



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

## Media Release

# Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral Celebrates 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

December 2, 2013...On Sunday, December 1, Eden Mills celebrated the 6<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its launch to become the first village in North America to “go carbon neutral.” In order to achieve carbon neutrality, the village needs to balance the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> which it emits and absorbs. It is more than 75% towards its goal.

The evening began with a community supper prepared by the Eden Mills Youth Group. More than 100 people lined up for the seductive buffet of home-made multicultural foods before settling down with fruit pies donated by Knapp’s Country Market. Guelph accordionist Peter Baumann wandered among the tables adding lively music to the evening.

At the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Mayor Chris White congratulated Eden Mills on its impressive accomplishments. **Ontario Trillium Foundation representative, Susan Leuty**, was in attendance to congratulate the community on its achievements. She presented a plaque recognizing the Foundation’s support (\$120,000) for the 2013 Community Hall energy-retrofit project to Community Club President Chris Wilson. The representative of **Farm Credit Canada’s Agri-Spirit Fund** was not able to attend, but the grant of \$15,000 for the new heat pump was acknowledged.

A moving highlight of the evening was the announcement that the development of the Hall’s planned village square and gardens would be undertaken in memory of the late Eden Mills resident and tireless volunteer, Tim Laing. **Tim’s Garden** will be a beautiful reminder of his many contributions to and love of the Village. A fund for Tim’s Garden has been established c/o Eden Mills and District Community Club Inc.

The following are the highlighted achievements celebrated at the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event.

**Community Hall:** In 2013 the Eden Mills Community Hall has seen major energy retrofits, lowering its carbon footprint by an estimated 63% (pending a full year’s energy use actuals). With the financial support of the **Ontario Trillium Foundation (an agency of the Ontario Government)**, **Farm Credit Canada’s AgriSpirit Fund** and **generous donations by residents, clubs and community events**, the Community Club has:

- installed a new metal roof;
- insulated the ceiling;
- installed energy efficient triple-glazed low-e argon windows;
- added two heat recovery ventilators; and
- exchanged one of two propane furnaces for an air-to-air heat pump for cooling and heating.

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New additions to the Hall this year also include a new stove, new flooring in the Halls, LED-powered stage lighting and a **small grand piano donated by Toronto's Remenyi House of Music**, sponsor of last spring's **Jazz in the Barn**. The concert's proceeds (\$16,000) were dedicated to the Eden Mills Community Hall by the late, great jazz artist and neighbor, **Peter Appleyard** who performed there many times.

### **Eden Mills Carbon Footprint**

Household surveys of CO2 emissions reflect significant reductions in fossil fuel in household energy use, local transportation and international travel.

- In 2007 a baseline survey undertaken with help of 4<sup>th</sup> year Environmental Sciences students, established that Eden Mills CO2 emissions totaled 4621 tonnes.
- **Between 2007 and 2011, the Village CO2 emissions decreased by 22%.**

Carbon absorption by trees and vegetation is very significant and has also increased:

- In 2008 a U of G Forestry Department study calculated that the Eden Mills CO2 baseline absorption by existing trees and vegetation **neutralized about 50% of village emissions.**
- **Between 2007 and 2011, the Village's absorption of CO2 increased by a further 6%** as a result of the planting of more than 33,000 trees donated by Wellington Green Legacy's nursery. The Youth Group assisted residents in planting about 10,000 trees.
- In 2009, a groundbreaking study by U of G Forestry Department established that sugar maples absorb four times the CO2 absorbed by white spruce and pine at age of three years – information which informs our absorption calculations.

Many more achievements for which Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral was a catalyst were acknowledged at the 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

- Since 2007 Eden Mills volunteers have worked with Guelph Eramosa Township to establish a public **trail from Indian Trail to South Rockwood**. The trail is now open. Councilor Doug Breen confirms that it has significant traffic.
- Since 2007 **thousands of students in elementary schools** of the Upper Grand District School Board participate in tree planting programs for Green Legacy.
- Since 2007, the Upper Grand District School Board has constructed **four Environmental Learning Centres** modelling sustainable energy use and products. The concept was born in Eden Mills, under the name of "Green Classrooms."

The evening closed with the singing of the Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral Anthem.

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