



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

**Newsletter # 7
May 2, 2008**

The Next Cool Event!!

Free Public Workshop Saturday, May 24, 10 – noon

Reducing our Carbon Footprint by Greening our Electricity Supply

This information-packed workshop organized by Glenn Little will address the following issues:

- Current Supply –
Where does our electricity come from?
How does it get to our homes?
How to de-construct your electricity bill.
- Renewable Options –
Wind, Solar, micro-hydro
Glenn Little will also bring us up-to-date on the Eden Mills solar array project.
- Renewable Purchase Options –
Homeowner systems – off-grid, net meter, RESOP
Co-op model
Market supplier- Bullfrog Power (Bullfrog representative will speak.)
- Conservation – Off-setting “green” premium through conservation
General electricity conservation
Using the toolkit**

****SPECIAL NOTE:** A representative of Community Renewable Energy Waterloo (CREW) will be discussing Electricity conservation. We will be making available a "toolkit" for households to track their electricity use.



- **Youth Group** - Meetings Tuesday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 28
- **EXTRA! EXTRA! Stephen Fearing Concert just announced!**

**Friday, May 23 at the Community Hall
Tickets \$20, a carbon neutral benefit concert**

www.goingcarbonneutral.ca



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The Latest Cool News!!

Earth Day 2008: All targets met!!

Congratulations to the hard-working and photogenic (did you see the Weather Network item?) Carbon Neutral Youth Group and adults Kit Bresnahan and Bill Allen who organized a wonderful event, with perfect weather!!

LET'S CELEBRATE THE EDEN MILLS EARTH DAY FACTS!!

*We received from the Green Legacy Project 2022 trees - about 1800 were small seedlings, the rest were more advanced.

*We had originally planned to plant 1842 trees this year...the number matches the number of the year the first mill opened in Eden Mills. It became clear that 1842 trees would not meet the demand this year, so we were fortunate that Green Legacy could provide more trees.

*At least 75 people came to the Earth Day launch event at Memorial Park on Saturday morning. At the launch, Rob Johnson of Green Legacy demonstrated the best way to plant young trees, and how to care for them.

*Kit Bresnahan read a poem by Robert Priest entitled *Poem for the Ancient Trees*. It is a poem which describes today's tree planters' hopes that trees planted will populate and beautify the earth of their descendants. This is particularly poignant these days when we are so concerned about the destruction of Earth's environment.

*As it turned out 57 households planted trees at home - a total of approximately 1200 trees!

* In consultation with the Township of Guelph-Eramosa, trees were also slated to be planted on public property -- Of the 800 trees identified for this purpose, 780 have already been planted...and the rest will be planted on the May 3rd weekend.

*In the afternoon on Saturday, after a potluck lunch, the Youth Group coordinated a series of 12 arts/crafts workshops featuring Eden Mills artists as teachers, and working on themes relating to the environment. **Special thanks to the artists who inspired us during the afternoon workshops!**

* The Celebration was truly heartwarming. People came with wheelbarrows, garbage pails, wagons and blue boxes to collect their trees. Many commented on how good it felt to be doing something for the next generations.

Thanks to all who participated who planted these seeds for our carbon neutrality, making homes for animals and making Eden Mills even more beautiful!

Plans are already underway for Earth Day, April 18, 2009! You can order trees now. Please use the order form on the website, and please order in groups of ten by species!

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Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral Receives \$116,900 Grant from the Community Go Green Fund

Thanks to a new provincial program of the **Ministry of the Environment** to reduce greenhouse gases, Eden Mills has received a grant to:

1. Educate and raise awareness of the residents of the Village of Eden Mills about climate change and their contribution to Ontario's carbon footprint in an effort to modify people's behaviour towards living a carbon neutral lifestyle.
2. Engage the residents of the Village of Eden Mills in efforts that will result in a reduction of their carbon footprint including establishing a baseline for measuring Eden Mills' carbon footprint.
3. Promote the Project in an effort to communicate the efforts to the Village of Eden Mills residents and transfer the Eden Mills experience to other communities across Ontario.

The Ministry sees the Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral project as a model for other communities. It cannot be used for capital projects, but it can enhance all our communications programs.



The grant is for a two-year program including, among many elements, a fully interactive website, DVDs and handbooks "Empowering Your House" and "So You Want to Go Carbon Neutral", describing the process of going carbon neutral for use by other communities and organizations. The funds will also be applied to costs associated with running (including paying rent for our use of the Community Hall) and recording what we have learned from our practical workshops and need for expert consultations. We shall also be able to purchase a projector to be used in our presentations, and to create a portable display banner for our public presentations in other communities. Over the next two years we shall also be able to build a resource library of books and DVDs on important subjects.

It is important to know that the Eden Mills Carbon Neutral project has attracted a lot of attention. We receive regular invitations to make presentations. Charles Simon has spoken at the Quinte Sustainability Symposium and will be making a presentation this month at a conference of the Columbia Institute in Huntsville. We cannot accept all invitations, and videos and handbooks will help us communicate with the world.

We can only say "Wow!" Now, on with the work!!

Watch for the next newsletter!
The community results of the Eden Mills Carbon Footprint Survey!

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