

Township carbon footprint studied

By: Denise Paulsen

"I think it's absurd," was Guelph/Eramosa Councillor John Scott's reaction to a request made by the Environmental Stewardship Committee at a recent council meeting. The Township was asked to begin quarterly monitoring and reporting of its carbon emission footprint measurements – a task done by the Committee annually. Scott is concerned that the carbon emission output data needs to be of direct value and benefit to the municipality, before changing its reporting timetable.

Mayor Chris White, also

a member of the Committee, said the Township would look into the amount of time and staff required to prepare the data more often. He also emphasized that the information must benefit the municipality.

"Carbon emissions and the Township's use of energy are directly comparable. We can use the information provided by the environmental focus group to look at how we can reduce taxes. It is all about striking a balance," White said.

The Committee, including Scott, and members of the community is specifically interested in environmental issues. Their

responsibilities are advisory – not administrative. "It was never our intention to continue with the recording and reporting of the CO2 information – beyond that of the first report – which set up a template for the Township to follow," Barb Marshall, a citizen member of the Committee, said.

Energy consumption determines the size of the Township's carbon footprint. This measurement is arrived at by calculating the amount of the Township's electricity, gas/diesel and natural gas use. The data excluded both residential and privately owned businesses' carbon emis-

sions. The report shows the energy consumed in the day-to-day operations of Township owned properties – whose carbon emission output is up 10 per cent in the first year of recording – 2007 to 2008.

A total of 942-tonnes of CO2 gas (carbon dioxide) was emitted. This represents an increase of 102-tonnes from 840-tonnes emitted in 2007. Travel in municipal-owned vehicles created a 10 per cent increase in CO2 emissions – up 33-tonnes (to 402 from 368) in the first year of recording - 2007 to 2008.

Scott referred to it as a complex process. "The

Township is making strides in reducing its CO2 emissions, such as replacing the old incandescent lighting with eco-friendly light-bulbs. At our sports parks, the lighting is now on a timer. When they renew any of the Township-owned vehicles – they're replaced with cleaner engines to lower carbon emissions."

In related news, Environmental Science students from the University of Guelph are tabulating the results of a carbon footprint survey. As part of Eden Mill's Going Carbon Neutral project, seventy-two homeowners in the village voluntarily took part in

the survey to unearth their carbon emission footprint. The residents attended an appreciation dinner recently at the village hall.

"We bought a new front-loader washing machine, and replaced all of our windows," John Gmur said as he detailed his family's efforts to fight climate change.

The village's goal is to become the first community in North America to attain carbon neutrality by replacing its use of fossil fuels with sustainable sources of energy - helping to absorb carbon dioxide. The project was launched in November, 2007.

Warm weather is motorcycle weather

Wellington OPP would like to alert drivers that the recent springtime weather means many motorcyclists are heading out on area roadways. All drivers must learn to share the roadway and drive courteously to avoid any potentially dangerous situations that may arise.

Watch for motorcycles at intersections - over one third of motorcycle collisions occur at crossroads.

- Be sure that you are safe to proceed before doing so by checking your mirrors and around your car.
- Slow down as you come to an intersection and look

carefully for traffic, yield signs, stop signs, traffic lights, cyclists and pedestrians.

- Be extra cautious when turning left in front of a motorcycle. It's difficult to judge their speed and their turn signal may be accidentally left on as they don't automatically shut off so carefully assess an oncoming motorcycle's speed. A motorcycle is more difficult to see than other vehicles and its profile is smaller from most angles.
- Drivers can easily misjudge a motorcycle's speed

and distance. Make sure you don't pull out in front of, or cut off, a motorcycle.

- Be courteous.
- Respect motorcyclists - they are just as entitled to use the road as you are.
- Speed and other aggressive tactics such as tailgating can potentially be more dangerous to the motorcyclist, who has less protection on a smaller, open vehicle.
- Give other drivers space to change lanes, avoid cutting them off and signal your turns and lane changes properly.

Wellington cancer celebrates Daffodil Month with open house

Canadian Cancer Society Wellington Unit invites the community to drop in, meet new and existing staff, and celebrate the launch of Daffodil Month during an Open House, today (Thursday).

April is Daffodil Month, when volunteers sell daffodils at local businesses and knock on doors for donations to help fight cancer. Last year, Daffodil sales and the Residential Campaign raised over \$255,000 in Wellington County. To kick off the month's activities, volunteers, community fundraisers, and those interested in volunteering are encouraged to drop by between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. today for a meet and greet, coffee, treats and a chance to win great prizes. Residential canvassers may pick up their canvass kits on these dates.

"Our mission depends

on the strength and dedication of our volunteers" says Tania Framst, Unit Manager. "Guelph and Wellington is home to such a passionate and diverse volunteer community and we are so fortunate to be a part of that."

Framst said they would like to extend an invitation to the public to visit and find out more about our information and support services, fundraising opportunities, to register for Relay for Life, and to pre-order daffodils. We look forward to answering your questions and receiving your feedback on the work we perform in the community. Of course, donations are always welcome.

Through our fundraising efforts, the Wellington County Unit is able to continually progress towards eradicating cancer and improving the qual-

ity of life for people living with cancer. In 2009, the Canadian Cancer Society funded \$1,000,000 locally towards two cancer research studies at the University of Guelph. To help alleviate the burden on cancer patients we provided over 2500 rides to local clients enabling them to get to their cancer-related appointments. Also, we have 13 local Peer Support volunteers who provide information and encouragement to people across Wellington County. Hundreds of local people have used our trusted Cancer Information Service, Smokers' Helpline, www.cancer.ca, and other materials to understand how cancer impacts both themselves and their loved ones. Through each of these crucial programs, we continue to Fight Back and demonstrate why we are cancer's #1 enemy.



ROCKWOOD FC

2010 OUTDOOR SEASON

Registration closes March 31, 2010

COST	Group	Dates
\$120	PREMIER	2006 - Girl/Boy Mixed
	U6B or U6G	2004/2005
	U8B or U8G	2002/2003
\$135	U10B or U10G	2000/2001
\$170	U12B or U12G	98/99
	U14B or U14G	96/97
	U16B or U16G	94/95
	U18B or U18G	92/93

Visit our website at www.rkd.ca/rockets
For more information contact Shellie (registrar) at
519-856-9284

COACHES ARE STILL NEEDED FOR VARIOUS AGE GROUPS