

ACER NEWS

The Association for Canadian Educational Resources: Building an army of citizen scientists who can monitor, measure, mitigate and adapt to the local impact of climate change in their own communities.



Fall/Winter 2018

ACER at Work

October 31, 2018	Riparian Rangers Raisin Monitoring
November 1, 2018	Riparian Rangers Central Lake Monitoring
November 9, 2018	P4C Remeasuring at St. Joan of Arc CSS
November 19, 2018	Saint Maria Goretti Catholic School and Parish Planting
December 8, 2018	Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA) Presentation

Riparian Rangers 2018

This year ACER received 4 grants from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund (GLGCF). We worked with Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), and Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA).

These projects each involved planting 1,000 trees and shrubs in the spring and fall of 2018 with volunteers and our partner conservation authorities. We carried out a benchmark inventory of 10% of what was planted, which was a 100 trees and shrubs. We attached coded aluminum tags to 100 trees using zip ties. We mapped the trees and shrubs using Google MyMaps so plants are easier to find to re-measure at a later date. We completed anecdotal reports for each planting and/or measuring days.

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HEWER

Historic Extreme Weather Event Reporting: research and report on extreme weather events to better understand community vulnerabilities. Visit www.acer-acre.ca/hewer to report an event.





Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation

This year ACER began working with the Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT) on the Shajarat Project. The ACCT received a grant from the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation (TPTF) to plant 25 trees and/or shrubs at each of the 3 sites. ACER is working with the ACCT to organize the plantings and teach volunteers how to tag, map and measure the trees.

On November 19, 2018 ACER and ACCT planted 25 trees and shrubs at Saint Maria Goretti Catholic School and Saint Maria Goretti Parish. Grade 7

and 8 students from the school planted and measured the trees and shrubs. They planted 14 Common Black Elderberry, 14 Nannyberry, and 1 Hackberry were planted. In spring of 2019, ACER and ACCT will plant at 2 more sites.

ACER is also working with the Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA). PIA received a grant from the TPTF to give members of the community 420 trees to plant. ACER will run workshops to teach community members how to plant, measure

and maintain the trees in spring of 2019. The first workshop took place on December 8th, where we introduced community members to the project and why planting and measuring trees is important.

ACER will also be working with the Working Women's Community Centre (WWCC), who received a grant from the TPTF to give out 250 plants to community members. ACER will run workshops to teach community members how to plant, measure, and maintain trees in spring of 2019.

ACER Interns and Associates

This summer ACER interns from Sheridan College were Sneha Gaddipat, Navpreet Kaur, Sandeep Kaur, Asma Khurram, Kartik Makwana, Mamta Na, and Milan Suthar.

Our interns did tree inventories at two Sheridan College campuses. They continued

inventories at the Sheridan College Davis and Trafalgar campuses. Our Canada Summer Jobs student was Yara Ensminger. We thank all our summer interns for their hard work.



This year we have two interns from the University of Toronto Mississauga. Tyler Orsulak is from the Geography and Environmental Science department and Leesha Birdi is from the Biology department.

ClimaCon 2018

ClimaCon is a two-day conference involving people from the Canadian climate movement. This year ClimaCon was held at York University on October 11th and 10th. Nimesha Basnayaka, Tyler Orsulak, Leesha Birdi, and Patrick Jeshwin Swaminathan attended.

COEO

The Council of Outdoor Educators of Ontario held their annual conference called “The Unconvention II” on September 22nd. Alice Casselman attended and gave a workshop on Community Mapping and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA).



Summer Camp

On July 30th ACER held a workshop at Ascension of Our Lord Secondary School at a summer camp being run by the Dufferin-Peel Catholic School Board. Students learned to measure, map, and identify trees.

Riparian Rangers 2018 Continued



Figure 1: Planting day at Kizell Drain for Riparian Rangers MVCA.

In spring of 2018, ACER worked with Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) to plant 1,000 trees and shrubs at City of Windsor Green Space. We also worked with Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA) to plant 1,000 trees and shrubs at Kizell Drain. We measured 10% of what was planted.

