

# Roof Training Program Fills Gap

**By Kristen Ammerman, Roof Consultant Institute**

A training program launched last year in Ontario is filling a gap for those interested in learning about a wide range of roofing applications. “Before this, there was really nowhere in the whole country that you could go to learn roofing with your own hands in a non-biased way,” said George Wilson, RRO. Not until Wilson and his partner, Peter Zahradnik, RSW, joined forces to form the Roofing Technology, Maintenance, and Inspection training course. Now, the four-day course, taught in Mississauga, Ontario, is drawing people from near and far.

“Ontario is a huge province - you can drive all day from Mississauga and still be in it - and yet, we’re getting folks from other provinces... We have them from all the different sectors - property managers, estimators, sales representatives from various manufacturers, foremen, roofers, project managers, roof consultants, inspectors, and owners’ representatives,” notes Wilson. “There’s simply nothing else available, beyond a three- or six-month college apprenticeship training program — that will teach you about all the systems without advocating one over another and give you hands-on experience installing them.” Manufacturers are even sending their sales reps to learn about the competition, says Wilson.

Wilson, a Facility Manager member of RCI who worked for 30 years for Ontario Hydro, says his former employers were the ones who “encouraged me to start up this program.” They recognized the gap in training industry-wide. After retiring from Hydro, Wilson (a Registered Roof Observer), started Cindott Consulting Inc. His associate, Peter Zahradnik, a Registered Specification Writer, had launched his own company, Building Envelope Technologies, Inc. The two had worked together at Ontario Hydro, training staff to make roof repairs and monitor roofing contractors on-site. So the duo pooled their resources and came up with Roofing Technology, Maintenance, and Inspection.

They set up a center where the design and construction of each major roofing system is taught in detail, and participants perform hands-on applications, following standard construction technical specifications. They then inspect one another’s systems, carry out tests, and make repairs. A 170-page course manual goes to each participant.

Included in the course are the history of roofing, roofing safety, materials (coal tar, asphalt, four-ply BUR, two-ply mod bit, EPDM, and PVC), insulation, vapor retarders, fasteners, and corner details, vents, drains, flashings., and leak detection and repair.

Twelve trainees per course are accepted, and the course ran five times in 2004 and is scheduled for five sessions in 2005. Spring bookings are sold out and bookings are currently being taken for courses in November and December.

Attendance at the noon Monday through noon Friday course qualifies a participant for 29.5 Continuing Educational Hours (CEHs) for RCI registration renewal.

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