



2020 Annual Report

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.



Values

ACER is committed to helping communities understand and respond locally to global climate change.

Vision

Healthy, diverse, resilient communities engage everyone to work together for a better, greener world.

President's Report

Alice Casselman, B.Sc., M.O. Ed.

Soon into the New Year, I knew 2020 was going to be a year for vision, not hindsight. ACER quickly COVID-adapted its planting protocol for fall plantings under lockdown. We digitized, virtually attended meetings, reimagined programs, and created video resources. In May, Arbor Day Foundation funding under TD Green Space gave life to Project Crossroads fall plantings in areas hardest-hit by COVID caseload. Unprecedented collaboration with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and Cities of Mississauga and Brampton moved ACER's school yard P4C model to public areas where students and families live and gave rise to TreeTrackers digital prototype. Results got a nod from Peel Region Council in meeting its future climate aims. Our research linked tree planting to wellbeing. We wrote 24 ambitious proposals and got five 2021 projects funded. New carbon calculations were added by 7 Sheridan interns. Morningstar Public School held 2 precious planting days. We are thankful for all our hardworking volunteers, supporters, partners, funders, and federal programs that made 2020 a success.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Project Crossroads

ACER was funded by Arbor Day Foundation under TD Green Space program to plant and measure trees in Brampton. COVID-adapted community planting days at Folkstone Park, Chelsea Gardens and Knightsbridge Kings Cross ran in partnership with Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA). Sites in Bramalea Sustainable Neighbourhood Action Program (SNAP) were set by TRCA.

Peel Region Health protocols limited hours, volunteer cohorts and restricted socializing, snacks, and bio-break amenities: No pizza!

Chelsea Gardens (Peel Living Housing)

On October 7th 8 volunteers planted 6 trees. On October 29th another 8 volunteers planted 7 trees. ACER joined with TRCA to engage residents with paper and digital invitations.

Folkstone Public Park (City of Brampton)

October 17th saw 34 local volunteers planted 35 trees and 30 shrubs near a playground structure. Unfortunately, 19 trees were vandalized over Halloween. All trees were replaced on November 6th by volunteers including Folkstone Public School students.

Knightsbridge Kings Cross Apartments

October 24th saw 21 community volunteers, including tower residents and staff, plant 45 trees and 30 shrubs in common areas.

We are grateful to property owners Peel Living and CAPREIT Towers for making sites available for planting and monitoring.



Planting for Change

In Fall 2020, ACER added Morningstar Middle School to our Planting for Change (P4C) network, for a new total of 57 schools in the network. Two classes of students planted 16 trees and 45 shrubs. The 16 trees were comprised of 3 sets of indicator species (Sugar Maple, Basswood, Bur Oak, Hop Tree, White Spruce) and a commemorative Red Maple. Many thanks to our Green Spark teacher at Morningstar, Catherine Everett, who beat odds and worked hard to give students this hands-on experience despite the difficult circumstances and restrictions under COVID.

ACER is grateful to the TD Friends of the Environment Fund (TD FEF) for funding this project.



ACER Interns

In 2020, ACER's interns from Sheridan College Environmental Control graduate certificate program were Monika Patel, Inderjeet Kaur, Balvir Kaur, Kamalpreet Kaur Jaimin Jayeshbhai Patel, Jasmanjot Singh Shergill, and Sandeep Khosa. Their internship was delayed from summer to fall semester due to pandemic program closure. They completed field work on-campus and a research paper to graduate in December 2020. Interns updated the tree inventory of the Davis Campus, collected data including mulch status, and calculated carbon sequester for 406 trees.

Ayesha Talreja worked with ACER through the Canada Summer Jobs program. She participated in Project Crossroads plantings and developed, conducted, and analyzed our COVID wellbeing survey. This survey asked participants how COVID-19 and participation in Project Crossroads have affected their mental health.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

ACER COVID Planting Protocol

By May 2020, ACER's COVID planting protocol was adapted and reviewed by forestry experts. In June, restrictions lifted, and parks staff ran trials. On August 6 in Fleetwood Park, ACER joined with TRCA, City of Mississauga, and Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) to field test with staff and volunteers. The approved COVID protocol was used in every Project Crossroads planting.

222 Trees and Shrubs Planted



With ACER COVID Planting Protocol

Project Crossroads

With funding from Arbor Day Foundation, ACER collaborated with the TRCA and the City of Brampton to increase tree canopy on publicly accessed parks and open areas on private property, where local residents experience multiple unmet needs. ACER's P4C school yard tree labs were moved to where student families live.

172 Trees and Shrubs Planted



Biomass equivalent of 1840 1-gallon school yard trees

Sheridan College Inventories

In 2020, seven Sheridan College interns inventoried Davis Campus (Brampton) for comparison to prior years' data and added more conditions. Data analysis recommended tree species and locations for future plantings. Carbon sequestration was calculated for each tree this year and added as nature-based assets. A second new collection data point identifies the condition of mulch to track effects on future growth.

