

RIDEAU VALLEY CONSERVATION FOUNDATION NEWS RELEASE

LOCAL ARCHITECT LEADS THE WAY OUTDOORS

January 28, 2014 — Once again, award-winning Christopher Simmonds Architect Inc. leads by example with a fourth consecutive annual planting of 372 young, vigorous, native-Canadian trees to offset the carbon emissions produced by heating, lighting and operations within his Ottawa office.

The energy consumption of the professional office was calculated using the Rideau Valley Conservation Foundation's Carbon Neutral Program. Staff travel, office heating and cooling, energy consumption of all kinds was tallied using energy bills for a 12-month period. The RVCF calculator first turns the energy consumption figures into the amount of resulting carbon produced and further, tells us the number of trees needed to absorb or offset that same amount of carbon dioxide.

It turns out that 372 young, vigorous, newly-planted trees each year will absorb the annual output of carbon dioxide from the Simmonds office operations over the expected 80-year lifespan of the trees. The growing trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air thus taking greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere and locking it in the wood for life. Tree mortality along the way was part of the calculation.

RVCF will plant the trees during the regular reforestation activities in the Rideau Valley watershed in the Spring of 2014 on sites as close to urban Ottawa as possible.

"I am proud to say that Chris Simmonds and his staff have made a meaningful and personal decision to reduce their own share of the growing greenhouse gas problem. Theirs was the first professional office in Eastern Ontario to take the very community-minded step of going carbon neutral." said Foundation Chair Jason Kelly.

The Simmonds trademark of creating peaceful living spaces by connecting the inside with the outdoors obviously includes concern for a healthy natural environment.

In addition to carbon abatement, the Simmonds trees provide many ecological services to the people of Ottawa: they produce life-giving oxygen, clean our water supplies, clean the air, provide wildlife habitat, buffer noise and wind, improve the soil and reduce soil erosion. A very nice community gift indeed.

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