

ENVIRO-NOTES

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Chair - EACoE

Leaving a Green Legacy –the County of Wellington does its share

Last month, we featured the greening ideas of staff of the Town of Erin and earlier on this year, we highlighted the greening ideas of our Mayor and Town councillors. The County too has several environmental initiatives that fall under the Green Legacy umbrella.

Started in 2004 to enhance the environment and take steps to address the issue of climate change, the Green Legacy Program has been growing very successfully year after year. The program encourages community involvement by local environmental groups, service clubs and schools, which provide “hands on” experience growing and planting trees. These trees are planted in local communities across the County. The educational approach in the Green Legacy Program raises awareness of the environment and encourages good land stewardship.

The Green Legacy Nursery started small and now grows over 150,000 seedlings (about 5 cms tall) and over 7,500 saplings (young trees) a year. All the trees grown are native to the region. As part of the Green Legacy Program the County plants approximately 5 times the number of trees per person per year as the Province.

Call out box:

Did you know that as a private landowner whose property falls within the County of Wellington's boundaries, you too can participate in the Green Legacy Program? Private landowners can purchase seedlings for .25 cents each to plant on their own property. There is no minimum for the number of trees you can purchase. The Town of Erin gives away 5000 seedlings every year. Please contact the Town for dates. (If you would like your trees free of charge you will need to partner with a school group, scout group. The minimum order to qualify for the partnership program is 350 trees). ***End of call out box***

In the summer of 2007, the County of Wellington began an environmental initiative that resulted in the implementation of the “Green Legacy Building Guidelines”. Since its inception, all buildings that the County of Wellington builds must meet at least the criteria required to meet the Green standard. These building guidelines are based on green principles regarding options for developing greener projects. There are two levels of achievement – Green Standards and Emerald Standards.

The Green Standard has mandatory requirements for erosion and sediment control, bicycle storage and changing rooms, light pollution and landscaping to name a few for how the land is developed. There are water efficiency and energy efficiency

requirements as well for the Green Standard. The Emerald Standard has all the mandatory requirements of the Green Standard and enhanced guidelines some of which include: preferred parking for carpools, exceeding the local zoning requirement for open green space by 25%, green roofs, maintaining wetlands, using grey water systems, using enhanced energy-saving techniques and the use of renewal energy sources like geothermal, solar, wind etc.

With so many ideas, programs and incentives, as a resident of the Town of Erin, it's easy to be green. What's your idea of being green? As always, we welcome any of your ideas and suggestions as well. Please send them via email to greeningerin@gmail.com

It's Easy to Be Green

This year be a good land steward and plant more trees. Consider planting trees for Earth Day, April 22!

Tree Planting Programs

- Wellington County Green Legacy Program: brendaw@wellington.ca or 519-837- 2600 ext.3120
- Credit Valley Conservation (CVC):forestry@creditvalleyca.ca or 905-670-1615 or 1-800-668-5557
- Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA): nmunn@grandriver.ca or 1- 866-900-4722