

## III GREEN HOMES

# Conservation authorities give Daniels top honours for energy efficiency

BY JANE GADD

Daniels Corp. has earned a gold star for green building from Ontario's environmental conservation authorities.

The niche developer of architecturally attractive and energy-efficient homes was declared 2006's builder of the year by the province's EnerQuality Corp. last week.

Daniels built 175 homes that earned the Energy Star label, which requires a stringent set of energy-conservation measures, more than any other builder in the region. The company said it plans to build 275 more this year.

The Energy Star label, which was extended from home appliances to new homes two years ago, is recognized as the highest energy-efficiency standard in the market, a release from EnerQuality said.

To receive the label, a home must be 30 per cent more energy-efficient than the minimum standard required under the Ontario Building Code.

EnerQuality oversees the Energy Star initiative along with two others: R-2000, in which builders must include additional green features as well as energy efficiency, and EnerGuide for New Houses, a system for rating energy efficiency as a score

out of 100.

"Energy-efficient homes are quickly becoming the norm in Ontario," EnerQuality's managing director, Corey McBurney, said.

Revisions to the Ontario Building Code last year call for all new homes to be built to EnerGuide 80 beginning in 2011. "Builders already constructing homes at this level have established a head start and will easily adapt," Mr. McBurney said.

In 2006, Ontario builders constructed 1,616 energy-efficient homes, a figure 2 ½ times larger than in 2005, EnerQuality reported. Of those, 802 got the Energy Star label,



DANIELS CORP.

Buyers lined up last year to get buy one of Daniels Corp.'s energy-efficient First Home units in Markham. The developer built 175 homes that earned the Energy Star rating last year.

78 qualified for R-2000 certification and 736 were EnerGuide-rated.

To receive the Energy Star label, homes must pass a series of tests on air-tightness and efficient heating and cooling. The label was intended to provide a powerful marketing tool for builders and an easily rec-

ognizable symbol for buyers.

EnerQuality also gave awards to Empire Communities, which built 141 homes with an EnerGuide for New Houses rating in 2006, and to Starward Homes (Meadowland) Ltd. for certifying 13 homes as R-2000.