

## **Kamloops Hotels On Cutting Edge –**

### **Hybrid Solar Water-Heating and Heat-Recovery Systems will Reduce Greenhouse Gases and Slash Energy Costs**

Kamloops, BC – Two Kamloops hotels are reducing air pollution – while slashing their fuel bills an estimated \$80,000 per year each.

Hybrid solar water-heating and heat-recovery systems have been installed at the Best Western and Executive Inn in Kamloops. According to designer/installer Swiss Solar Tech Ltd (SST), the hotels' energy retrofits will cut out as much greenhouse gases as would be done by taking 289 cars off the road each year.

Even the next generation of Kamloops residents will benefit. As long as the systems get a bit of maintenance from trained local subcontractors or hotel staff, the installer expects them to operate for 40 to 50 years.

The basics are simple: solar panels gather the sun's energy for the systems and hot water storage tanks store it for later use. Heat-recovery systems further reduce energy use by capturing heat that would otherwise be wasted.

The hotels' annual energy savings will be even higher if gas prices rise further. At current energy prices, each hotel could pay for its retrofit in four and a half years. After payback, the solar systems will continue to provide free renewable energy.

The two businesses have bragging rights environmentally. The system installed in the Best Western will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 623 tons per year. For the Executive Inn, emissions will be lowered by 680 tons per year.

The Best Western has 203 guest rooms and meeting / conference facilities, fitness room, sauna, and courtyard water park. The water park includes an 80,000-litre indoor swimming pool, hot tub and children's wading pool. The new water heating system has 36 solar collectors (108 square-meter collector area) and a 2,250-litre solar hot water storage tank. The heat recovery system uses waste heat from the existing cooling system return line. The chiller -- air conditioner -- was replaced and the SST system supplanted the gas boiler.

The Executive Inn has 150 guest rooms, a fitness centre, three meeting rooms, the Black Jack Lounge, and the Lake City Casino. The solar water heating system will be composed of 30 solar panels (90 square-meter collector area) and a 2,400-litre solar hot water storage tank. The heat recovery system will capture waste heat from the exhaust air. The chiller will be replaced and SST system will take the place of the existing gas boiler.