

Future buildings and cities will look and feel similar to the development at SEFC, where technical and design innovations result in buildings and communities that minimize the impact on the environment, maximize comfort and enjoyment for the residents, and function better in countless subtle yet significant ways. The future involves extending the integrated design process beyond buildings to designing our communities, benefitting from economies of scale so our neighbourhoods work better in everything, from how we heat our homes to how we get to work. The SEFC development is a pioneer in rethinking sustainable neighbourhoods in Canada.

Lance Jakubec, Senior Consultant, Research and Information Transfer, CMHC



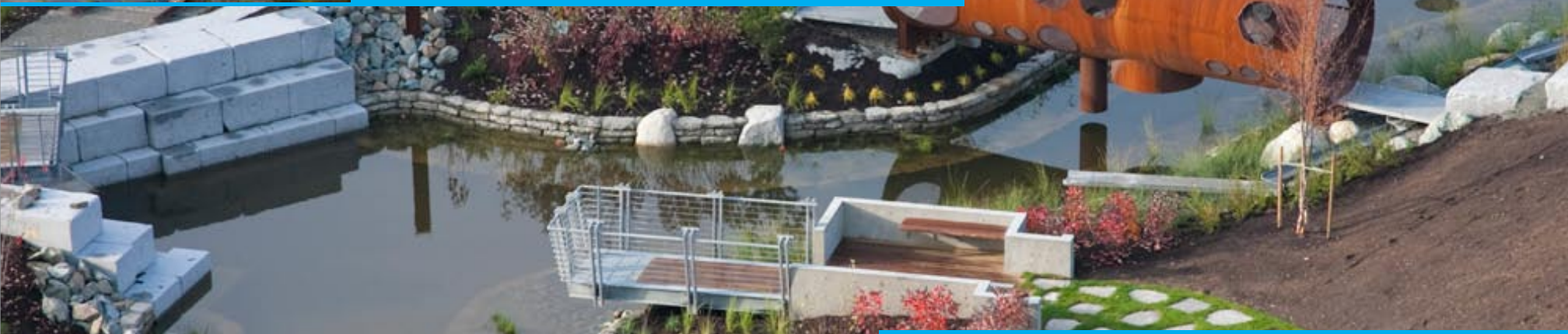
It's a long-term process to change our society. Hinge Park [the recreation and water treatment facility] is part of that, I believe. We're experimenting, we're learning and we're educating the public. I don't know what the long-term outcome will be, but I think we're changing our society in ways that are really, really positive. You couldn't have built this park 30 years ago because you wouldn't have got anybody to buy into it.

John Clelland, City of Vancouver Engineer



Up until the last 150 years, the world evolved very slowly because we had no ability to tap into this wonderful thing called fossil fuel – we used common sense to define how life would be. As soon as we were able to tap into this great medium, we started to ignore a lot of things including the laws of physics and common sense. What is passive design anyways? If you're sitting under the hot sun what would you do? Put the shades up! But instead, since fossil fuel is so cheap, we decide to burn fossil fuel to have cold air blowing in our face while we have the sun on our head. Or we have windows that don't open and we rely on a mechanical system to deliver fresh air, instead of having windows that open and letting nature be nature. The more I have been working in the field of green building, the more I feel like we've totally ignored common sense and the basic laws of physics, and have ended up designing systems to fight it instead of designing systems to work it.

SK Lai, Managing Partner, Cobalt Engineering



Health is not the absence of disease – a person can be terribly unhealthy without being subjected to a disease. It's the quality and richness of one's life that is at the core of health – it's a survival-rich strategy. In SEFC, the herring have quietly moved back in. Why? Because it's safe, and it's healthy.

Patrick Lucey, Senior Aquatic Ecologist, Aqua-Tex Scientific Consulting Ltd.



This is a damn exciting time. I've been doing this for 16-18 years, and this is the time of the most rapid change ever. You should have tried selling green buildings 15 years ago – that was a challenge. You can get depressed and say we're moving slowly. On the other hand, we are accelerating. I'm quite encouraged about the future, and that's after a long time of heavy slogging.

Blair McCarry