

Camp Kawartha Environment Centre



The Camp Kawartha Environment Centre was designed by Chris Magwood, Jen Feigin and Our Cool Blue Architects, and built by the students of the 2009 Sustainable Building and Design program at Fleming College, under the direction of Chris Magwood and Jen Feigin.

Located at the Trent University campus in Peterborough, Ontario. Camp Kawartha offers a wide range of environmental and outdoor programming for youth. The centre was funded by funds raised by Camp Kawartha, including a very generous donation from the Gainey Foundation.




The composting outhouse (with exterior “pee bale”) is the first project to be completed on site.



A poured slag-cement perimeter beam (right) uses sono tubes to displace concrete use. Next time, we'll lay a single tube horizontally. An earthbag foundation is used under the curved wall section.



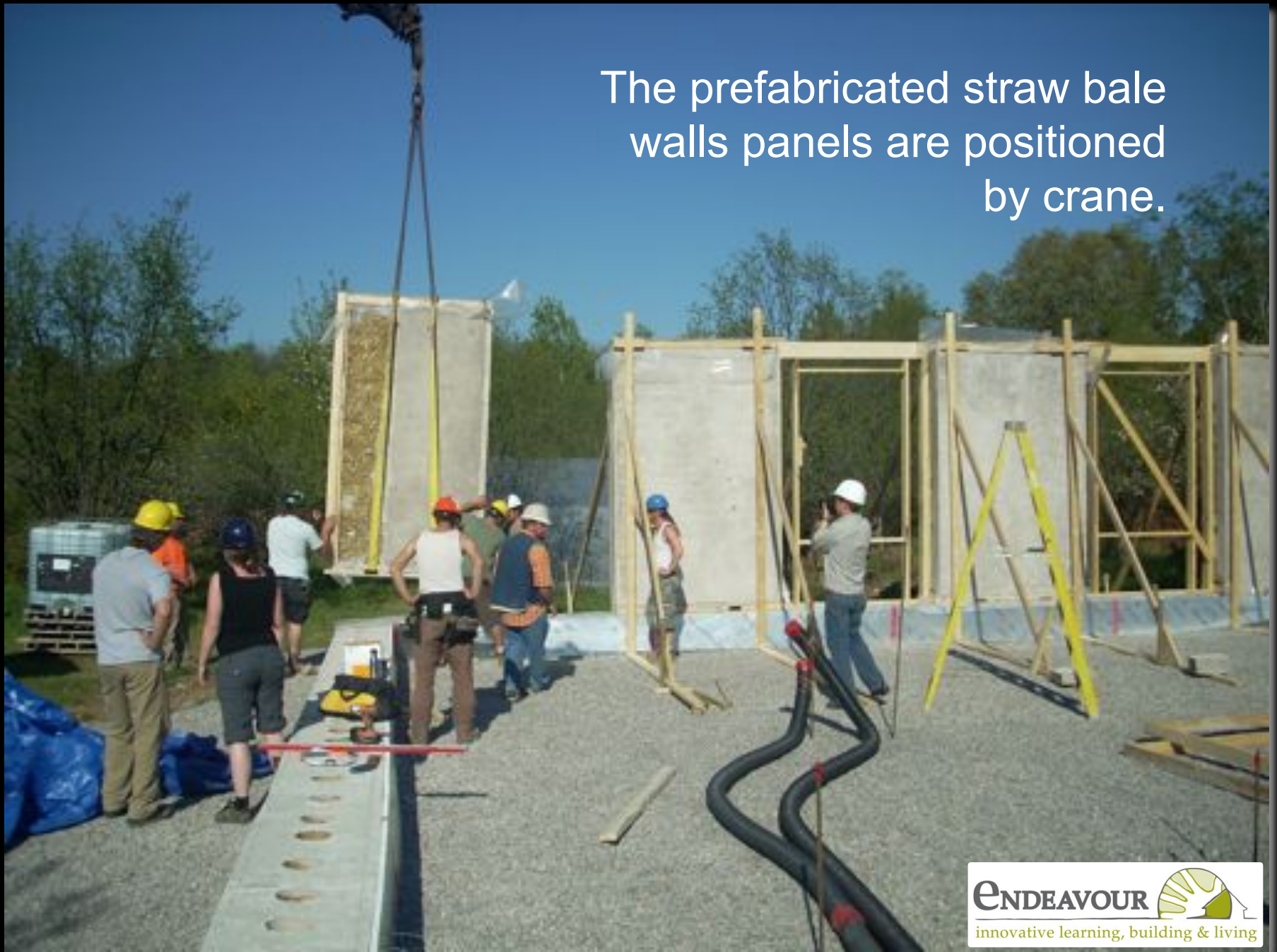


Local highway-side reeds are gathered for use on the thatched roof for the entry shelter.



Prefabricated straw bale wall panels are made in the shop to be the load bearing walls for the building.

