



FROM: Shawna Henderson and Hal Richman - Bfreehomes

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SUBJECT: News from Bfreehomes - June 2010

### *Shawna Henderson is Now Sitting on Two Influential Steering Committees*

Shawna is sitting on the EnerGuide Rating System Upgrade Information Subcommittee for NRCan's Office of Energy Efficiency. First meeting was in mid-May, what a dynamic group of people Debra Haltrecht and Elizabeth Mason of NRCan have brought together. Jeff Beckman (Residential Information Specialist with Manitoba Hydro), chair -- did a fantastic job of herding cats. The whole package--information, technical aspects and delivery--will go to public input sometime in November, with implementation of the upgrade scheduled for March 2011.

The other Committee is the Technical Review Committee of the NS Home Builders' Association, who hosted a 2-hour 'green' session in May with phone-in presentations from Jon Eakes, Tex MacLeod and Oliver Drerup.

### *Business Partner Corner*

We've been working with Al Schmidt and Jewels Claus on our project for the Ontario Power Corporation, New Housing Construction Options Beyond The 2012 Ontario Building Code. What a powerhouse team! (And really fun on a road trip too!!!) Al and Jewels do training and certification for Ontario's Energy Star program, the R2000 program and a newly-launched Green House program. We started scheming and planning for more projects to partner at Thai lunch last week in Toronto.

Last week we had a lovely lunch at Bfreehomes corporate HQ (Shawna's kitchen) with Benjie Nycum and Stephen Terauds from Nycum and Associates Architects (Halifax, NS). We have been working with them on a fantastic new house in Wolfville, NS. Much of the dialogue focused on our visions and aspirations for businesses that can support what may be a difficult future. Watch for more magic to be conjured up very shortly.

A new area for us is real time monitoring of alternative-renewable resources such as solar thermal. We are working with Seaforth Energy (Dartmouth, NS) on a pilot house in New Brunswick using WelServer. Seeing the stats on the solar collectors, water tank, pumps, etc. in real time is simply great. This monitoring will enable us to

look at the efficiency of the collectors and the ROI of the investment based on real house data and not simply performance modelling.

### *[Projects on the Go...](#)*

Research: We've had a crazy-busy six months, working on and completing several major research projects. We've now successfully run our 'Path to Net Zero' workshops for builders in three cities in Ontario and two in Nova Scotia. Keep your eyes open for ten Green Building Product profiles to be published this year by CMHC. (When they're published, we'll include the link in our following newsletter.) We are also working on a cost-effectiveness study of energy efficiency loans and grants in PEI, in concert with Conestoga-Rovers & Associates, a large engineering firm there.

Design Projects: Two new houses are going up in Musquodoboit, and more inquiries are coming in from folks planning to buy or build on the Eastern Shore. Land prices must be really good out there. Other design projects are in process in St. Margaret's Bay and Bridgewater. We're all over the map this spring!

### *[Presentations](#)*

In April, Shawna gave a super presentation on the Non-Energy Benefits of Deep Energy Retrofits at the National Affordable Comfort Institute Conference in Austin TX. You can [download her presentation here](#).

### *[Solar Design Manual for Nova Scotia](#)*

There's a brand new edition of the Canadian Solar Home Design Manual, published and recently revised by Solar Nova Scotia, a Canadian non-profit. Shawna Henderson is the principle author. The manual holistically focuses on the process of building a solar house, from start to finish. It also includes information on integrating solar energy as part of a retrofit. Read a great review of it on [Treehugger](#).

The book has also been revised and rewritten as the 'Cool Climate Solar Home Design Manual', taking it outside Canada to the US and Europe. It will be published and distributed by Earthscan. ETA for publication is this summer.

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Bfreehomes provides the following services: [Deep Energy Retrofits](#), [Project Consulting](#), [Energy Consulting](#), [Design](#) and [Design Build](#) for new and existing homes.

Our services include deep energy reduction strategies that aim for 70%-90% decrease in space and water heating; green product recommendations; pre-planning for renewable energy systems; and barrier-free floor plans with user-friendly details.

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