

# The Independent Green Cottage

A model for sustainable recreational properties

Trevor Billy, MBA, BE  
Green Planet Consulting

# Renewable Energy

- Pattern of use of recreational properties coincides with optimal output of solar-electric systems
- Cost of solar-electric systems for a recreational property comparable to grid connection



- Solar hot water heaters effective in summer months



# Green Practices

- Rainwater catchment provides sufficient water for modest consumption
- Composting toilets, available in dry and flushable versions, are environmentally-friendly and civilized



- Minimize environmental impact by recycling construction waste, local materials, compact passive solar design, and site considerations
- Healthy home created by use of low emission materials



# Results

- Green materials and building practices and independent systems; abundant information but experience scarce
- Material costs of \$59/ft<sup>2</sup>; Not that expensive or hard for a small builder!
- Find hands-on expertise
- Design for efficiency- cost of systems makes conservation best option
- No utility bills!