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## NEWS LOCAL

# Prince Edward County Innovation Centre is home to Harvistor

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Chad Lambert, a Sr. CAD technologist at Harvistor Canada, shows prototypes of the five-blade Darrieus wind turbine the company is developing at the Prince Edward County Innovation Centre. Bruce Bell County Weekly News

A new Prince Edward County company has reinvented the egg beater and they are hoping to whip up a little wind with it.

Harvistor Canada, which has taken up residence in the new Prince Edward County Innovation Centre, is nearing the completion of the prototype stage of its five-blade Darrieus wind turbine for remote off Grid electricity generation.

Harvistor CEO Robert Reive said the wind turbine is a modified version of the a model patented by French engineer Georges Jean Marie Darrieus in 1931 and with three additional curved blades, does in fact resemble an eggbeater.

The turbines range in height from two metres to seven metres and typically sit atop a 15-metre pole.

Reive, a Quinte West native and Bayside Secondary School graduate, recently located in the County from Nanaimo, BC, after stints at several locations around the globe.

"I've had an interest in wind energy for many, many years and when it was suggested we set the company up at the Innovation Centre, I jumped at the chance to come back to my home area," he said. "What Harvistor is really about is reducing the consumption of diesel fuel and these turbines will be an excellent application at places like farms and wineries and other types of remote locations."

While the turbines are still currently in the development phase, Reive said the company will be proceeding with a pair of

applications in Alberta in the new year.

"We have a couple of subdivisions in Alberta, one in Okatoks and the other in St. Albert where they will be installing the turbines to power streetlights," he said. "The residents will also be able to draw limited power from the system in the event their neighbourhood loses power. They wouldn't power their whole house, but it might be something like keep their refrigerator and freezer running and maybe an office."

Substantially smaller in size than large, megawatt-producing wind turbines that are currently hotly contested in the County and other pockets of the province, Reive said his company's Darrieus model will be much easier to integrate into area landscapes.

"Because they don't need the straight shot of wind, they can be a lot closer to the tree canopy than the larger turbines because they will still operate with some turbulence," he explained. There is very little visual horizon disturbance and because they are intended for remote application, people seem to prefer it."

Harvistor will be installing a model behind the Innovation Centre this spring for testing purposes.

Last week, MP Daryl Kramp announced the company was receiving a \$160,000 grant through the National Research Council Canada's Industrial Research Assistance Program.

Reive said the funding will help

"The generous financial support of the NRC has made it possible for Harvistor to take the next step from Applied Research to Proof of Concept and Prototyping Harvistor's next generation Five Blade Darrieus Wind Turbine," he said. "I look forward to realizing these next phases of technology development to help the team at Harvistor realize their goal, which is to deliver 35 per cent more efficient, low cost remote and off-grid clean wind powered electricity generation and storage to emerging market opportunities in wireless infrastructure, agribusiness and remote industry."

Local manufacturing could be the next step in the company's progress.

"There are a lot of facilities in Prince Edward County that would be ideal for us to set up our manufacturing operation in," he said. "The big wind projects are kind of dine and dash, in that they come in and the local trades might get to do some of the installation work and that's it. Our turbines are much smaller and collapse so one person can do the service work and I think there will be a lot more opportunity for local companies to be involved in this kind of application."

