



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

Newsletter # 48 August 6, 2011

SUMMER CATCH-UP NEWS!

ecoENERGY is back!

The ecoENERGY Retrofit - Homes program has been renewed from June 6, 2011, until March 31, 2012, by the Government of Canada. It will once again match the Ontario Government's subsidy program, which was not discontinued when the federal government cut the funding a year and half ago.

The program provides grants of up to \$5,000 to homeowners who install new or replacement geothermal systems (i.e. heat pump units and loops and a variety of other improvements to make homes more energy efficient.) An energy audit (also subsidized) must be conducted before and after these projects in order to justify funding.

Two important changes to the new program include:

1. participants must register with the program before booking a home evaluation
2. homeowners must provide receipts for the system equipment and installation costs to an energy advisor when the post-retrofit evaluation is conducted.

For program details, visit NRCan's website at:

<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/residential/personal/grants.cfm?attr=0>



Information is also available on the Government's EcoAction website:

<http://www.ecoaction.gc.ca/ecoenergy-ecoenergie/retrofit-homes-renovation-maisons-eng.cfm>

Don't miss out on this fabulous opportunity. Make changes now with significant financial help!

Straw bale portable at Rockwood Centennial!

You will remember the "**Green Classroom**" concept launched by Libby and Glenn Little at our launch in 2007. They were promoting the idea of energy-efficient portables at Rockwood Centennial to the Upper Grand District School Board, models for future building on the scale of a house. The School Board, at first reluctant, has now adopted this idea with gusto, and expanded it, under the expert leadership of Paul Scinocco, to two-room "Environmental Learning Centres" at several more schools, in a variety of green construction and energy configurations. Classrooms in Harriston and Orangeville are now in operation, and they are fascinating. The Orangeville classrooms cover all energy costs and even provided a profit in the first year through their own energy production. The classrooms are, in themselves, teaching tools, complete with a curriculum which can be accessed from anywhere in the world. These will be the classrooms for every Grade 5 student.

The Rockwood classroom is the first actual "portable", and it is constructed of straw bales. Installation took place just last week. Please see the attached Mercury article for details.

<http://www.guelphmercury.com/news/local/article/571256--rockwood-school-adds-strawbale-classroom>

For details on the Orangeville classrooms, you can visit: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/elc/index.html>

BRAVO Libby and Glenn!!!

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Eden Mills United Church 150th Anniversary, July 17, 2011



The congregation at Eden Mills United Church was thrilled when United Church Moderator Mardi Tyndal agreed to attend the celebratory service this summer. An outspoken environmentalist, pushing for change, Mardi began her sermon in this way:



*"I am so pleased to be with you today – but I need to clear up something right off the bat. You think I'm here because it's your anniversary. I'm not. Moderators rarely do anniversary preaching. I'm here because you folks are extraordinary! **Your leadership in becoming a carbon neutral community is coming to be known far and wide. You are seeds of hope in this generation and for generations to come.**"*



Minister Daryl Webber and the organizers of the Anniversary linked the spiritual celebration with the principles of the Village's **Going Carbon Neutral** project – Mardi Tyndal planted a handsome tall maple tree, generously donated by Wellington County's Green Legacy, behind the church, and sprinkled bread crumbs for the animals at the foot of the tree. The commemorative banner "Soul, Community, Creation" was created in part at Earth Day in April. Janet Wilson's ***Our Earth: How Kids are Saving the Planet*** was presented to the Moderator by Barb Parker. And Barb Marshall's village walk told stories of history and environmental history-in-the-making. Charles and Anna Simon provided insight into the carbon neutral concept, and nature even offered up ripe blackberries to tempt the walkers, and take their minds off the July heatwave!



The Moderator indicated that she was inspired by the Village's approach to environmental issues, and took away some ideas which she may introduce to the United Church membership across the country.

It was a glorious celebration, thoughtfully constructed. Congratulations to all, and best wishes for the continuing and vibrant life of this lovely Village church.

(Photos by Barb Marshall/Norah Menzies)

