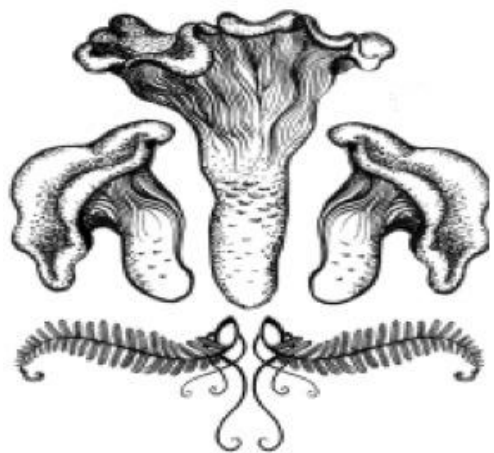


2009 Eco-Efficiency Success Story



Chanterelle Country Inn and Cottages Baddeck, NS

Greening the Cabot Trail experience

The Chanterelle Country Inn and Cottages, set high on a bluff overlooking St. Ann's Harbour in Cape Breton, is an internationally recognized example of Nova Scotia businesses' commitment to sustainability. The Inn has received numerous accolades for its notable green business practices, including a listing in National Geographic Traveler's "Stay List" for its use of local resources and environmental responsibility, and a 2006 Pollution Prevention Award from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. Through its support for local businesses, resource conservation initiatives, and guest engagement, the Chanterelle Inn leads by example in sustainable tourism.

Ingrained in the day-to-day operations of the Chanterelle Inn is a commitment to sustainable practices, one that often carries significant financial benefits. Three of Chanterelle's cottages were recycled from a property in Ingonish, saving the business \$15,000 and a winter objective to reduce energy costs yielded a 40 percent reduction in energy use. While this electricity-saving goal was achieved through simple solutions like improving insulation and shutting off appliances when not in use, the Chanterelle Inn has also incorporated a number of innovative technologies into its operations to reduce its environmental impact. For example, solar panels used for space and water heating reduce energy needs. In addition, the Inn was designed to maximize fresh air circulation, reducing the need for air conditioning in the summer. Supported by energy-saving lighting, argon-filled windows, and linen- and towel-reuse programs in guest rooms, the Inn's energy-saving initiatives achieve not only measurable reductions in energy use, but also valuable reductions in both operating costs and the greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change.

The Chanterelle Inn's eco-efficiency practices extend well beyond mere energy-saving initiatives. Low-flow shower heads and low-flush toilets have curtailed the Inn's water consumption, and choosing non-toxic, biodegradable cleaners, low-VOC paints and no herbicides and pesticides on site, help minimize the chemicals used throughout the Inn. To truly weave sustainability into the fabric of the Chanterelle Inn, it maintains a dedicated focus on "pre-cycling", preventing waste before it can be generated. For example, to prevent the release of greenhouse gases from transportation, the Inn's dining room has designed its menu with low food miles in mind, choosing local ingredients wherever possible and listing the distance each item has travelled. To prevent packaging waste, the Inn's preference for local food means that less packaging is required to transport produce and meats. Using reusable containers instead of plastic bags on grocery shopping trips, providing guests with reusable water bottles for hikes and day trips, offering cloth napkins in the dining room and only reusable shampoo and lotion containers in guest rooms all minimize unnecessary paper and plastic waste.

In addition to these laudable green policies, Chanterelle Country Inn and Cottages is also actively involved in community initiatives, donating free stays to support fundraising by environmental groups throughout Atlantic Canada, such as the Ecology Action Centre and the Two Rivers Wildlife Park. For its ongoing and exemplary commitment to sustainability, the Chanterelle Country Inn and Cottages is preserving the tourism landscape in Nova Scotia one day at a time.

