

# Opposition sparks another public meeting on work at the Eden Mills Community Hall

*Retrofit plans for Eden Mills Community Hall*

A special public meeting will be held in the Eden Mills Community Hall on November 22 to review ambitious plans for the village Hall, which is co-owned by the Township and Eden Mills Community Club.

Last month, Township Council endorsed the Eden Mills Millpond Association and Community Club's application for a \$153,000 Trillium Foundation grant to help insulate the building. The proponents detailed the plans in a courtesy presentation to Guelph/Eramosa

Township Council last Monday, which led Eden Mills resident and gallery owner Michael Coull to raise a number of concerns – including lack of communication with village residents.

Project manager Tim Laing and architect Charles Simon, told Council the energy upgrade is a "must do project" because they won't be able to afford to heat the building in 20 years if they don't reduce energy use by insulating walls and the ceiling, replacing a door and windows and harnessing solar power.

The first Community Hall was built in 1893 on

land donated to village trustees. It burned to the ground in 1916, and was rebuilt the next year. The Community Club handles maintenance, upkeep, renovations and fundraising for the new roof, and elevator installed in 2002. Laing said volunteers donate 4,500 hours of work a year – which equates to 10 people spending 11 weeks a year working at the Hall.

Architect Simon, one of the founders of the Eden Mills Going Carbon Neutral Project, said the proposed solar panels, on the roof out of the way, would be "self-financing" and generate income for the Hall. He said the

opportunity now exists to do the projects, including extensive landscaping so "the village will have a heart." "It will have a centre. People will know where they are. Passing cars, when they see this (building) they will slow down," Simon said, adding they will also stop, park and shop.

Councillor John Scott congratulated Laing and Simon for the "visionary aspect" of the project, which he said, looks "very pretty" in a concept drawing. Mayor Chris White, who said he was happy to hear the update, stressed the upgrades are not a municipal project, but a grassroots effort with a different set of requirements for public notification.

Village resident and business owner Michael Coull, a construction manager, said, "not everybody in the village agrees with what's happening here." He said the plan was put together at

an unannounced meeting of the Community Club when approximately 35 people said yes, and four said no.

"The big issue is, for us, the solar panels," Coull said, cautioning they will not look like the photo shopped concept drawing. "We don't know what the village wants – some of us are here to say 'we need to find out what the village wants,' – this can't possibly be the only option available," Coull said, adding they have concerns about safety and insurance issues with snow falling off the panels.

"Some think there are greater issues with the Hall right now. We need to make it more attractive. We need to rent it more to make it more sustainable," Coull said, pointing out the walkways in front of the hall are "in tatters" and could lead to a lawsuit. Coull said, asking Council to "take a deep breath" and advise all of the villagers.

In response, Community Clue President Chris Wilson said that along with flyers, notices detailing the project and inviting people to a public meeting were sent to over 130 households in the village, and two public meetings were held, one in July that drew 18 villagers, and another in September that drew 30 people.

Mayor Chris White said people are telling him they know nothing about the plan, which could change the look of the village in the downtown. He said as co-owner of the building, the Township has "an obligation to all ratepayers of the community and do an outreach to make sure that everybody gets to play..."

Council supported White's motion that the Community Club and Township hold a joint meeting, slated for Tuesday at 7 p.m., at the Eden Mills Community Hall.

## The ROCKWOOD Miller



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### **FREE Workshops!!**

**Erin Clinic location:** Erin Wellness Centre - 6 Thompson Crescent

**Rockwood Clinic location:** 175 Alma Street

**Script for Physical Activity – Tuesday December 6th,  
6:30-8:00pm,  
Rockwood Clinic**

#### **Learn:**

To consider a less sedentary lifestyle — why more movement means better health • How much activity is enough • To practice making a plan for a step wise approach to becoming more active and prevent relapse • Factors to review before getting started

**Heart Healthy Eating – Thursday, December 1st,  
9:00 – 11:00am, Erin Clinic**

#### **Learn how to:**

Control your risk of heart attack and stroke • Select foods with healthy fats and fibre • Read the food labels for good food choices • Mix and match foods from the 4 food groups • Plan your first step to healthier meals, and snacks.

#### **Let's Talk About Immunizing Your Child**

**Rockwood:** Monday, December 5th, 9:30-11:00am

**Erin:** Friday, December 9th, 9:30-11:00am

This session will inform parents about the new free Ontario immunization program. It will allow you to voice your own concerns, if any, and will provide honest, simple, expert answers to your questions. We urge you to come and talk to us – vaccines are good, not bad, and we want your children to have the benefits that they offer. Dr. Alex Kanarek, an expert on vaccine development and immunization in the developing world, is coming to talk about some of his experiences in places where childhood vaccination is less well-practiced than in Canada.

You must pre-register. To do so, go on-line to [www.ewfht.ca](http://www.ewfht.ca) and click on "Workshops" or call **519-833-7576 ext. 341**

## Hitman hoax in Wellington County

Imagine opening your computer to see if you have been sent those special photos your friends were talking about, only to find a message such as this: "Hello, How are you

doing today? I was paid to assassinate you, but I felt it will be right for me to inform..."

This is the start of a disturbing email that is making its way into some

inboxes of homes within the County of Wellington. Basically, this unknown person states that he is an assassin with a heart, who has a contract on your life; but is willing to let you live, if you send him money.


This is your typical "Hitman Email" scam that has been chronicled in *PhoneBusters* making its rounds since 2008.

If you receive this type of email, it is a hoax attempting to get the naïve person to wire some money to a fraudster. Contact your local police to advise them and forward the information to the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre (the old PhoneBusters) at: 1-888-495-8501, or email [info@antifraudcentre.ca](mailto:info@antifraudcentre.ca).



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