In fall of 2018, ACER worked with Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA) to plant 1,000 trees and shrubs at 3 sites, Gray's

Creek, Cardinal Project, and Grant Project. We tagged, mapped, and measured 100 trees and shrubs. ACER also worked with Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA) to plant 1,000 trees and shrubs at Carruther's Tract. We tagged, mapped and measured 10% of the trees and shrubs planted. 50% of the trees planted were planted at a prepared part of the site and the other 50% were planted in an unprepared part of the site. The prepared portion was mowed, and holes were dug using a machine.



Riparian Rangers Program

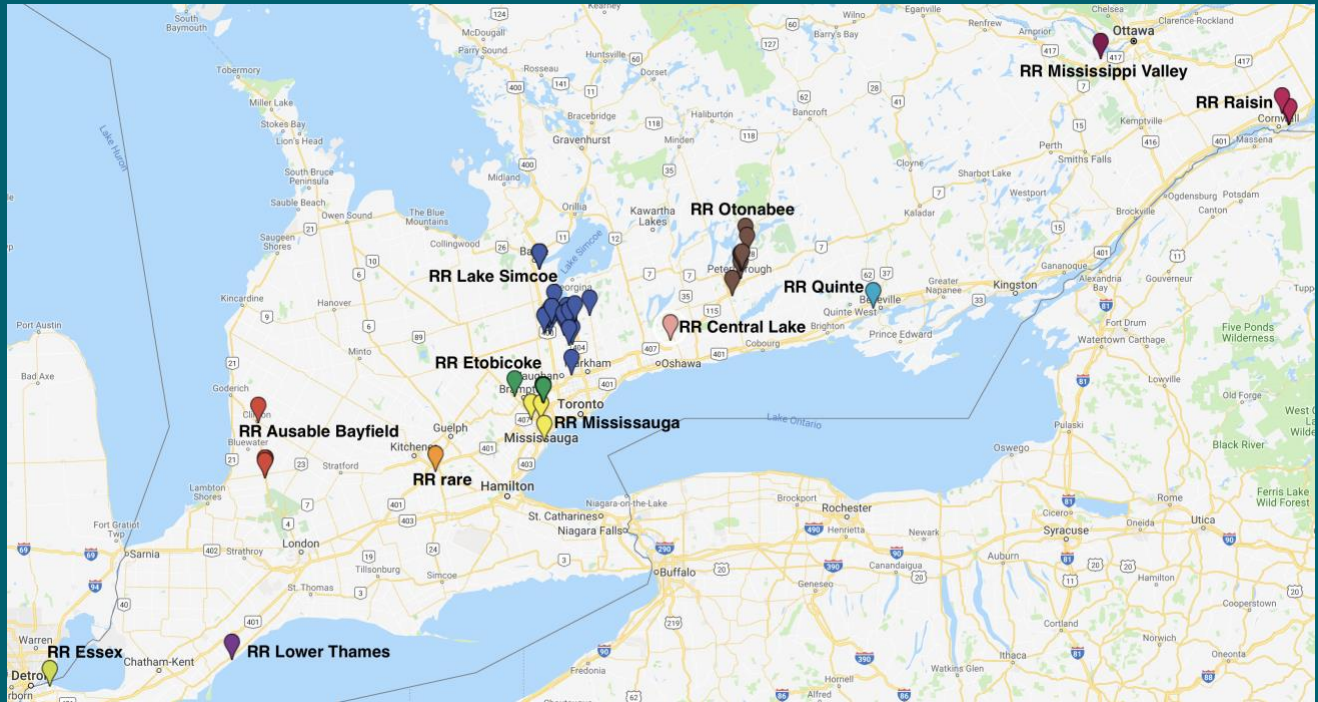


Figure 2: All the sites in the Riparian Rangers program.

Inside ACER

ACER INTERNS

University of Toronto Mississauga

- Tyler Orsulak
- Leesha Birdi

Sheridan College

- Sneha Gaddipati
- Navpreet Kaur
- Sandeep Kaur
- Asma Khurram
- Mamta Na
- Milan Suthar

Canada Summer Jobs

- Yara Ensminger

ACER STAFF

- Alice Casselman: Founding President
- Nimesha Basnayaka: Program Manager
- Murat Oguzsimsaroglu: Operations Director
- Rebecca Bassick: Social Media Manager

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