

Apartment complex gets green carpet treatment

Environmentally friendly roof at Atria Development's 100 Bond likely an Oshawa first

The green carpet was recently rolled out on the fifth floor at 100 Bond.

It's not a carpet for walking though, the Atria Development's apartment project in Oshawa recently unveiled its green roof system on top of the L-shaped building's wing fronting on Bond St.

"I wanted to do something that was both aesthetically pleasing for residents looking out over the roof and that would also be environmentally friendly," says Hans Jain, Atria's president. "It's much nicer to see plants on a rooftop than a standard roofing membrane."

The green roof consists of pre-cultivated mats of sedums, plants that thrive in dry con-

ditions and in thin soil. The mats are simply rolled out like sod in their new location, providing instant greenery.

The vegetation-covered roof helps "minimize the urban heat-island effect and reduce storm-water runoff," says architect Michael Panacci, of Wallman Architects, the project's designer.

The fact that the 239-suite building has a green roof came as a pleasant surprise to Paul Ralph, Oshawa's commissioner of development services.

"I didn't know they were doing that," Ralph said, adding that he wasn't aware of any other green roofs in the city.