



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

Newsletter # 45 March 14, 2011

Welcome Spring Sunshine!

- **Solar Energy Production Potential and Financial Benefits Clarified!**



On Friday, March 4 Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral held a presentation about **Solar PV Panels**. Neighbours John Liss and Daria Love, Linda Sword and John Cripton described their experiences with solar panels, covering everything from assessing their situation to counting the kWh of production.

On average, a 10 kWh system, supplying at least 10,000 kWh hours of energy a year, can represent **a good percentage** of a home's electrical consumption, making an important dent in the home's carbon footprint. The annual revenue far exceeds the average annual cost of household.

Our guest, Swiss engineer **Thomas Böhni**, shared his knowledge of solar PV panel optimization, and its important role in replacing fossil fuel energy. He pointed out, for example, that its efficiency is approximately **15% per square metre**, outstripping most bio-mass applications which **average 0.1 - 0.3 % per square metre**. He described various factors which can maximize solar energy production, and he showed us that variables like slope and orientation may not reduce production as dramatically as one might think.

He pointed out that a solar PV installation under the current Ontario MicroFIT Program represents the best safe financial investment you can make at this time.

The next day, Thomas was able to visit several Eden Mills homes inspired to discuss their particular opportunities.

Several factors may affect people's decisions to invest in solar panels in the near future.

- **Exceptional energy purchasing price** through Ontario Power Authority's MicroFit Program – At 80.2 cents per kilowatt hour for a roof mounted system, private Ontario homes have the best deal in the world right now. The maximum installation is 10 kWh. The price is guaranteed for 20 years.
- **The MicroFit offer may not go on forever.** The program is very successful, attracting thousands of applications. The government may feel it cannot maintain the high price for much longer.
- **The upcoming provincial election may change sustainable energy policies and programs** if the Liberals do not stay in office.
- **It's easy to register immediately without making a final commitment.** Because it takes at least 90 days before a registrant is approved, applicants can continue their research during that time, and withdraw with no penalty. <https://mymicrofit.powerauthority.on.ca/sign-up-pre.php>
- **Solar G**, a Guelph installer of solar panels, has made a current offer of a **6%-10% discount** (depending on the size of the installation) for Eden Mills residents.
- **Some banks offer special interest rates for loans based on MicroFit projects, because of the 20-year guaranteed rate.** This mitigates the upfront capital costs if a loan is required. Based on average annual returns on a 10 kWh system, it would take about 8 years to recover costs, leaving 12 years of clear revenue.
- **The size of installation is variable up to the maximum 10 kWh.**

John Liss/Daria Love and Linda Sword/John Cripton are happy to spend time with anyone who wants a closer look.

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Cool things to do next week!

- ***Spring Miscellany with added afternoon Miscellany for Kids!***



MUSIC AT THE HALL

On **Saturday, March 26** *Spring Miscellany* returns to the Community Hall in Eden Mills opens its doors, and perhaps begins at 8 pm.

This year, for the first time, Music at the Hall is also launching a *Spring Miscellany for Kids* (and their parents) from 4 pm - 5 pm for free.

Confirmed artists include juggler **Prometheus the Famous**, singer/songwriter **Nabi**, **Woodwings** recorder ensemble, poet **Matthew Dryden**, writer/illustrator **Janet Wilson**, **Eden Mills Youth Group**, novelist **Sandra Sabatini** and more. Many of these artists will also perform for the young audience in the afternoon.

Earth Hour will add to the glow of the evening. Along with people from around the world, Eden Mills Community Hall will turn off the electric lights, run the microphones off a car battery and use beeswax candles for lighting.

This concert is a fund-raiser for the Eden Mills Community Club and Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association.

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Miscellany for Kids: 4 pm

Evening Performance: 8 pm (doors open at 7:30)

Cash Bar: Beer and wine

Tickets: \$20/Miscellany for Kids - free

Tickets can be purchased at the door or in advance at:

The Bookshelf, Quebec Street, Guelph 519-821-3311 or from

Kit Bresnahan, 519-856-1188 or kitbresnahan1@gmail.com

- ***Resilience 2011 – A Community Festival –
March 25 and 26***



A Community Festival!

Organized by **Transition Guelph**, this Festival is designed to capture the community's imagination - to inform, build momentum, and inspire people to take action to help build resilience, both personally and in the community at large. What's more, it will celebrate the great work that is *already* being done. Transition **Guelph** is Canada's second official Transition Town initiative, joining Peterborough, Ontario, Canada's first, on May 14, 2009.

Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral will have a display in the EcoMarket on Saturday March 26 from 9 am to 1 pm at St. George's Anglican Church/Palmer Hall.

Among the keynote speakers is Chris Turner (author of *Geography of Hope*) who will speak on Friday at 6:30 at the University of Guelph. Eden Mills remembers his stirring and informative presentation here two years ago. If you cannot attend the Festival, you can still borrow a copy of the DVD of his excellent Eden Mills presentation from Linda Sword.

There are many events and workshops during the festival, on every subject relating to resilience from maple syrup to poetry. Most events are free. Visit <http://www.resilience2011.ca/> for all the details.

www.goingcarbonneutral.ca