



## BACKGROUND

*Evergreen is transforming Toronto's Don Valley Brick Works factory buildings from an underused, deteriorating asset to a thriving environmentally based community centre engaging visitors in diverse experiences connected to nature. Located on a unique natural and industrial heritage site, Evergreen Brick Works will be a destination for families and individuals to enjoy a natural refuge, while sampling a rich offering of programs and services – including gardening workshops, heritage tours, working with clay, an organic food market, a retail nursery, demonstration gardens and leading-edge green design techniques. It will be a unique and creative social enterprise that will model sustainability on all fronts and is striving to be the greenest facility in North America.*

- From 1889 to 1984, the Don Valley Brick Works was one of Canada's pre-eminent brickyards. Many of Toronto's heritage buildings and Canada's national landmarks – including Winnipeg's T. Eaton Building, Toronto's Massey Hall and Casa Loma Stables, Montreal's Acadia Apartments and Moncton's T. Eaton Building – were constructed of bricks from this factory.
- Approximately 16 hectares (roughly 40 acres), the Don Valley Brick Works is made up of two distinct areas:
  - Don Valley Brick Works Park: An 11.5 hectare natural area and city park containing the Weston Quarry Garden, wetlands, wildflower meadows, ravine forests and trails, which will continue to be managed by Toronto Parks, Forestry and Recreation
  - Don Valley Brick Works Industrial Pad: A complex of historical buildings over five hectares which will be revitalized as Evergreen Brick Works.
- Evergreen and its volunteers have been conducting naturalization and restoration projects at the Don Valley Brick Works Park since 1998. In 2004, Evergreen was granted permission by the City of Toronto to redevelop the Don Valley Brick Works industrial pad and buildings.
- Evergreen Brick Works will provoke new ideas about the relationship between nature, people and cities. By capitalizing on the Brick Works' unique natural and industrial heritage setting and engaging and educating the community about diverse nature-based experiences, people will be able to witness the benefits of nature first-hand, giving them a renewed sense of place and inspiring them to become active participants in shaping a more sustainable future.

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- Evergreen chose an integrated team of professionals to help lead the design and construction of Evergreen Brick Works. The design team is being led by Joe Lobko of du Toit Allsopp Hillier and du Toit Architects Limited. The design team's work has built on the findings of the planningAlliance master planning team. Design development decisions have been the outcomes of a collaborative process that has involved the entire design team, Evergreen and, at key milestones, staff of municipal and senior government agencies. Detailed design will be executed as a suite of smaller design projects, led by individual architecture and landscape architecture firms.
- The design development and detailed design team includes:
  - du Toit Allsopp Hillier and du Toit Architects Limited (architecture and landscape architecture) (project lead);
  - Claude Cormier, Architectes Paysagistes Incorporated (landscape architecture);
  - Diamond and Schmitt Architects Incorporated (architecture);
  - E.R.A. Architects Incorporated (heritage preservation and architecture);
  - Halsall Associates Limited (structural/sustainability/green design);
  - Stantec Consulting Incorporated (mechanical and electrical engineering);
  - The MMM Group (water resources);
  - BA Group (transportation management);
  - CM2R Incorporated (costing);
  - Leber Rubes Incorporated (building code and life safety);
  - David Dennis Design (industrial design);
  - Dougan and Associates (ecology);
  - CH2M Hill (environmental consulting);
  - J. S. Coulter Associates (acoustical impact analysis);
  - Archaeological Services Incorporated (archaeology);
  - AECOM (site servicing);
  - Alston Associates Incorporated (geological consulting);
  - Trow Associates (durable building consulting);
  - Hunter Facilities Management (commissioning consulting);
  - ResCo (solar thermal);
  - Adams and Associates (signage).
- Evergreen has retained Aldrich Pears Associates (of Vancouver) to prepare an interpretive plan for the interpretive elements of the project. Ferruccio Sardella has been retained as a consulting artist. Evergreen has retained Eastern Construction Company Limited as its Construction Manager.

- Evergreen's plans for the 184,000 square foot industrial pad include offering space to charitable, non-profit organizations and socially conscious private enterprises working on similar issues. All partners and tenants of the site will sign a Charter that defines the shared vision that governs participation at the site. The site will be home to:
  - *Evergreen City Gardens*, a collection of demonstration gardens showcasing the latest innovations in school ground greening, restoration projects on public lands and pesticide-free residential landscaping;
  - *Evergreen Plant Nursery*, which will offer a selection of native plants and gardening supplies for sale;
  - *Eco-Pavilions*, site of a weekend producers-only Farmer's Market;
  - Space for community programming, such as the Don Valley Art Club, woodworker collectives, theatre groups, the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Arts and community groups;
  - *Youth training programs* by the YMCA and urban wilderness camps run by Moorelands Community Services;
  - *Outward Bound* experiential leadership programming, including ropes courses and climbing walls;
  - *Centre for Urban Sustainability* is office space available to Evergreen and other non-profit organizations and socially responsive businesses;
  - *Jamie Kennedy Kitchens*, a "Slow Food" restaurant focused on chef training, public education and delicious food;
  - *Large public rooftop garden* featuring native grasses, flowers, shrubs and trees;
  - *Programming* for students and the community focusing on school ground and park greening; and
  - *Event spaces* for theatre, art exhibitions, film, conferences, music and private functions.
- Evergreen began programming at Evergreen Brick Works in spring 2006 and in 2007, Evergreen hosted a native plant nursery, farmers' market and public festivals to test ideas and raise awareness.
- Evergreen will begin construction in fall 2008, with Phase 1 opening in fall 2009. Phase 2 will open in spring 2010.
- Evergreen Brick Works will be a viable social enterprise that demonstrates *environmental, social* and *economic* sustainability.

**Environmental:** Evergreen Brick Works will educate people that nature is something that can be experienced in the middle of a bustling metropolis, not just in the wilderness or confined to a conservation area on the urban fringe. It will provide practical solutions that help improve air and water quality and restore habitat. It will showcase Evergreen's environmental values by incorporating green design technologies in building construction to achieve LEED platinum status.

**Social:** By bringing non-profit organizations and socially conscious private businesses together under one roof it will create opportunities for collaboration, and for creating program synergies with broader public reach and appeal. It will return social and economic benefits to Toronto by creating meaningful employment opportunities, as well as including a youth-at-risk training component among other initiatives.

**Economic:** Evergreen Brick Works will be economically self-sustaining through a combination of property leases to non-profit organizations and small-scale artisan businesses, by hosting conferences and special events, and through parking revenue.

**For more information, please contact:**

Marilotte Bloemen  
Evergreen  
Tel: 416-596-1495 x286  
Mobile: 416-731-3211  
mbloemen@evergreen.ca

Nate Habermeyer  
Evergreen  
Tel: 416-596-1495 x252  
Mobile: 647-402-9435  
nhabermeyer@evergreen.com