



ACER

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Fall/Winter Newsletter

2012-2013

25 years and celebrating!

We are incredibly proud of our ACER family and our accomplishments since our launch at a birthday party in 1987!

We are celebrating:

- The programs developed, tested and established
- The great pioneers who first risked and then stayed with us
- The long list of schools, volunteers, events and site network
- The mentoring by the best Canadian scientists in the fields of forestry, meteorology, risk assessment and climate change impacts
- The data that has been accumulated for sharing
- The 10 years of forest biodiversity experimentation at Humber College - now home to 4 ACER programs
- The participation in Biodiversity of the Americas in Panama
- The preparation of our CD – Climate Change in Context

All of these make us proud to share our accomplishments looking back to our beginnings as a group of friends.

Our newest program – Tracking Success – by monitoring a percentage of trees planted, has allowed us to establish benchmark measurements by locations of specific representative trees. Community or public plantings can now be tracked for success over time. Designed and first field tested for Earth Day Hamilton 2012 on the grounds of Royal Botanical Gardens, this protocol has already proven to be a welcome addition to public involvement at 3 more sites.

We are very excited as we plan our May 2013 symposium for community leaders and scientists to visit Humber sites and share their experience and visions for community-based solutions as we face the future in a changing climate. **POST THE DATE and CIRCLE YOUR CALENDARS!**



*DR. G.J. MacGillivray's Grade 6 students
measuring a newly planted Hop Tree
(Oct. 2012)*

Community Solutions in a Changing Climate

Coping with Change in Our Backyard

May 23 - 24, 2013

Come to Humber College to join the discussion of how communities could respond to climate change, discover what grassroots organizations are doing and work with Canada's best climate change scientists!

Planting for Change (P4C)



Dr. G.J. MacGillivray's Grade 6 students, Courtice (Oct. 2012)

Five new schools joined ACER's P4C growing network this fall. Each school planted 16 trees and 45 shrubs in their new living laboratory located on their school grounds.

These trees will be used to study the growth of different tree species with respect to our changing climate. Funding was provided to ACER by TD Friends of the Environment and Earth-Day Sobey's.

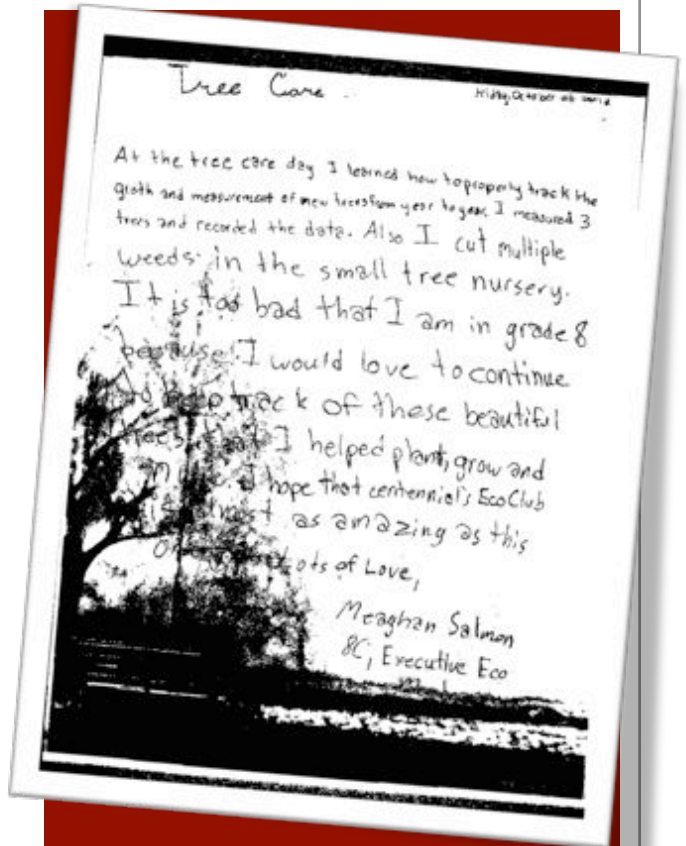
The P4C program teaches students, teachers, and volunteers how to properly plant and care for trees.

