

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION NEWS RELEASE

CHRISTOPHER SIMMONDS ARCHITECT LEADS THE CARBON NEUTRAL TREND

February 11, 2013 — Award-winning Ottawa-based business firm Christopher Simmonds Architect has done it again by running a 100% carbon neutral operation at its office site on Eccles Street. The firm is among the leaders in the carbon neutral trend in Eastern Ontario. The energy used in staff travel and in the day-to-day needs of the office setting is now entirely offset by the planting of trees to absorb the carbon dioxide produced by the daily work of the firm.

The amount of energy consumed by the office and professional activities was calculated. This included the gas used in staff commuting and travelling to building sites, the natural gas and electricity used in office heating, lighting and cooling and all office machinery to tally the number of tonnes of carbon produced on an annual basis.

From there, the number of young, vigorous, native Canadian trees needed to absorb that same amount of carbon dioxide over the next 20 years was calculated. Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide from the air and store it in their wood for the life of the tree.

Christopher Simmonds Architect then engaged the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation to plant the required number of carbon-eating trees during its regular reforestation activities in the spring of 2013.

As a result, Christopher Simmonds Architect maintains its carbon neutral business operation status in addition to making a significant contribution to the well-being of our community and our quality of life.

“Chris Simmonds and his staff are environmental leaders as well as architectural leaders in the city. The firm’s trees -little environmental cleaning stations really- will clean the air, the water, reduce erosion, abate noise and wind, provide wildlife habitat as well as years and years of plain old peace and quiet. It’s a pleasure to publicly thank Christopher Simmonds Architect for this thoughtful investment in the health of our whole region”, said Jason Kelly, Chair of the Conservation Foundation.

Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc. is the firm that designed the Rideau Valley Conservation Centre in Manotick that was Eastern Ontario’s first LEED Gold Certified building.

You can contact Chris Simmonds and his team through their website at www.csarchitect.com.

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