Earthbag foundation is prepared for round bales
Round bales arrive. Despite weighing about 400 lbs each, they are easy to roll on site.
Three bales are strapped together to make a 12-foot column.
The columns are raised with the help of a backhoe.
Columns are given a “push” by the backhoe to settle them together.
All eight columns are in place and awaiting some leveling
A box-beam top plate sits on the columns and will bear the roof.
The box beam connects all eight bale columns and is strapped down to the earthbag foundation.
Clay slip coat is sprayed onto the columns before plastering
An earthen plaster is applied to the columns
With the finished box beam in place and a coat of plaster on the columns, the roof is craned onto the structure.
The round bale columns easily support the roof structure with absolutely no settling.
Regular square bales fill in between the round bale columns
The finished bale columns and bale walls are earthen plastered and painted with silicate dispersion paint.
On the interior, the columns are oiled with multiple coats of linseed oil to give the earth plaster a rich dark colour.
The round bale columns made a quick, inexpensive and structurally sound framework for the Arts Centre Hastings in Madoc, Ontario.