Students learn tree anatomy, different tree species, and how to measure and record tree health and growth.



Montclair P.S. celebrating after planting their site, Oakville (Oct. 2012)

Measurements taken for each tree include the root collar, diameter and crown width. The students re-measure and report on their trees each year. Each school's tree data is posted on our website for analysis and comparison with other schools' data. Visit www.acer-acer.ca for more information and the steps to establish your school site.



Students' Testimonials

We would like to share one of the many testimonials we receive from our participants. This one, provided by Meagan S. from the Princess Elizabeth Public School in Welland, ON, was sent after her experience on October 17th, 2012 at the first P4C re-measuring day.



Digging holes to plant shrubs to protect the P4C indicator species

The number of P4C schools...

...is growing. We now have 20 schools in the Golden Horseshoe area around Lake Ontario.

Check www.acer-acer.ca for the steps to establish your school climate change laboratory.

Remember all equipment, training, trees and tracking are provided by ACER with the support of our funders.

Measuring Our Resources



On November 13, grade 9 and 10 classes and the Eco Club at Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. in Scarborough participated in the Measuring our Resources (MOR) program.

The students measured and mapped the trees next to their school so that future classes may locate them

for their annual measurements.



Educating communities to monitor and take ecological action in response to climate change

Visit www.acer-acre.ca for more details or information on how to apply for MOR for your school.

Events and Activities



P4C planting day at David Suzuki S.S. in Brampton.



P4C planting day at Dr. G.J. MacGillivray in Courtice.



ACER's presentation at STAO 2012 in Toronto.



Training at EcoBuzz 2012, Sheridan College, Mississauga.

Sept - Oct

We participated at the Halton Forest Festival and trained over 100 grade 6 students at Rattlesnake Point Park in Milton. We re-measured several P4C schools including Applewood Heights S.S. in Mississauga, Oakville Trafalgar H.S. in Oakville, Princess Elizabeth P.S. in Welland, Quaker Rd. P.S. in Thorold, Appleby College in Oakville, Robert Bateman H.S. in Burlington, West Credit S.S. in Mississauga, Herb Campbell P.S. in Caledon, and Christ the King S.S. in Georgetown. We trained over 60 participants at the EcoBuzz conference held by Peel Environmental Youth Alliance (PEYA) in Mississauga.

Nov-Dec

Five new schools joined the P4C network: Dr. G.J. MacGillivray P.S. in Courtice, David Suzuki S.S. in Brampton, Montclair P.S. in Oakville, Assumption Catholic E.S. in St. Catharines, and Smithville Christian H.S. in Smithville. We trained students and staff in our Measuring Our Resources program at Dr. Norman Bethune C.I. in Scarborough. Vanessa Alsop introduced our ACER carbon sequestration protocol for ACER trees to science teachers at STAO 2012.

Thanks for your support!

Once again, thanks to our supporters, ACER has been able to work with our communities to provide more climate change labs through the P4C program. We established new sites, re-measured 10 P4C schools and trained hundreds of students and adults..

We would like to thank our partner, Climate Action Niagara, for their support to establish ACER programs locally and to find new "green sparks".

Special recognition goes to our volunteers who helped us run our programs throughout the year: Christina Mwelu, Lisa Anderson, Linda Casselman, Judy Willson and Justin Parhar.

For providing us with interns, we would like to thank the Cawthra Park Secondary School for Ryo Ly and Kristina Schaller and the University of Toronto in Mississauga for Sarojni Persaud, Naila Amreen and Karishma Indulkar.



OUR PROGRAMS

Planting for Change (P4C)

Schools create a planting site and join the growing ACER climate change schoolyard network.

Measuring Our Resources (MOR)

Schools inventory their current trees and join the growing ACER schoolyard network.

Go Global (GG)

A network of one-hectare forest sites to collect long-term monitoring data and track the effects of environmental changes.

Tracking for Success (T4S)

A partnership to measure survival rates of trees for other organizations to add value to their planting initiatives.

Youth Stewardship Project (HYS)

Engaged local youth restore and monitor natural areas of concern through organizational partnership initiatives.

We would like to thank our funders and partners who make our work possible:



Friends of the Environment Foundation

Community Environment Fund



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