



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

Media Release

Eden Mills' Richard Lay Winner of two Awards for Excellence in Engineering

Eden Mills, November 17, 2011...

The Ontario Community of Eden Mills is known for its goal to be the first village in North America to "Go Carbon Neutral." Its success stems from its residents. One such resident is a professional engineer, **Richard Lay**, who has not only provided expert advice and example to the Village, but who is also a leader in the field of sustainable building design in Canada. This fall he has received two major awards from the **University of Guelph School of Engineering** and the **Association of Canadian Consulting Engineering Companies**, awards which recognize the scope of his contributions

On October 22, at a Gala dinner at the University of Guelph, Lay (BSc (Eng) '77) received the **Engineering Medal of Achievement** for 2011. The Medal is "the highest honour awarded by the School and recognizes alumni whose contributions to the community, engineering, education, business, and industry are so significant that they bring honour to their alma mater and fellow alumni. The award recognizes lifetime achievement or sustained commitment to excellence."

A few weeks later, on November 1, at another gala dinner at the Ottawa Convention Centre, Lay (along with fellow engineer Tim Dietrich) accepted the **Tree for Life Award** from the Canadian Consulting Engineering Awards on behalf of Enermodal Engineering. Over 200 guests were in attendance including award winners, parliamentarians, industry leaders and other dignitaries.

Held annually for 43 years, the awards are Canada's highest recognition for projects by Canadian consulting engineering firms. The program is held jointly by the Association of Consulting Engineering Companies-Canada (ACEC) and *Canadian Consulting Engineer* magazine. This year over 60 engineering projects were submitted for consideration. Awards included the prestigious Schreyer Award, which is presented to the most technically innovative project and the Tree for Life Award, presented to a firm for outstanding environmental stewardship.

The Tree of Life Award presented to Lay and Dietrich recognized their leading role in environmental stewardship as demonstrated in the mechanical-electrical design of the new Kitchener headquarters for Enermodal Engineering.

This exemplary building, beautifully set on the Grand River, is known as "A Grand View." It is **the most energy-efficient office building in Canada** and uses only 69 kilowatt-hours per square meter per year, compared with the Canadian average of 380 kWh. Actual measurements since its completion indicate that it is using 82% less energy and 89% less water than a conventional building. In its commendation, the jury stated: "It was applauded by the jury for its comprehensive attention to all aspects of energy and water conservation and its re-use of construction materials and furniture while giving high priority to the employees' working

environment, allowing them individual climate control and natural daylight.” The building has received triple LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification from the Canada Green Building Council, a first in Canada.

The idealism Lay brings to his work is evident in his career with Enermodal, Canada’s largest green building consulting firm and LEED consultant for one-third of LEED Canada certified buildings. He himself has been responsible for 16 projects that have earned LEED accreditation, many of them firsts in Ontario. His leadership in industry is matched by his commitment to community. In Eden Mills he has been responsible for founding and maintaining the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association since 1991, as well as volunteering his professional services in providing advice to Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral and undertaking a full energy audit of the Community Hall (with support from Enermodal) followed by a detailed report and prioritized recommendations for improving its energy efficiency. Lay recently did a full renovation of an old Eden Mills house known as the “Old Stable,” reducing its carbon footprint dramatically. This project has proven to be an important educational tool for other home owners. (A video on the steps he took is available.)

Lay’s other community contributions were also recognized in his University of Guelph Award. They include co-founding and coaching Guelph’s Nordic Ski Team for many years, as well as coaching soccer and Jack Rabbit skiing in Eden Mills. **His University of Guelph nomination stated: “Richard epitomizes the creative, liberal, open-minded, comprehensive and yet always technically and mathematically rigorous approach to engineering science that the engineers that defined our school intended.”**

Eden Mills congratulates Richard on these important achievements.

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<http://www.acec.ca/en/services/awards/index.asp#s3>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsJ_iE0mQ28

http://www.mmm.ca/News/News_Details.aspx?nid=63

<http://guelphengalumni.com/>