

Scoudouc Passive House Case Study

Location: Dieppe,
New Brunswick, Canada

Main Benefit: Provides maximum
HVAC efficiency and high-
performance heating and cooling in
the challenging Canadian climate.

Product: 7 Series variable
speed geothermal heat pump
with IntelliZone

TAKING GEO TO THE BIG SCREEN

More than 40,000—that’s how many hits the Facebook ad featuring pictures of Richard LeBlanc’s custom-built, off-grid home has. LeBlanc is the owner of Riko Passive Homes, which builds custom projects that are as energy-efficient as possible. So how did the process of constructing his home go viral? It all started with *Building Off The Grid*, a show that follows builders as they create inventive homes in remote locations. When the show’s producers invited LeBlanc to be featured, he accepted and pulled the plug—literally. He used the marketing opportunity to build the home completely off-grid. And when it came time to choose the heating and cooling source for the home, he called on WaterFurnace.

GOING GEOTHERMAL

As LeBlanc weighed his building options, he knew that solar panels would work wonders for his home during the summer months. But he would have to limit energy usage in the winter. So he picked a system that would use the least amount of power—geothermal. And it works great. “We’re using roughly as much energy as a house four times smaller than ours,” says LeBlanc.

LeBlanc chose WaterFurnace to supply the necessary geothermal systems for a few reasons. “I’ve done a lot of research on the systems. WaterFurnace had a good track record, and I’ve used it in past projects,” says LeBlanc. He felt confident in his decision to bring the company into this special project. “What tipped the scale was that my local installers like working with WaterFurnace, so it was a good choice,” says LeBlanc.

“We needed a system that would use the least amount of energy possible during that period of time, and geothermal was the best option.”

– **Richard LeBlanc,**
Owner, Riko Passive Homes



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RISIN' UP

LeBlanc's home is fully outfitted with WaterFurnace equipment, including—the 7 Series heat pump with IntelliZone, the Symphony home comfort platform and the refrigeration performance package. With the help of these products, LeBlanc is able to easily overcome the challenges of the cold winter months in Canada. "It provides constant heat, whether it's 40 below zero or five below outside," says LeBlanc. And Symphony helps him to reach his goal of having a tool to gather performance information. "It's nice to be able to go to the wall and look at energy used in the house and complete system performance at any given point," says LeBlanc.

LeBlanc and his crew at Riko Passive Homes rose above another challenge too. The COVID-19 pandemic interrupted their building process, but they still finished in less than a year. Installation began in the fall of 2019 and finished in June of 2020. By the end of July, his family was enjoying the comfort of their new home.

A LOOK INTO THE FUTURE

The LeBlanc family has been living in the house for two years and has experienced the ease and comfort made possible by a WaterFurnace heating and cooling system. However, LeBlanc has plans to discontinue living completely off the grid to ultimately save money. But he will continue using WaterFurnace equipment. "Very soon I'll be connecting to the grid and using the desuperheater to its full potential with an electric domestic hot water tank. So that'll change the dynamic in the house a little bit more," says LeBlanc. With WaterFurnace, the future is bright, warm and environment-friendly.

“The Symphony reporting software provides access to complete system performance data.”

– Richard LeBlanc,
Owner, Riko Passive Homes



7 Series heat pump with IntelliZone



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ABOUT RIKO PASSIVE HOMES

Owner Richard LeBlanc started perfecting his homebuilding skills at a young age by working within the trade alongside his father. His drive to be unique and stand out from the crowd has led him to specialize in passive home and custom build construction. With the constant rise in utility costs, he focuses on creating energy efficient homes that save his customers money throughout the lifetime of the structure. His hands-on approach helps ensure his customers receive the dream home they expect. It's no surprise that he was the perfect fit when the producers of *Building Off The Grid* came calling.