406 Trees Measured



Davis Campus

216 Tons of Carbon Stored in Trees Measured



Davis Campus

25 Length of Events in Hours



Project Crossroads

71

Number of Volunteers



Project Crossroads

COVID Wellbeing Survey

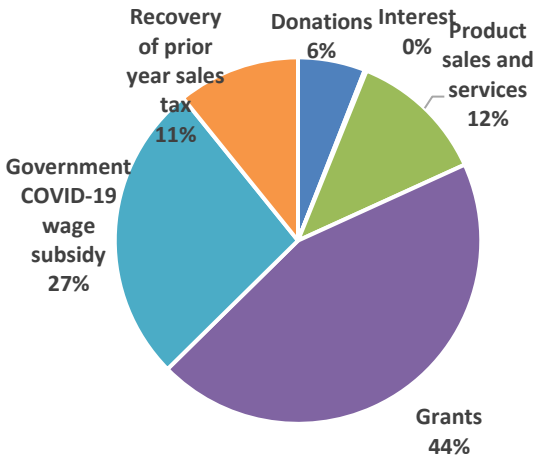
ACER's fall 2020 self-perception survey, designed by ACER intern Ayesha Talreja, captured mental health wellbeing and experience in nature. Participants at our Project Crossroads planting were asked how they felt before and after planting. To a person, everyone who attended reported a positive and joyful experience.

16 Number of People Surveyed

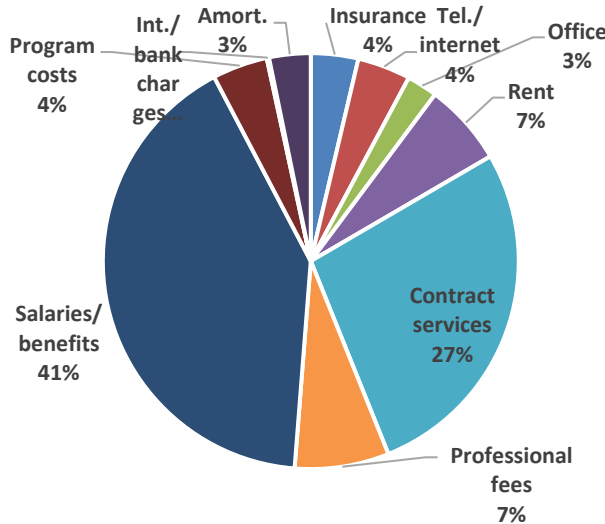


Project Crossroads

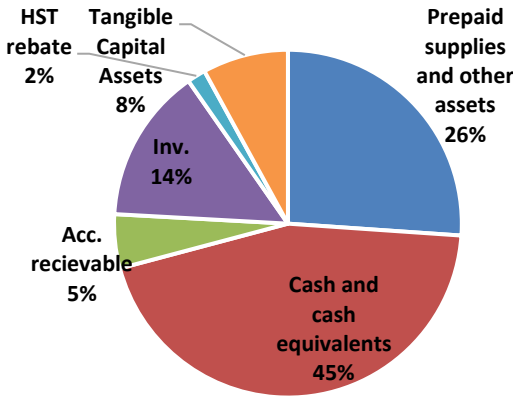
2020 Total Revenue: \$40,208.00



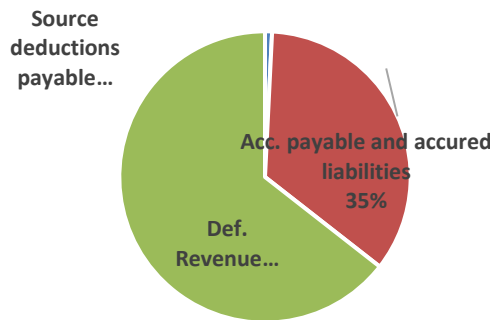
2020 Total Expenses: \$58,384.00



2020 Capital Assets: \$77,244.00



2020 Liabilities and Net Assets: \$15,607.00



The condensed financial statement was prepared by William Molson, CPA, CA.

Thank you!

Board of Directors 2020

- Alice Casselman
- Dana Ghadban
- Madelyn Webb
- Sonya Wieler
- Elizabeth MacLean
- Heather Gingerich

Special Thanks

We would like to give special thanks to our interns from Sheridan College; Monika Patel, Inderjeet Kaur, Balvir Kaur, Kamalpreet Kaur Jaimin Jayeshbhai Patel, Jasmanjot Singh Shergill, and Sandeep Khosa, as well as our UTM intern Julia Bilas, and our 2020 Canada Summer Jobs intern, Ayesha Talreja. We wish them the best in their future endeavors.

We would also like to thank our project partners; Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the City of Brampton, and TD Friends of the Environment Fund.



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