

# 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.



Spring/Summer 2020

## ACER at Work

June 14<sup>th</sup>,  
2020

ACER AGM - ACER will hold its first virtual AGM on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 2 pm. Please RSVP to [aceracreinfo@gmail.com](mailto:aceracreinfo@gmail.com)



## ACER COVID-19 Planting Protocol

ACER has been planting with schools and communities since 2002. As they are updated, ACER complies with health and safety protocols established by public health authorities. Forestry experts review and field test our protocols along with ACER volunteers. Volunteer planters, a maximum of 5 per group, will register electronically for time slots and bring their photo waiver to sign in.

Registered volunteer planters will be provided with a pre-planting checklist. Social distancing will be maintained through on-site preparation e.g. pre-positioning the trees in pots, flagging designated planting spaces, providing hand washing stations. There are 1500 trees to be planted in at least 5 sites this fall. Please call- 905-601-7685 or email [aceracreinfo@gmail.com](mailto:aceracreinfo@gmail.com) or check "NEWS" at [www.acer-acre.ca](http://www.acer-acre.ca) for more information.



## HEWER

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



# Planting for Change

Our youngest citizens scientists making change in their schoolyards

ACER is excited to receive funding for 4 new Planting for Change schools from the TD Friends of the Environment Fund. The funding will be used to plant the Planting for Change suite of indicator species at Morningstar Middle School, Owenwood Public School, St. Catherine of Siena Separate School, and Settlers Green Public School.

We anticipate beginning planting in fall 2020. Unfortunately, we were unable to plant in spring 2020 due to the pandemic.

ACER is excited to work with the dedicated “Green Spark” teachers at each of these schools to plan planting days that will involve the whole school.

Planting for Change brings hands-on learning about climate change. Relevant outdoor curriculum can strengthen student STEM skills.

Schools interested in establishing a P4C outdoor climate change lab can contact us at: [aceracre91@gmail.com](mailto:aceracre91@gmail.com).

## ACER Interns

This year Julia Bilas from the University of Toronto Mississauga joined us from the Geography program. She wrote a report on the importance of trees in the GTA and why biodiversity is important.

She measured trees on the UofT Mississauga campus and

compared it to past measurements. She also remeasured trees at five Planting for Change schools in Brampton and Mississauga and compared it to past measurements. Measured data followed international standards and was uploaded to contribute to global research.

The Sheridan internship which usually takes place during the summer has been pushed to the fall due to the pandemic.





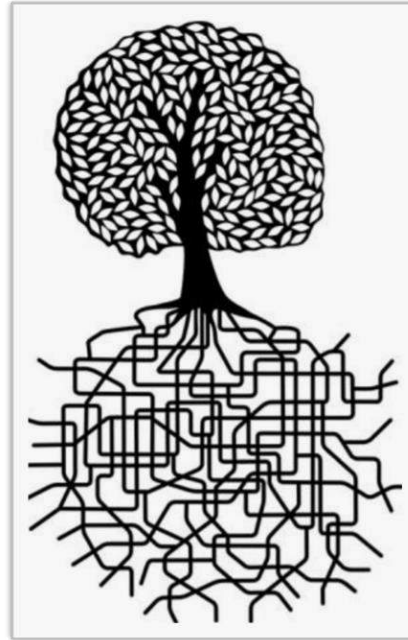
## ACER Activities

ACER had been taking this time in quarantine to develop activities you can do at home. This includes tree identification in spring/summer and winter. Analysis activities for our Planting for Change (P4C) program that will allow students to learn how to analyze the data we collect through annual monitoring. If you want to measure some trees, we have a DIY diameter at breast height tape you can make. We have also developed worksheets to help you learn more about spring flowers such as dandelion, crab apple, and forsythia.

Using hashtag #DistanceLearning on social media, find ACER's activities suitable for home and recreation outings.



# Project Crossroads - Bramalea



Project Crossroads aims to work with communities with low tree canopy cover and low wellbeing to plant 6000 trees and shrubs. This project will increase canopy cover which contributes to the health of residents and strengthen relationships within neighbourhoods.

ACER has received funding from the Arbor Day Foundation, part of TD Green Spaces, to plant in Bramalea as a part of Project Crossroads. ACER has also applied to the Anti-Racism Action Program from Heritage Canada for funding to plant in other parts of the GTA as a part of Project Crossroads. This funding is still under consideration. Prior to applying for funding ACER held three stakeholder meetings in fall of 2019 with project

partners to determine how to best approach this project. These project partners include City of Mississauga, City of Brampton, Peel Region, Building Up Our Neighbourhoods (BUON), and Ontario Urban Forest Council (OUFO).

ACER will be working with the City of Brampton and Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to plant and monitor in three locations in Brampton in fall 2020 along with community volunteers. Read a profile of the Project Crossroads proposal: <https://bit.ly/ProjectCrossroadsProfileJan-2020>.

Watch Alice Casselman present Project Crossroads at a meeting for the Mississauga Climate Action community group: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWNabIcYbe0>.

## Sneak Peek at the Tulip Suite Worksheet

Can you identify the parts of a Tulip Flower?

(Black Anther, Corolla, Filament, Ovary, Petal, Pistil, Sepal, Stamen, Stigma, Style)



A)	}	H)
B)		
C)	}	I)
D)		
E)	}	J)
F)		
G)		

A) Petal, B) Sepal, C) Stigma, D) Style, E) Ovary, F) Black Anther, G) Filament, H) Corolla, I) Pistil, J) Stamen

## Inside ACER

### ACER INTERNS

#### University of Toronto - Geography

- Julia Bilas

### ACER SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Heather Auld
- Sadia Butt
- Steve Colombo
- Marianne Karsh
- Don MacIver
- Kevin O'Brien
- Madelyn Webb

### ACER STAFF

- Alice Casselman: Founding President
- Nimesha Basnayaka: Program Manager
- Becky Bassick: Social Media Manager

### ACER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Alice Casselman
- Dana Ghadban
- Steve Laundrie
- Kasey Livingston
- Madelyn Webb
- Sonya Wieler

### ACER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Donna Starr
- Helen Larrucia
- Jane Forbes
- Jonathan Brown
- Sheila Tait

Association for Canadian Educational Resources  
 12 Helene Street North, Unit 1003  
 Mississauga, ON L5G 3B5  
 (905)-891-6004 | [aceracreinfo@gmail.com](mailto:aceracreinfo@gmail.com) | [www.acer-acre.ca](http://www.acer-acre.ca)

