



## News Highlights

Learn about our new initiative, Riparian Rangers, a part of our Tracking for Success program. See more info on [page 2](#).

The Planting for Change (P4C) network expanded to 36 schools and will be reaching Northern Ontario this year. Read more on [page 2](#).

Read about our Community Mapping Workshop and other events and activities. See details on [page 3](#).

Find more trees on new trails added to TreeCaching. See details on [page 3](#).

## Donate now!

Donations can be made online from our website: [www.climatesake.ca](http://www.climatesake.ca)

Support our environmental-monitoring programs and environmental education for youth and adults. Your donations help individuals take ecological action against climate change.

(Charitable Number 89064 2515 RR0001)



Artwork created in preparation for P4C planting day by Mrs. Given's and Ms. Shorthouse's Kindergarten class at Smith Public School in Grimsby, ON.

## Upcoming Events

**Jan. 16-18, 2015:** Make Peace with Winter Conference at Mono Cliffs Outdoor Education Centre

**Feb. 6, 2015:** Community HIRA Risk Assessment Workshop in Niagara Region

**Feb. 13, 2015:** Eureka! Conference at Marc Garneau Institute in Toronto

**Feb. 14, 2015:** Seedy Saturday at Unitarian Congregation in Mississauga

For more details about listed events and for more upcoming events, see our calendar at

[www.climatesake.ca](http://www.climatesake.ca)



Riparian Ranger students from City School in Toronto planting trees at Wildwood Park in Mississauga.

## Tracking for Success (T4S)

### Riparian Rangers

In fall 2014, students and volunteers planted and monitored trees and shrubs in riparian (near water) areas in partnership with the City of Mississauga and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change funded this initiative.

The riparian areas were located in the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks, Little Mimico Creek, Fletcher's Creek and Birchwood Creek. The Riparian Rangers monitored 10% of trees and shrubs planted at each site. Each site will be revisited in Fall 2015 to remeasure each tagged plant's growth.

Over 300 volunteers helped us restore natural areas by picking up litter and pulling invasive species such as dog strangling vine and buckthorn at 7 different events. This project helps to clean the water flowing into Lake Ontario, our source of drinking water, and the trees and shrubs will provide many functions, including habitat and food for wildlife. To view reports, photos, data and maps of the Riparian Rangers project, please see link: <http://www.acer-acre.ca/programs/tracking-for-success>



Riparian Rangers from St. Joan of Arc S.S. stand in front of their removed litter and invasive species at White Willow Common in Mississauga.

### St. Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph

In December 2014, the students at St. Ignatius Jesuit Centre in Guelph collected the first growth measurements of their newly planted trees. The trees in this new T4S plot will become a part of an old growth forest, monitored by students annually.



Tree monitoring in December.

## Planting for Change (P4C)

The P4C network expanded to **36 schools in Southern Ontario**. Large numbers of enthusiastic students planted 16 trees and 45 shrubs in their schoolyard and celebrated the trees' birthday. At each site, students also measured the annual growth of each tree. The following schools joined P4C in fall 2014:

Sir William Gage Middle School in Brampton

Tecumseh Public School in Burlington

Tom Thomson Public School in Burlington

Kipling Collegiate Institute in Toronto

Smith Public School in Grimsby

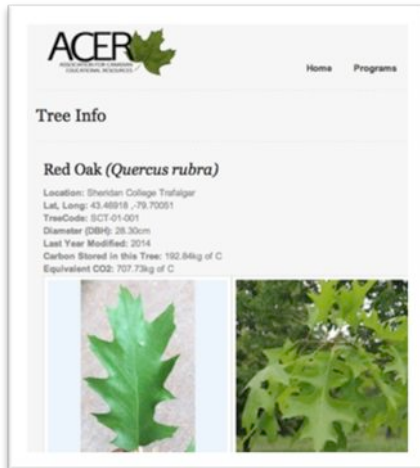
Treeline Public School in Brampton

This year we will be adding more schools to P4C, including a **Northern Ontario school, Bishop E.Q. Jennings Senior E.S. in Thunder Bay!** New tree species will be chosen for this ecozone to monitor climate change impacts. We are excited to be working with this school to plant and monitor trees in response to climate change.



