

2011

ACER Annual Report



Our Approach

Use long-term monitoring protocols to evaluate changes in biodiversity and share the data.

Community involvement is crucial to address the issue of adaptation to our changing climate.

Everyone can learn about current issues and what ecological actions they may undertake.

President's Report

Alice Casselman, B.Ed., M.Sc.Ed.

After 25 years of dedication and hard work, ACER will celebrate its silver anniversary. ACER began as a way to develop and share Canadian educational resources that were not readily available for schools.

In 1996, ACER partnered with Environment Canada and the Smithsonian Institution to establish the first community-based, international one-hectare (1-ha) plots in the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve Studies project (NEBRs).

Since then ACER has created a range of programs that involve schools and communities with the mandate to monitor, assess and teach about current environmental issues and the effects of climate change on forests.

In 2011, the newest 1-ha plots were established at Paradise Grove Park at Niagara-on-the-Lake, in collaboration with Climate Action Niagara and the Niagara Parks Commission.

Planting for Change (P4C) sites were first established in schoolyards in 2008. 6 new sites were implemented in 2011, including one at Humber Arboretum. The Arboretum has been a partner since 2000 and is the home of ACER's four programs.

The P4C program is so successful that we have a waiting list of schools.

ACER is a volunteer organization. Our funding comes from different donors, such as TD FEF, Canadian Tree Fund, Maple Leaves Forever and Earth Day Canada/Sobeys.



Support our Programs by Donating

(Charitable Number 89064 2515 RR0001)

We thank these funders for their continued support as we grow the network of schools and forest plots in Ontario using international protocols and working with ACER trained volunteers in each community to collect and share data.



An Overview of Our Programs

A new approach to tackle climate change, biodiversity and monitoring issues through outdoor experiential activities.

PLANTING FOR CHANGE (P4C)

Our participatory Planting for Change (P4C) program allows teachers, students and schools to create a schoolyard planting site that acts as a mini-climate change outdoor classroom/laboratory. There are now 15 schools in ACER's P4C community.

We have developed more teaching resources and school activities to complement the curriculum related with P4C.



By the end of 2012 we will have completed an analysis of the three-year accumulated data and will be ready to share the results.

You can check our website for photos and data for each school at www.acer-acre.ca.

MEASURING OUR RESOURCES

ACER started this project in 2004 to enable students, clubs, groups, or individuals to accurately collect data and to monitor forests in their schools, neighbourhoods, etc.

For teachers, this is a cross-curricular, hands-on multi-grade method where students can learn about climate change and its impacts on trees. ACER will teach you how to roll this program out at your own school and support you on the way.

Measuring Our Resources enhances curriculum in mathematics, literacy, science and geography by involving core learning in grades 7-12. It builds interpersonal communication skills as the project requires extensive teamwork by the students.

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

Special Thanks

To our UofT Mississauga intern, Karishma Indulkar, who has been active in supporting ACER's activities, research and programs throughout the year.

To our Grade 12, Abdullah Butt for his support during the summer as administrative assistant.

To our Grade 11 co-op student Ryo Ly from Cawthra Park S.S.

To our volunteers, Christina Mwelu, Maria Bridgemohan, Luisa Ramirez, Dillon Hall and Nahed Nassim, for their enormous support.



Board Members 2010-2011

Amanda Pereira
Bob Baker
Irene Katkov
Leah Casselman
Salem Werdayani
Violet Bielski

Staff Members

Alice Casselman, President
Sophie Lu, Project Lead
Laurie Clark, Bookkeeper
Ana Maria Martinez, Program Coordinator

AN OVERVIEW OF OUR PROGRAMS (cont.)



THE YOUTH STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

The Humber Youth Stewardship (HYS) project was a successful organizational partnership initiative created in 2008 to maintain and enhance natural areas in the Humber River Valley. The partners, led by ACER and the City of Toronto, engaged youth in the restoration and monitoring of natural areas.

Local high school students were trained to remove invasive species in a selected area, to carry out a base line inventory tagging remaining native trees and to lead a community restoration planting on the Humber Arboretum site. The project provides supervision by university students who act as role models. There is an opportunity to discuss climate change, possible environmentally based careers and what individuals can do to adapt.

The community, site managers and funders benefit by being involved in planting native species to restore a local natural area including a report with the procedure and findings, photographs, data analysis and recommendations. The program has been tested and is ready to be implemented anywhere.

GO GLOBAL

Go Global is a network of one-hectare plots that enable communities to report environmental change through long-term forest biodiversity monitoring programs.

ACER and its community partners monitor and report changes in one-hectare forest plots representative of regional ecosystems with trained volunteers using Smithsonian/Environment Canada protocols.

In 2011, ACER led the "Yes, We CAN" project to survey 2 new hectares, in collaboration with the Niagara Parks Commission, Climate Action Niagara and Scouts Canada.

These activities help the community to understand the consequences of climate change and human impact on our ecosystems and enable comparison with global forests. See www.acer-acre.ca for the scientific posters.

Condensed Financial Statements

January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

Condensed Balance Sheet

	2011	2010
ASSETS		
Cash	\$85,563.00	\$1,336.00
Short term Investments	\$185,374.00	\$141,529.00
Accounts Receivable	\$17,042.00	\$5,767.00
Inventories	\$8,257.00	
Capital Assets	<u>\$3,082.00</u>	<u>\$2,194.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$299,318.00	\$150,826.00
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable & accrued liabilities	\$54,089.00	\$5,169.00
Deferred Revenue	<u>\$160,787.00</u>	<u>\$59,174.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$214,876.00	\$64,343.00
OPERATING SURPLUS	\$84,442.00	\$86,483.00
TOTAL	\$299,318.00	\$150,826.00

The condensed financial statements are extracted from the financial statements examined by our auditor Mike Holloway, Chartered Accountant.

A complete set of the financials is available on request to the President of ACER at Unit 44, 3665 Flamewood Drive, Mississauga, ON, L4Y 3P5.

Condensed Financial Statements

January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011

Condensed Income Statement

	2011	2010
REVENUE		
Grants	\$333,702.00	\$190,993.00
Product Sales & Service	\$5,684.00	\$5,788.00
Sponsorships		\$5,368.00
Donations	\$1,231.00	\$1,590.00
Interest Income	\$1,195.00	\$3,442.00
Other Income	<u>\$4,739.00</u>	<u>\$2,295.00</u>
TOTAL	\$346,551.00	\$209,476.00
EXPENSES		
Amortization	\$890.00	\$604.00
Contract Services	\$231,148.00	\$98,552.00
Insurance	\$829.00	\$810.00
Interest & Bank Charges	\$541.00	\$586.00
Office & General	\$8,484.00	\$6,384.00
Professional Fees	\$2,799.00	\$3,812.00
Program Costs	\$32,362.00	\$33,022.00
Travel	\$5,983.00	\$4,502.00
Rent	\$24,161.00	\$3,967.00
Salaries & Benefits	\$35,078.00	\$31,826.00
Telephone & Internet	\$6,317.00	\$2,531.00
TOTAL	\$348,592.00	\$186,596.00
Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	\$(2,041.00)	\$22,880.00

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all the volunteers, associates, students, teachers, and site partners who have donated time and energy to our programs in schoolyards and forest biodiversity plots. ACER wishes to acknowledge the generous corporate, community and government supporters that continue to provide funding and resources:



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