



A project of the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association Inc.

Newsletter # 54 April 29, 2012

Earth Day 2012 THE REPORT!



Hear Ye! Hear Ye! COOL NEWS FLASH!!

On Thursday April 26, our own Eden Mills visionary, KIT BRESNAHAN, received the VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AWARD 2012 presented by Wellington County, and sponsored by the Guelph-Wellington Volunteer Centre.

Our five-year-old Earth Day Celebration is just one of the important projects Kit has initiated in the Village. For the full story on Kit, see page 3 of this newsletter.

CONGRATULATIONS KIT! We all know and appreciate how enormous are your contributions to the life of our community!

Here, on page 1, we describe the highlights of this year's Earth Day, just one example of Kit's commitment to Eden Mills and the environment.

The EDEN MILLS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION, held last Saturday, April 21, focused, as always, on the planting of trees to beautify our gardens and to increase Village sequestration of CO₂.

THIS YEAR'S PLANTING, SO FAR, BRINGS OUR TOTAL SINCE OUR 2008 START, TO 8,358 TREES.

Last week the Youth Group and the Guardians of Eden Group helped plant 150 trees on the Reimer Farm, and another 700 trees were picked up from Barb Marshall and Joe Paller's driveway and planted in Eden Mills and district by you!

The day's record-makers included:



- **Jack Darmon Jr.** who planted the most from the Eden Mills Guardians Youth Group with **Ashton** being the runner up.
- **Jordan Little** planted the most from the grades 7- 12 Eden Mills Youth Group.
- **Lee Wisener** picked up the most garbage.
- **Brian Husband** saw and heard the most species of birds!

...see page 2 for more



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Thank you to:

- Elizabeth Cunningham for leading the Kite making workshop;
- Brian Husband for leading the early morning, record breaking bird walk and the beautiful spring-flower-filled afternoon hike;
- Glenn Little and Green Legacy for their invaluable support;
- Kit Bresnahan for making it all happen! and
- Everyone in the village who participated in some capacity in Earth Day 2012 either here in the village or elsewhere.

We still have a few trees available at a first-come, first pick-up basis from Barb and Joe's.

40 Cedar

49 White Pine

49 White Spruce

87 Red Oak

100 Dogwood

There is also mulch free for the taking from the Community Hall parking lot to spread around your trees and shrubs to help ensure their survival.

OUR NEIGHBOURS, THE BIRDS!

Brian Husband reports that, in total, we saw 26 bird species, which is 7 species higher than the previous two years!! Not bad for a cool, wet morning!

Spring Migrants:

Mallard Duck

Wood Duck

Red-winged Blackbird

Song Sparrow

American Robin

Chipping Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

Hermit Thrush

Yellow-rumped Warbler

Ruby-crowned Kinglet

Northern Flicker

Winter birds about to migrate north:

Tree Sparrow

Pine Siskin

Dark-eyed Junco

Year-round residents:

Canada Goose

American Crow

Rock dove

Blue Jay

European Starling

Mourning Dove

Common Grackle

American Goldfinch

House Sparrow

Northern Cardinal

Tree Sparrow

Black-capped Chickadee

And Sue and Neville Martyn report bluebirds on the East side of 2nd Line south of Lowrie Lane. ...

...see page 3 for more



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Kit Bresnahan Wellington County Volunteer Appreciation Award 2012



Gordon Tosh, Chris White, Kit, Don Mckay

If there was ever a “household word” in Eden Mills, it would be “Kit Bresnahan.” His gentle touch has been felt by everyone no matter what the age, the interest, the worry, the joy. He teaches and inspires us all, when he is not teaching in the Waterloo Region Board of Education.

In his presentation, the Guelph-Eramosa Mayor and Warden of Wellington County, Chris White, summarized (and we mean “summarize” because it would take chapters to do Kit justice) Kit’s contributions:

“Congratulations to Kit Bresnahan

After attending McMaster University, receiving his Bachelor of Education from Queens University and being the Principal of an Inuit school in Labrador, Kit settled in Eden Mills. He is a teacher and has specialized in a variety of areas including teaching a gifted program, an outdoor education program and currently teaches special education for high needs children. Kit is married to Pam and has 3 children, Andrew, Sarah and Robin.

Kit is involved in countless community activities in Eden Mills. He has served 10 terms as the Vice President of the Eden Mills and District Community Club and has raised more than \$20,000 for them through the organizing of community concerts. These concerts have raised an additional \$50,000 for other charitable donations.

With a passion for environmental causes, Kit is the founder of the Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral Youth Group, has served for 14 years on the Board of Directors for the Eden Mills Millpond Conservation Association, sat on the steering committee for Guelph Transition and organizes local Earth Day celebrations and tree planting events with the youth groups.

...see page 4 for more



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His dedication to children can be seen through his role as co-leader for the Jack Rabbit Cross Country Ski team and helping a group of young people to organize a recent "Hopscotch for Hope" event for Free the Children. Additionally, Kit can be found going door to door for the Canadian Cancer Society's daffodil campaign in April.

Kit – thanks for all you do to make the County of Wellington a better place to live, work and play.

Kit, in his own inimitable fashion, responded through teaching and extending the award to others. Here is a shortened version of his presentation.

"Three virtues I hold dearly in my heart are respect.....respect for people and communities, respect for nature and our environment, and self respect.....The second virtue is compassion...compassion for all living things, both people and animals, and the third virtue is a sense of community service....community service for others and for our environment..... for we are all part of the web of life and whatever we do to one part of the web we do to ourselves.

Where did I get my sense of respect, compassion and community service? I got it from my parents. They instilled in me a strong foundation from which I have lived my life. I acknowledge and thank my Mom and Dad for these core values. And I am so pleased to have my Mom at this ceremony today.

I also want to acknowledge my immediate family, my wife Pam and my three children, for when I volunteer in the community they so often help out too. I especially mention and thank my youngest son Robin. He is always there helping.... A special thanks to Robin!

I feel blessed to live in the village of Eden Mills. There are so many people who volunteer their time, energy, creativity and knowledge to make it a vibrant and meaningful place to call home. I salute and thank them for all they do. I also thank Brian Skerrett who along with many others in the village nominated me when they themselves are deserving of it.

In closing I am pleased, touched and honoured, to be awarded Wellington County's Volunteer Appreciation Award."

THANK YOU, KIT AND CONGRATULATIONS!

2011 Survey Update:

It has come to our attention that there were questions or even incorrect results in some of the individual household emission reports you have received in the past few weeks. As a result, we have decided to do a full and detailed review of the numbers to assess accuracy in every case, as well as to verify the community footprint. Revised individual results will be forwarded to households where it is determined that the results were not correctly communicated. To protect confidentiality, household codes only will be used and the students will communicate individual results. We plan to present an overview of our progress and analyses, as well as to announce the community results at the Millpond AGM on Thursday, May 17 **We are happy to report that the number of correctly completed surveys was almost 100% this year. Congratulations and thank you!**

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