



FIRST PASSIVE HOUSE IN CANADA IS IN WHISTLER

September 22, 2009 – Vancouver/ Whistler, BC: A milestone has been reached in Whistler last week, as the first Passive House in Canada celebrated the completion of its structure with a “Gleichenfeier” (Austrian roofing party)

What is to become Austria House for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games is now all but complete. What remains to be done are interior finishing touches and landscaping.

This Passive House is the first one to be built in Canada. There are a handful in the USA and many in Europe. The technology for Passive Houses relies on thick doweled wood paneled insulated walls, ceiling and windows, as well as specifically designed windows and a highly sophisticated heat exchange system.

Typically Passive Houses uses up to 90% less energy than a traditionally built home and approximately 50% less energy than a Platinum LEED house. This is made possible through a combination of insulation and air exchange, thus maintaining a stable interior temperature through the year without requiring heating, ventilation or air conditioning.

The remaining energy requirements are mostly for lighting and house appliances. The necessary energy can be from renewable energy, if or when electrical power is either not available or not wanted.

Austria House will be the headquarters for the ÖOC (Austrian Olympic committee) for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Whistler, and will be used by the ORF (Austrian public broadcaster) for its daily live TV and radio shows to Austria.

Austria House will also be a hub of social gatherings and events, as it is traditionally a popular meeting place for international athletes, media, VIPs as well as locals.

This project is the result of a partnership between the RMOW (Resort Municipality of Whistler), the APG (Austria Passive House Group) and sea to sky consulting (Vancouver, BC, Canada). A grant from the Whistler Blackcomb foundation was also instrumental to the realization of this project.

Post-Games Austria / Passive House will remain in Whistler as a permanent building and will be used as a day lodge, office and meeting space for WORCA/Whistler Nordics and a location for the Licensed Outdoor Recreation Concessionaire.

Of added long-term benefit to Whistler is the fact that the Austria Passive House aligns with the priorities outlined in Whistler2020: it's a highly efficient building that will use virtually no energy for its heating, cooling and ventilation needs. With low maintenance costs and the long-term community benefit it provides Whistler residents, the Austria Passive House provides a lasting benefit to recreational users in the Lost Lake area.

Construction work is carried out and supervised in Whistler by *Durfeld Log Construction*.

All engineering equivalencies and requirements are overseen by Vancouver based *Equilibrium Engineering Consultants*.



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