From top to bottom: Students at Treeline P.S. planting their P4C plot; a birthday card for trees signed by all students at Grimsby P.S.; students remeasuring crown width of a tree planted at Connaught P.S. in 2013.

## TreeCaching



A snapshot of an information page that appears when a Red Oak is scanned using a free QR code reader.

In Toronto, 60 schools that are a part of the Toronto District School Board's (TDSB) Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program and 150 Model Schools for Inner Cities will be using special TreeCaching tags to study biodiversity in their schoolyards. Students may use ACER's Tree Biomass Calculator to determine how much carbon each tree has stored and to scan tagged trees in their schoolyards to learn about each tree species.

Order a STEM kit today for your schoolyard! Contact us at by email at [office@acer-acre.ca](mailto:office@acer-acre.ca) or call [905-891-6004](tel:905-891-6004) for more details.

Use our TreeCaching trails to expand your knowledge of native and invasive species in Ontario. Our Treepedia now contains 48 different species.



A STEM kit with 5 TreeCaching tags and ropes with schoolyard activities for students.

For a map of our trails, see link <http://www.acer-acre.ca/treecaching>. New trails added include Erindale Park - Riverwood Conservancy in Mississauga and Sheridan College's Davis Campus in Brampton and Trafalgar Campus in Oakville.

## Events and Activities

### Community Mapping Workshop in Niagara

People from communities in southeastern Niagara gathered at a Community Mapping Workshop in Stevensville in November 2014 to identify and locate environmental concerns in their region. Wayne Gates, MPP for Niagara Central, brought greetings and our funder, the Ontario Trillium Foundation, presented a plaque to mark the official Launch of the Niagara Region Environmental Project.



MPP Wayne Gates opens the workshop and presents ACER with a plaque.

This project is an opportunity for all residents to come together and share their observations and concerns about the natural and built environment in their area so they may take them forward together to appropriate bodies. All organizations – especially environmental non-profits (ENGO's), share their knowledge and expertise to work together to face the climate disruption impacts and begin adaptations. "More extremes, more often" says Don MacIver, one of our own Canadian Nobel Prize winning scientists. This is the mantra repeated by over 2000 scientists around the globe who support the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

### Fall 2014 Activities

#### This fall, we exhibited at:

- Yes in My Backyard (YIMBY)
- Peel Environmental Education Conference for Educators (PEECE).

#### We provided workshops or presented at:

- Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario – COEO Conference
- Halton Forest Festival (over 100 students trained!)
- Ecobuzz Conference
- Peel District School Board's Science and Technology Workshop
- Carolinian Canada Coalition's Ecosystem Recovery Forum

**Thanks to all for stopping by our table or attending our workshops!**

# Thank you for your support!



2014 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon at the Crooked Cue: volunteers, interns and staff celebrating the end of a successful planting and monitoring season.

Thank you to all the volunteers, donors, partners, teachers, students and interns that contributed to the success of our organization this season.

We would like to thank our partner, Greening Niagara, for their support in expanding our Planting for Change program in the Niagara region and co-hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Community Mapping Workshop. We would also like to thank our partners at the TRCA and the City of Mississauga for supporting our Riparian Rangers program.

Special recognition goes to Katrina Estacio, Linda Casselman, Simmy Saini and Irenaeus Chan who gave their time and effort to a wide variety of activities.

We would like to thank the University of Toronto in Mississauga for providing us with our interns, Nimesha Basnayaka and Yie Wu Wu.



## OUR PROGRAMS

### Planting for Change (P4C)

We create planting sites in schoolyards and train students to monitor tree growth. Each school becomes a part of our climate change-monitoring network.

### Go Global (GG)

We train community volunteers to monitor one-hectare forest sites in our international network to track changes in biodiversity over time.

### Tracking for Success (T4S)

We measure survival rates of trees to add value to our partners' plantings.

### Measuring Our Resources (MOR)

We teach volunteers how to inventory the existing trees on their property for our climate change-monitoring network.

### TreeCaching

Designed for trails and schoolyards, this program encourages individuals to learn more about their natural surroundings by scanning coded tree tags.

### Youth Stewardship Project (HYS)

Local youth are trained to restore and monitor natural areas of ecological concern through partnership initiatives.

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



DONATE AT [www.climatesake.ca](http://www.climatesake.ca) (redirected to [www.acer-acre.ca](http://www.acer-acre.ca))



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