Edmonton, Andy studied at Dordt College in Iowa and then formed his own construction/framing company in Vancouver. His scope of knowledge, from carpentry to surveying, was what made him such an effective advocate for green building.

“Andy was one of the few people in the sustainable building industry at the time who could connect the cost implications of green components with a really good understanding of long-term value,” says Roger Bayley, who took on much of Andy’s role after his death.

“He always said, if green building is going to survive and prosper, you’ve got to demonstrate that it’s cost-effective, you’ve got to demonstrate value. And he did, so here we all are.”

In 1996, Andy began lecturing widely on green building subjects. From 2004 until his death, he sat on the Canada Green Building Council Board of Directors and chaired its Product Steering Committee.

Andy is recognized as a true pioneer, a trailblazer who helped work through status quo regulations to define the new way that buildings and entire communities can be constructed. His reputation is testament to the extraordinary impact he had on his colleagues, particularly as a mentor to many individuals as they became involved in green building.

Andy’s vision, passion and enthusiasm for sustainability resound through the SEFC Olympic Village; he saw it as a huge opportunity to inspire future sustainable community development. As Andy passed the green building baton to the rest of the Millennium Water project team in January 2007, so the team now passes the challenge to all those in the building industry who can turn their skills to the task of caring for our global future and the generations to come.



“Massively inspiring.”
“Engaging.”
“Passionate, infectious, and a little edgy.”

SUMMARY

The City of Vancouver approved Millennium’s rezoning proposal for the Millennium Water site in October 2006. Millennium’s design team and the City of Vancouver had three years to complete their designs and construct the buildings, infrastructure and public spaces in time for the Olympics. The next two chapters of The Challenge Series will document this process, describing the challenges that arose and how they were overcome.



Watercolour rendering of open public space in the plaza looking south to the restored Salt Building.

FEATURE PROFILE

Millennium Group

Millennium are first and foremost community builders, having built many successful developments spanning decades. The story of Millennium, and its principals, Peter and Shahram Malek, is inextricably linked to that of Canada and British Columbia, a country and province on the leading edge of design, sustainability and quality of life. It is a story of blending years of experience in high profile international real estate development with the natural beauty of the West Coast and of site-specific award-winning architecture.

At SEFC, Millennium saw a prime waterfront property, in an iconic location, ready to be developed into North America’s first truly sustainable neighbourhood. The challenge of housing the 2010 Olympic athletes in the buildings, designed and built in record time, only added to the significance of the task.

This is the essence of Millennium Water: a private project used for a global purpose, providing a legacy for residents and future generations, and a showpiece for Vancouver and Canada. Shahram Malek comments, “Our goal is to create something here that is world class in every sense – architecture, sustainability and livability – enhancing the Vancouver experience.”