



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

MEDIA RELEASE

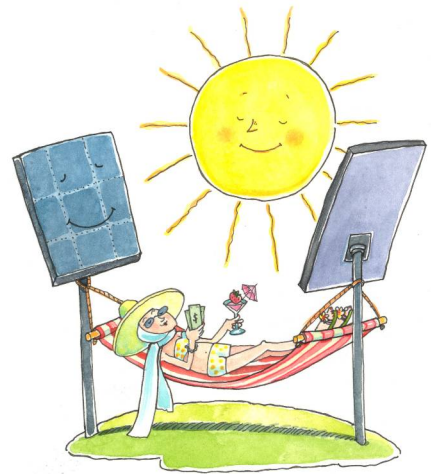
Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral Family Flips the Switch to Solar Power

Eden Mills, June 20, 2010... **Come to flip the switch of Eden Mills' first residential solar panels feeding electricity into the Ontario hydro grid. Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral will mark the occasion with a Sunshine Celebration at 2 pm on Sunday, June 27 at 15 Ash Street.** In honour of the heavenly guest of honour, celebrants are invited to bring their favourite parasol.

The solar electric moment of connection will be feted with **summer strawberries, costumes and fun for the whole family.** **Doug Prest, CEO of SolarG Inc.**, the Guelph company which installed the Solar Photovoltaic System (Solar PV System), will be on hand to help flip the switch and answer questions.

Eden Mills residents John Liss and Daria Love have installed an array of photovoltaic modules on the roof of their home in the heart of Eden Mills. Their investment in solar energy was inspired by the Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral project launched in 2007. **The Village aims to emit no more carbon than it absorbs.** www.goingcarbonneutral.ca

The panels will feed approximately 7645 kwh of electricity into the grid every year. The renewable energy will contribute to the reduction of John and Daria's household carbon footprint and, therefore, to the reduction of the Village footprint. The estimated annual tonnes of CO₂ offset are 6.636. It is a major undertaking, of which John and Daria are proud: "This is our contribution to our community and the Going Carbon Neutral movement, and lucky us, we all will profit."



John and Daria are participating in the **Ontario Power Authority's MicroFit Program.** "The microFIT Program is a stream of the Ontario Power Authority's (OPA) Feed-in Tariff (FIT) Program for renewable energy in Ontario. It is intended to encourage the development of "microscale" renewable energy projects across the province. Owners of these projects will be paid a fixed price for the electricity they produce. Prices are set at a level intended to enable project owners to recover the costs of the projects, as well as to earn a reasonable return on their investment over the term of the contract." <http://microfit.powerauthority.on.ca>

The power from the system will be received into the grid through a meter installed at the house by Hydro One. When all qualifying criteria are met by the owner, the MicroFit Ontario Program commits to a rate of 80.2 cents/kilowatt hour for 20 years. The payments to John and Daria will have covered all materials, installation and application costs in 9.25 years, and provide substantial income for another 10 years.

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The solar PV system was designed and installed by SolarG Inc. one of Guelph's pioneering solar companies. CEO Doug Prest commented: "SolarG's mission is to reduce greenhouse gas through the provision of innovative products and services. This mission meshes perfectly with the goals of the Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral project. We are proud to be associated with the project through our installation of the first major photovoltaic array in the Village. It will be an example for other homes and communities keen to encourage sustainable energy sources."

www.solarg.com

The architectural design of the Love/Liss house was originally commissioned by Doug and Mary Black in 1985. **Eden Mills architect Charles Simon** designed and positioned the house for maximum passive solar heating. The South-facing roof makes it an ideal location for solar collectors. (It is possible to produce solar energy at less precise angles to the sun, but south-facing panels are the most efficient.)

The slope and size of the roof were also designed with the future possibility of solar energy in mind. Charles Simon has championed energy-efficient "green" buildings throughout his 45-year career. He is also a key inspiration and founding member of Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral, bringing his expertise and vision to the project. www.simon-archplan.com

John and Daria were inspired by a workshop on solar power applications presented by Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral in March 2010. When John Liss approached Charles Simon to discuss his reaction to installing solar panels, Charles was elated: "It's so great that, twenty-five years after it was designed, this passive solar house has now become the first example of active solar electricity generation in the village. I hope that it will be the first of many."

This first solar power installation is just one example of the work the community is doing. For example, some residents have installed earth and air energy heating/cooling systems, and others have replaced fossil fuels with bio-mass fuels such as wood pellets. Two Eden Mills homes are constructed with straw bales.

Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral was honoured to be named one of 10 Finalists for the national **Hometown Heroes Awards** announced last week.

Sunshine Celebration

Date: Sunday, June 27, 2010

Time: 2 pm

Place: 15 Ash Street, Eden Mills

Rain or shine (we work with nature!)

For more information, photos or video, please contact:

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www.goingcarbonneutral.ca