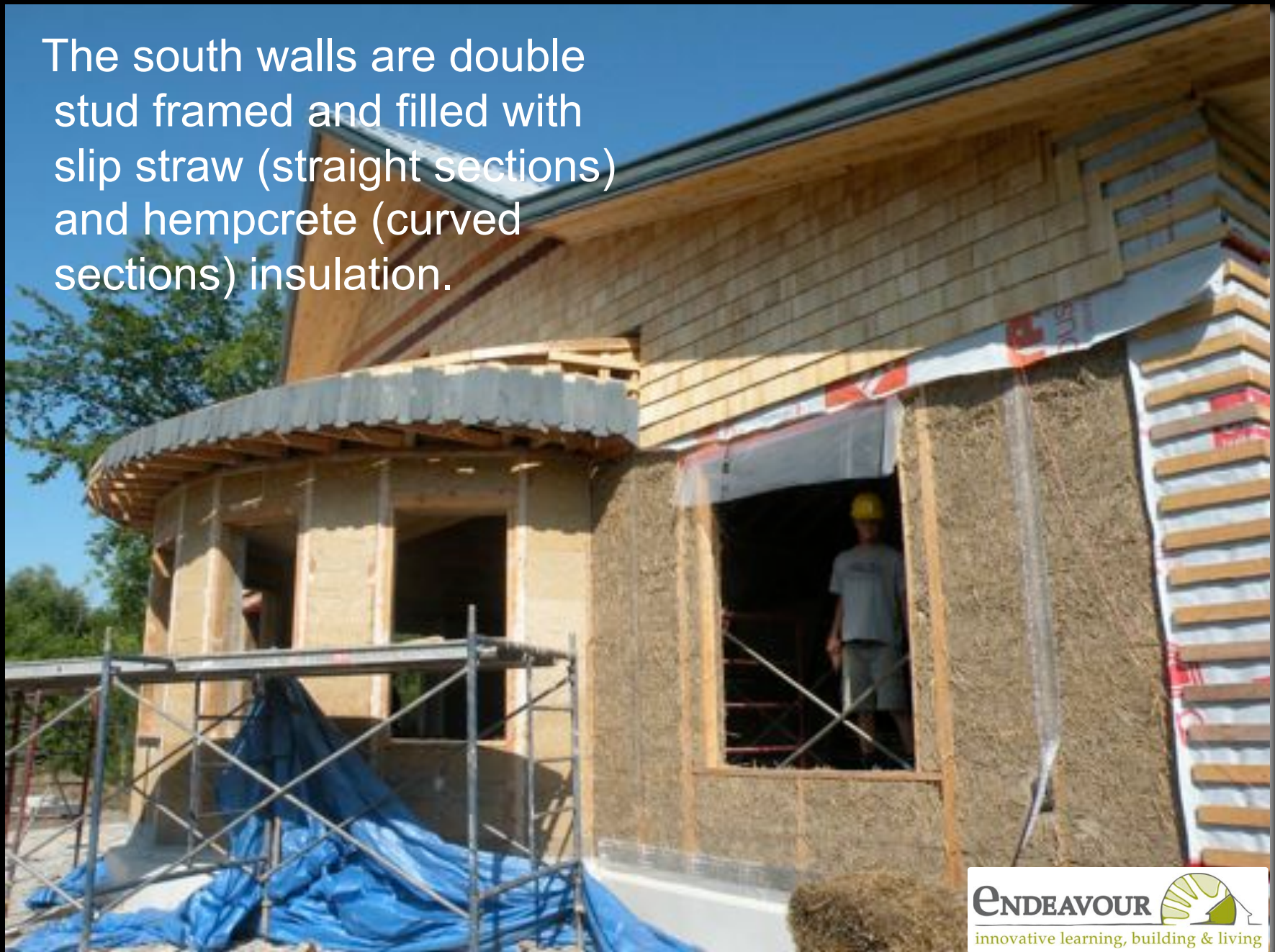
The prefabricated straw bale walls panels are positioned by crane.



The roof is built and sheathed on the ground and craned into place.



The south walls are double stud framed and filled with slip straw (straight sections) and hempcrete (curved sections) insulation.





A compressed earthblock bench is built inside (left).

The thatch is installed on the timber framed entry shelter.



**Recycled clay brick with
double arches separates the
foyer from the main space.**


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A tile compass mosaic is installed in the floor.

A living roof section covers the foyer, washrooms and office areas, and is planted with local species.






The interior features prefab bale walls, bench seats in the windows, soycrete stain on the floor and local cedar ceiling.


The rainwater catchment system is treated through four filters. Hot water is solar heated. A constructed wetland treats grey water.

A wall of recycled bottles and cans and the floor compass liven the interior.



The earthblock bench is a nice place to sit in the sun.

Rainwater is collected from the metal roof and provides all the building's water needs.



The building nears completion. The thatched roof needs a ridge cap and the earth plastered north wall awaits silicate mineral paint.

Hempcrete trim around windows; Tiled entry with truth window.





The Camp Kawartha Environment Centre hosts a wide range of educational programming and can be booked for meetings and events.