

ACER

ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



The newly planted P4C plot at St. Michael Elementary School located in Niagara-on-the-Lake.



Students and volunteers digging and mixing soil on planting day at Marydale Park Facility in Mount Hope



News Highlights

ACER's 25th year has been a busy one! In fall 2013, five new schools were added to the Planting for Change (P4C) network. The schools have planted 15 indicator trees in their schoolyard and will be monitoring their growth by collecting their growth data every year. Fifteen schools, planted in the fall, were revisited for data collection. [See page 2.](#)

The one-hectare Go Global plot at Humber Arboretum was re-measured this year by graduate students. The health and status of the forest was reported. [See page 2.](#)

ACER participated in a variety of activities including a Community Mapping workshop hosted in partnership with Greening Niagara. [See page 3.](#)

Thanks to everyone who attended our symposium: Community Solutions in a Changing Climate! See the Symposium Statement on [page 3.](#)

Upcoming Events

Nov. 22nd, 2013: ACER presents at AD Latonnell Conservation Symposium in Alliston, ON

Nov. 30th, 2013: Ecofest Niagara in Welland, ON

2014 (date TBA): Hazard Identification Risk Assessment Workshop Niagara

Planting for Change (P4C)

The P4C network now consists of 26 schools along the Golden Horseshoe. Five new schools joined the P4C program in fall 2013:

- **St. Michael E.S. (Niagara-on-the-Lake)**
- **Marydale Park Facility (Mount Hope)**
- **St. Joan of Arc S.S. (Mississauga)**
- **St. Gerard Separate School (Mississauga)**
- **Connaught Public School (St. Catharines)**

This year, ACER taught over 200 students how to re-measure the trees in their P4C schoolyard plots. The Ontario Trillium Foundation will be funding the addition of 3 P4C school sites each year for the next 3 years in Niagara region. We look forward to planting trees at new schools next spring that are on our waiting list! The P4C Five Year Report has been released and is available on our website.



Go Global at Humber Arboretum

ACER summer graduate interns from the University of Toronto re-measured the Go Global plot at Humber Arboretum in Humber College North Campus. Over 10,000 pieces of data were collected from the 25 quadrats! The Biodiversity plot trees surviving from the 2002 planting were also inventoried. The interns reported the health and status of the forest and mapped the trees. The following reports are available on our website:

Niao Chen – Climate Change and Biodiversity Monitoring: Case Study of Humber Arboretum

Yafei Deng – Natural Regeneration of a Deciduous Forest

Daniel Kim – Tree Distribution Mapping and Statistical Analysis of Distance Between Large Trees

Talent Huang – The Relationship between Plot Diversity of *Picea glauca* and Tree Carbon Sequestration – using Ministry of Natural Resources Biomass and Nutrients Calculation Model

Sam Xing – Growth Rate, Survival Rate and Population Distribution of Different Tree Species at Humber Arboretum



Community Solutions in a Changing Climate Symposium Statement May 2013

Our human impact on the atmosphere is producing a changing global climate system that is affecting the great array of living organisms on the planet.



This rich and interconnected biodiversity is fundamental to healthy ecosystems and sustains us economically, socially, culturally and spiritually, providing vital ecological services such as carbon storage, water, flood and erosion control, plant and animal habitat and the resources and environments necessary to human well-being.



the most serious environmental issues facing humanity.

Yet, despite their core role, community, species and genetic diversity are declining at an alarming rate. This rate of biodiversity decline is

recognized as one of

Of special importance is the threat that changing climate poses for native species. For example, forest biodiversity under the new emerging climate will be a combination of native and new species. Biodiversity monitoring programs at the community level can make important contributions to understanding such changes and their implications for society.



This Symposium concludes that community monitoring is essential to combatting the continuing rate of biodiversity loss, supporting greater educational programs, identifying research, policy and planning needs and sustaining strong, adaptive and resilient communities.

This Symposium is a call for community action by all levels of society.

Quote: Margaret Mead creed that "never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world: Indeed, it's the only thing."

Events and Activities

Community Mapping Workshop

ACER and Greening Niagara hosted a Community Mapping workshop at St. John's Nature Centre in Fonthill, ON in October. Participants were given maps of Niagara and noted areas and issues of concern with respect to climate change. A discussion on next steps on mitigating climate change for Niagara region also took place. The workshop was funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation.



Halton Forest Festival

We trained over 150 students to measure mature trees at Rattlesnake Point in Milton at the three-day festival in October.



Planting for Change

ACER re-measured 15 schools this fall and added 5 schools to the P4C network in Halton, Peel, Toronto, Niagara, Hamilton, and Durham regions.

Humber Experimental Plot

In November, St. Joan of Arc S.S. students went to Humber Arboretum to plant sycamore and yellow birch trees and took benchmark measurements at ACER's new experimental plot. There were 18 trees planted from three different nurseries in Ontario. The goal of this experiment is to compare the growth of the yellow birch and sycamore trees in the different latitudes in Ontario to the growth at Humber Arboretum.

Thank you!

Thanks to all the hard work put in by our volunteers, teachers, students, and partners.

We would like to thank Greening Niagara for their support in establishing the Planting for Change program at schools in Niagara. We would also like to thank the Humber Arboretum, home to 4 of our programs, for their continued support.

Special recognition goes to our volunteers Linda Casselman, Alice Hayhoe, Sonal Pandey, Stewart Hayward and Arin Bakht who helped to keep our programs running.

We would like to thank the University of Toronto in Scarborough for providing us with interns Talent Huang, Daniel Kim, Yafei Deng, Niao (Amy) Chen, and Zhao (Sam) Xing and University of Toronto in Mississauga for providing us with our intern, Caitlin Hanley.



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:



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