

ACER NEWS

The Association for Canadian Educational Resources: As our climate changes, ACER supports communities with grass-roots initiatives to plant trees and educate participants in measuring, monitoring, and reporting on tree health and growth.



Spring/Summer 2021

ACER at Work

Sunday,
June 13th,
2021

ACER Annual General Meeting - ACER will hold its virtual AGM on Sunday, June 13, 2021 at 2 pm.



Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund

ACER is thrilled to have received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resilient Communities Fund for a six month project that will begin in June 2021.

Marcom Blueprints will work with ACER on strategic planning and implementation. We will work on increasing ACER's internal capacity, adapting ACER's programs and services, and succession planning. City Studio will provide ACER staff, board, and committees with digital training in communications platforms. They will also work with ACER to develop a content and communication strategy. ACER will also work with 3 education specialists to develop and adapt current programs for online use. The education specialists will ensure the material is consistent with Ontario curriculum standards. A third-party evaluator will be assessing the project's progress and success.



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.



Planting for Change

Our youngest citizen scientists making change in their schoolyards

ACER is excited that fall 2021 planting projects for five schools have been approved under TD Friends of the Environment Fund (TDFEF).

Planting for Change tree labs will be sited at Owenwood Public School, St. Catherine of Siena Separate School, Settlers Green Public School, Corsair Public School and Lancaster Public School.

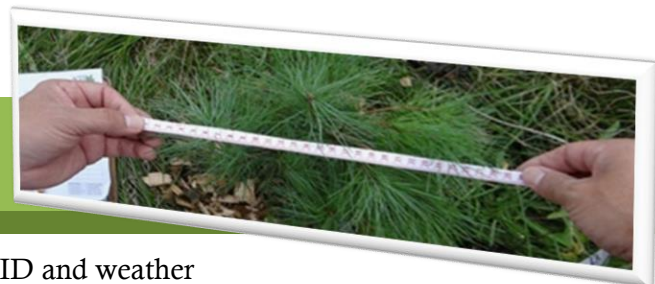
We anticipate beginning planting in fall 2021. Unfortunately, we were unable to plant in spring 2021 due to the pandemic.

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.

Canada Summer Jobs Interns

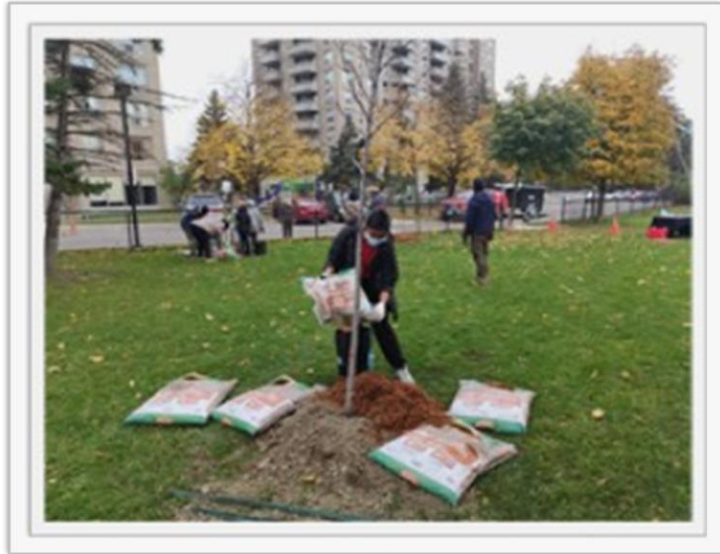


This year, for the first time, ACER has received funding for 18 Canada Summer Jobs (CSJ) internships across 9 ridings in Peel Region. We are excited to get started on annual data collection and analysis. New this year, we will field test TreeTrackers digital products and Measure-Mulch-MOR treekeeping programs.

Adapting to COVID and weather conditions, tasks will be split across on-line/ outdoor/ remote activities. Hands-on outdoors tasks involve measuring, reporting and mulching trees. We aim to complete annual tree inventories at Sheridan College campus. Virtual work will involve entering and analyzing the data set that is collected.

Students will continue the design of a wellbeing survey created by last year’s Canada Summer Jobs student, Ayesha Talreja, for use in 2021 planting events. Students will also create content for the ACER website and social media.

Canada Healthy Communities Initiative



Tree Trackers

ACER is working with Safiyah Khan to create TreeTrackers.ca and has recruited her father, Fazal Khan from City Studio to assist with the technical development. Tree Trackers allows individuals and organizations to submit their tree observations into a central database for real-time reporting and analysis. Tree Trackers encourages you to get outside, enjoy nature, and collect tree data long term. Your data will show which trees are growing best in our changing climate and help us choose species for future forests. Check out www.treetrackers.ca and register a tree in your neighbourhood.



ACER has received \$50,605 federal funding from the Canada Healthy Communities Initiative. The one-year project will run in the Dixie/Dundas area beginning in 2021.

ACER will work with the City of Mississauga to select planting sites to plant 1000 trees and shrubs using our COVID planting protocol. Community members and site leaders will return to the sites in 2022 to remeasure the trees during celebratory “Measure Up” days. These trees and shrubs will provide shade, comfortable and safe play areas, and contribute to the improved mental wellbeing community members.

ACER will be working with City Studio, People Against Litter, Blooming Boulevards, Heritage Mississauga,

Mississauga Writers Group, Community Living Mississauga, and City of Mississauga Forestry.

ACER intends to hold six stakeholder meetings with residents to share and prioritize environmental issues. We will work with City of Mississauga Forestry, People Against Litter, and Blooming Boulevards to hold plantings in October 2021 and May 2022. Residents will be able to help plant trees and increase the tree canopy in their neighbourhood. People Against Litter will work with volunteers to pick litter to clean the planting sites.

ACER will also work with Heritage Mississauga, Mississauga Writers Group, and City Studio to interview residents to share their stories in video and print.

ACER Alumni: Daniel Kim

ACER board member Elizabeth MacLean is interviewing former ACER employees, interns, volunteers, and other folks for ACER's Where Are They Now? series. The excerpt below is from her profile of former ACER intern, Daniel Kim.

"It's more than 10,000 km from his birthplace in Seoul, South Korea to the office in South Porcupine, Ontario, where Daniel Kim works as a Regional Resources Analyst for the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. While Seoul's population is just shy of 10 million today, Daniel remembers "many pockets of untouched natural area in the city" in the 1980s and '90s. He recalls hearing the sound of cicadas in the summer and seeing red dragonflies that filled the autumn sky. In the mountains nearby, he recalls the chestnut trees and the pure, unpolluted spring water.



The economic boom in the last two decades of the 20th century had dramatic impacts on the environment. "People were so focused on economic growth that they largely neglected the conservation of natural resources," Daniel says. "I've witnessed both sides of the development: the huge improvement in the quality of people's lives and the neglected or destroyed natural habitats. I think those two are equally valuable, and I've always wanted to come up with solutions that can balance economic development and natural conservation."

Read the rest of the story on the [ACER website](#).

Inside ACER

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