



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

## Media Release

### **Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral Receives Grant from the Community Go Green Fund (Ontario Ministry of the Environment)**

Eden Mills, Ontario

May 1, 2008 -- Thanks to a new provincial program of the **Ministry of the Environment** to reduce greenhouse gases, dozens of communities are getting involved to fight climate change.

MPPs Liz Sandals (Guelph-Wellington) and Ted Arnott (Wellington-Halton Hills) announced a grant of \$116,900 for the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc. for work on its **Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral** project. Ted Arnott said, "I want to congratulate the residents of Eden Mills for trying to go 'carbon neutral'. They are an example for humankind." Liz Sandals agreed: "I have no doubt that communities across the province will benefit from the experience and example of Eden Mills."

Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral ([www.goingcarbonneutral.ca](http://www.goingcarbonneutral.ca)) is developing a comprehensive strategy to balance its carbon emissions with its carbon sequestration by reducing use of fossil fuels, by replacing fossil fuels with renewable energies, and by absorbing carbon dioxide. Students from the **University of Guelph** are working with the residents to make a survey of the current community carbon footprint. They recently completed a survey of household energy use and travel emissions. An upcoming fall survey by the University will next calculate carbon uptake and sequestration by vegetation and trees in the Village. These baseline surveys will provide a basis for annual evaluations of progress.

The objectives of the Go Green funding for the Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral Project are to:

1. Educate and raise awareness of the residents of the Village of Eden Mills about climate change and their contribution to Ontario's carbon footprint in an effort to modify people's behaviour towards living a carbon neutral lifestyle.
2. Engage the residents of the Village of Eden Mills in efforts that will result in a reduction of their carbon footprint including establishing a baseline for measuring Eden Mills' carbon footprint.
3. Promote the Project in an effort to communicate the efforts to the Village of Eden Mills residents and transfer the Eden Mills experience to other communities across Ontario.

The grant is for a two-year program including, among many elements, a fully interactive website, DVDs and a handbook on the process of going carbon neutral for use by other communities and organizations, and costs associated with a series of practical workshops.

[www.goingcarbonneutral.ca](http://www.goingcarbonneutral.ca)

The Community Go Green Fund is a new program from the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, providing \$6.6 million over four years to support local greenhouse gas reductions across Ontario.

This past week, the first funding round provided a total of \$2.6 million to support 24 projects across Ontario. The projects, developed by community groups, small municipalities and environmental organizations, are tailored to the local needs of their individual communities. Projects will assist residents to switch to a more sustainable, low carbon lifestyle.

Projects vary across the province, some are related to energy use, transportation, or eating locally. In the Town of Erin, for example, students will reduce their carbon emissions by eating locally grown food and using green transportation. In Ottawa, mixed income tenants renting in Ottawa will participate in a program to build awareness on low-carbon transportation options, energy conservation and waste minimization.

“Through the Community Go Green Fund communities can reduce their impact on climate change at the local level,” said Environment Minister John Gerretsen. “We’re supporting a variety of groups across the province to motivate people where they live to join us in the climate change fight and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions,” he added.

Learn more about the Community Go Green Fund and the next round of applications at [www.gogreenontario.ca/cggf](http://www.gogreenontario.ca/cggf).

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