



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

## Media Release

### Eden Mills takes major new steps towards carbon neutrality with Trillium Grant and Wellington-Waterloo Futures Loan

Eden Mills, November 22, 2011...

The Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association and Eden Mills Community and District Club are proud to announce that they have been awarded an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant in the amount of \$120,000, and a \$50,000 incentive loan from the Wellington-Waterloo Community Futures Development Corporation.

This important support for Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral's next major projects will contribute to the significant reduction in the Community Hall's carbon footprint, the installation of sustainable-energy-producing solar panels, and improve accessibility. The Going Carbon Neutral project operates under the umbrella of the Millpond Association, and in association with the Community Club.

Following the village's "Going Carbon Neutral" Launch in 2007, a comprehensive energy audit of the Hall was undertaken. This professional service was donated by resident and award-winning engineer Richard Lay and his company, Enermodal Engineering based in Kitchener. The report not only described the 80-year-old Hall's air leaks, energy-use excesses and outdated systems, it also recommended and prioritized the changes necessary to reduce the carbon footprint of the building by defining and sealing the building envelope, by insulating the ceiling and walls, and by investing in new, sustainable energy sources. (Full report, [goingcarbonneutral.ca/news/surveys](http://goingcarbonneutral.ca/news/surveys))

These combined reductions in energy use would sufficiently reduce operating costs to keep the Hall operational as fuel costs continue to rise over the next decades. In fact, if all the changes were implemented, they would reduce the Hall's carbon footprint by 90%. Without these changes and subsequent financial savings, the future of the Hall, managed and funded through community volunteer and fund-raising activities and rentals, would be in doubt.

This report was the basis for the Millpond Association's submission to the Trillium Foundation. The funding awarded will begin by reducing energy use through the retro-fit, starting with insulating the walls and ceiling, and replacing the old windows.

The plans addressing the replacement of fossil fuel energy include the installation of solar panels under Ontario's microFIT Program. The Wellington-Waterloo Community Futures Development Corporation is generously supporting this initiative with the loan of \$50,000 under very practical terms. The 5 kW PV panels will produce enough energy to cover the purchase and installation costs over the first 10 years and to provide operating income over the second 10 years, based on the rates guaranteed in the 20-year contract with the Ontario Power Authority.

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

A symbol of the Village's forward-looking approach to climate change and sustainable energies, and to ensuring maximum returns, the panels will face due south, framing the entrance into the parking lot. (See attached computer-generated image.) The solar panels and the carefully documented retrofit of the Hall will contribute to public education as a model of what can be done to reduce energy use. In the words of the Trillium Foundation notification of the grant: "As you embark on this exciting project, we are ready to support your effort to increase public awareness."

Thanks to two residents' generous donations of the land on which the parking lot is situated, the installation of the solar panels will coincide with a major landscaping initiative at the heart of the Village adjacent to the Community Hall. While the parking capacity will remain the same, the space will accommodate a garden, sitting areas, attractive and accessible walkways, a link to the Millpond and much more greenery.

The development of this parkette and "Village Square" has been in the works since the mid-90's when village-wide consultations and discussions of Village improvements and traffic calming first took place resulting in a report known as VELS (Village Enhancement and Livable Streets). Residents aim to make the Village a safe living environment and a destination, not a drive-through. The current plans will build up the Village's common outdoor space at the Hall, the potential for more Hall rentals and income generation, the spin-off potential to introduce more people to the existing businesses in the Village, and the attractiveness of the Hall and Millpond as recreational and educational gathering places.

Although the Community Hall is co-owned with Guelph-Eramosa Township, it is fully managed and financed by the volunteers of the Eden Mills Community Club, and continues to operate in the black. Over the past ten years, the Hall has also raised funds for two major projects: a new metal roof and an elevator and new washrooms to make the Hall accessible.

Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral, launched in 2007, has developed a national reputation for encouraging and realizing change on a community basis. To date, the community's carbon footprint has been reduced by 12%, and many installations of efficient and sustainable energy systems are being added at an accelerating rate, showing remarkable results in terms of CO2 reductions and financial benefits in individual households.

The support of the Trillium Foundation and the Wellington-Waterloo Futures Development Corporation for the Community Hall project provides a strong base for the campaign to raise the remaining funds required to complete the full project. As always wherever possible volunteers will do the work themselves.

For information please contact: Linda Sword [lsword@xplornet.ca](mailto:lsword@xplornet.ca) 519-853-1896