



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

Newsletter # 9 – June 20, 2008

GOING CARBON NEUTRAL GOES TO SCHOOL!

The children and youth of Eden Mills have thrown themselves whole-heartedly into the going carbon neutral project. With the school year drawing to a close we thought it was time to check in and learn what their activities have been since the launch of Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral! You'll be inspired and breathless when you've read what follows!

TREES, TREES, TREES...ALMOST 30,000 TREES of all sizes PLANTED!

The **Eden Mills Youth Group** (co-ed high school-aged students) helped with the distribution and planting of **2250 trees in Eden Mills** on Earth Day and over the weeks that followed. The last 20 trees were planted under the auspices of the Millpond Association along the shore of the lower dam to help prevent erosion of the bank.



Not only did the Youth Group plant trees, they helped coordinate all the Earth Day activities, including the planting of a grove of creative art workshops featuring environmental themes with Eden Mills artists during the afternoon of Earth Day!

This was a huge accomplishment, and plans for next year are already underway!

The Youth Group meets twice a month on weekdays and once a month on a weekend. They have discussions and social events, and help out in the community in a variety of ways...This spring they worked on Spring Miscellany and the Stephen Fearing Concert. They welcome new members! **(Anyone who is interested in joining should contact Kit or Robin Bresnahan at 856-1188.)**

The Youth Group thanks Kit Bresnahan and Bill Allen for all the leadership and work they provided to make the project a success.

The students of **Rockwood Centennial Public School** also planted trees in a three-part project:

- **Primary and Junior students** planted nearly **5,000 tree seeds** and grew seedlings on their classroom window sills. They had to water them and sing to them -- they all grew beautifully.
- **Junior students** transplanted approximately **20,000** seedlings.
- **Intermediate students** planted **1,400 trees at local farms.**





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CELP (Community Environmental Leadership Programs) Grade 10 students and Headwaters Grade 12 students who attend classes at Camp Edgewood planted **1,000 trees** on a property near Arkell to offset one school bus' emissions for one year. Bus driver Daryl Nichol launched this model initiative with the support of the visionary CELP teachers Katie Gadd and Mike Elrick. There's a special carbon neutral decal on his bus to prove it!



What a difference a year can make! Congratulations to everyone who imagined each seedling into a mature tree and rolled up their sleeves and plunged their shovels and hands into the good earth. We all join the students involved in thanking Wellington's Green Legacy Nursery and its inspirational and tireless manager Rob Johnson and Sheila Pease for their instant support for these projects. Two Eden Mills students have been happily employed by Green Legacy this year as well – Jill Legault and Claire Paller. They will keep us on our toes!

CLUB GREEN AT ROCKWOOD CENTENNIAL SCHOOL

Club Green meets once a week. Who would have thought learning about the environment could be so much fun! Activities included the following:

- * **garbage alarms** and golden garbage pail awards;
- * **crafts** from recycled materials;
- * Christmas '**bird treats**';
- * A speaker from **GRCA** (Grand River Conservation Association) who talked about recycling and composting (**she brought worms!**);
- * A **movie** night for families featuring the documentary ***Garbage: the revolution starts at home***;
- * an environmental **trivia game** involving spinning a recycled bicycle wheel as the spinner;
- * we made three **costumes** for kids to wear when talking to other classes about waste reduction -- 'reduce' 'reuse & repair' and 'recycle'. Everyone had fun **pulling things out of the garbage bin** and gluing it on the appropriate costume;
- * the students made **posters** and talked to other classes about them;
- * students made **announcements** over the PA system;
- * right now the club is finishing up their '**documentary**' (read as recruitment video to show next fall).





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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!!

Because of the success of the activities at Rockwood Centennial School this year, the school has been selected by the Upper Grand District School Board as one of five schools (out of a school board of 70 schools) to pilot the Eco-Schools Programme next year.

The teachers and students at Rockwood Centennial are most appreciative of all the imagination, work and dedication shown by the parents involved in making Club Green come to life! Teacher Tracey Darling and parents Libby and Glenn Little, Linda Hendry and Roseanne Beneteau have provided fabulous leadership, gathering no moss as they keep things rolling!

For the record: Key among the many ideas and initiatives launched by Libby and Glenn Little was the concept of the **Green Classroom**. They presented the idea of the straw bale/solar panelled replacement for the energy-draining portables at the school last year. The Upper Grand School Board was enthusiastic about the idea, and has approved the construction of the Board's first Green Classroom, not at the moment for Rockwood, but for Orangeville since that school was expanding. We congratulate Libby and Glenn for making such a strong case for such an advanced and timely idea...we won't be surprised if green classrooms start to pop up like mushrooms around the province.

Cool Things to remember

Rockwood "Market on the Green" - Local food and crafts Saturdays 8 am - 12 noon
July 26th, August 23rd, and September 27th.

Wellington County Hazardous Waste Pick-up Event - Rockmosa, Saturday, July 19 (flyer attached)

Fall 2008! Workshops and a big November 2008 Going Carbon Neutral Community Meeting.

Watch the Weather Network - There has been two recent wonderful stories on Eden Mills featuring the Darmon family planting seeds, the Youth Group planting trees and the Little's straw bale house! If you don't manage to catch them on air, we shall be posting them on the website over the summer.

Happy Summer Holidays to All!

VOLUNTEER YOUR IDEAS!

Here's a great idea and ad(!) just in!

**A CARBON-NEUTRAL IDEA:
RECYCLE YOUR WASTE COMPUTER PRINT-OUTS
NOTEPADS MADE FROM YOUR WASTE COMPUTER PRINT-OUTS
(USED ONE SIDE ONLY)
FREE OF CHARGE
CALL ANN VERONICA (CHESWORTH) 519-856-4637**

