

# 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 2017

## ACER at Work

October 05 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	John William Boich Public School Planting
October 13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Ontario Urban Forest Council AGM
October 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Humberview Secondary School Planting
November 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	St. Joan of Arc C.S.S. Citizen Science Launch
November 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	City of Mississauga Community Environmental Appreciation Evening
November 30 <sup>th</sup> , 2017	Oakville Trafalgar H.S. Citizen Science Launch
April 12 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Envirothon
February 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Seedy Saturday

## Riparian Rangers 2017

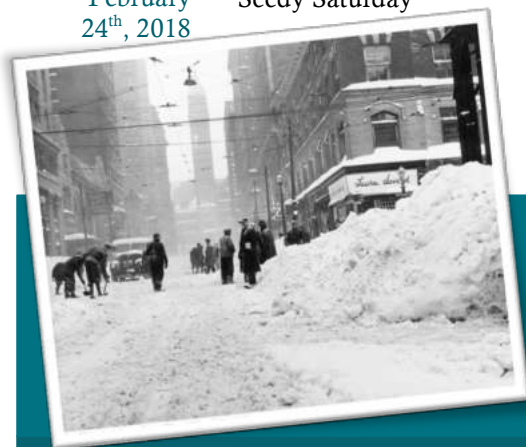
This year ACER received 3 grants from the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund (GLGCF). We worked with Otonabee Region Conservation Authority (ORCA), Quinte Conservation Authority, and Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA).

These projects each involved planting a 1000 trees and shrubs in the spring and fall of 2017 with volunteers and our partner conservation authority. We carried out a benchmark inventory of 10% of what was planted, which was a 100 trees and shrubs. Coded aluminum tags were attached to 100 trees using a zip tie. The trees and shrubs were mapped using Google MyMaps so plants are easier to find at a later date to re-measure. Anecdotal reports were filled out for each planting and/or measuring days.

Continued on Page 3

## 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 citizen scientists making change on their school yards

There are 7 new Planting for Change (P4C) schools in spring and fall of 2017. TD FEF funded the projects, which brought schools and their wider communities together to create mini-climate change outdoor classrooms/labs. The school plants 61 native trees and shrubs and monitors five different indicator species each year on the “birthday” of the trees.

The seven schools are Blessed Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School, Central Peel Secondary School, Humberview

Secondary School, Princess Margaret Public School, Diamond Trail Public School, Burnt Elm Public School, and John William Boich Public School.

Burnt Elm Public School, Diamond Trail Public School, Blessed Archbishop Romero Catholic Secondary School, Central Peel Secondary School, and Princess Margaret Public School were planted in spring 2017. Humberview Secondary School and John William Boich Public School were planted in fall of 2017.

By the end of 2017 the P4C network will be 57 schools strong!

ACER would like to thank the dedicated “green spark” teachers who have made this project come to life for their school communities this spring: Lorina, Vanya, Rob, Heather, Nancy, Andrew, and Katrina.

Schools interested in establishing a P4C outdoor climate change lab in 2018 can contact us at: [office@acer-acre.ca](mailto:office@acer-acre.ca)

## ACER Interns and Associates



This summer ACER the interns from Sheridan College were Murat Oguzsimsaroglu, Souvik Banerjee, Faria Malik, and Kanna Sivakumar. The University of Toronto Scarborough intern was Bahy Salah.

These interns did tree inventories at two Sheridan College campuses.

They continued the inventory at the Sheridan College Davis campus started by previous Sheridan interns and began an inventory at the Sheridan College Trafalgar campus. Our Canada Summer Jobs student was Anudakshi Basnayaka. We thank all our summer interns for their hard work.

Wai Lam Leung (Alison) from the University of Toronto Mississauga will be with us for the school year. We are happy to be joined by associates Vanessa Alsop, Murat Oguzsimsaroglu, and Rebecca Bassick.

## City of Mississauga Serson Park Planting and Monitoring

On September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 the City of Mississauga organized a planting at Serson Park in Mississauga for National Forest Week. ACER taught volunteers how to measure 10% of the trees and shrubs being planted. Community Volunteers planted 250 trees and shrubs. ACER monitored 25 trees and shrubs of 6 species.

## Sheridan College Planting and Monitoring

On June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 Sheridan College organized a planting at the Davis campus. TD Friends of the Environment funded the planting. ACER taught volunteers how to plant 30 big trees and measure 15 of the trees planted. Sheridan College student and faculty volunteers planted and measured the trees.



## New Credit Career Fair

This fall ACER attended the New Credit Career Fair for high schools students. Mississaugas of the New Credit Employment and Training held the Career Fair for students to learn about different career paths.

## Riparian Rangers 2017 Continued



Figure 1: Riparian Rangers LTVCA. Map of trees and shrubs measured at Clearville Creek.

ACER worked with Lower Thames Valley Conservation Authority (LTVCA) to plant 1000 trees and shrubs at Clearville Creek. 90 children and 24 adults from the Boy Scouts did the planting. Some planting were done earlier by machine by LTVCA staff. The species planted were Eastern White Pine, American Elderberry, Red Osier Dogwood, and Black Walnut.

ACER worked with Quinte Conservation to plant 1000 trees and shrubs at Loyalist College.



Students from Loyalist College planted as a part of orientation day and ecology class over several days. The site already had tall grasses and Purple Loosestrife.

ACER worked with Otonabee Region Conservation Authority to plant 1000 trees and shrubs. Plantings occurred at several sites including Airport Compensation, Rogers Cove, James Stevenson, Bears at Marina, and Hague. 40 grade 10 students from Holy Cross Secondary School planted Airport Compensation.



## Citizen Science Launches

ACER developed the Citizen Science (CSI) program with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). TD Friend of the Environment Fund funded the implementation of this project. In spring and fall of 2017, CSI was launched at 4 Planting for Change (P4C) schools; John William Boich Public School, Humberview Secondary School, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Secondary School, and Oakville Trafalgar High School.

ACER has designed a citizen science training program with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation (OTF). The training is based on Participatory Action Research (PAR) in which the citizen scientists are concurrently acquiring knowledge, participating in hands-on stewardship, and conducting research. The training will take an individual through five levels necessary to become a community leader: observe and detect, measure and report, train a team, teach a group, and lead a community. There are 5 categories for citizen scientists to learn about; Ecosystems, Weather and Climate Change, Tree Monitoring and Protocols, Map Making and GPS, and Data Analysis and Reporting.



TD Friends of the  
Environment  
Foundation



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### Inside ACER

#### ACER INTERNS

##### University of Toronto Mississauga

- Wai Lam Leung (Alison)

##### Sheridan College

- Murat Oguzsimsaroglu
- Souvik Banerjee
- Faria Malik
- Kanna Sivakumar

##### University of Toronto Scarborough

- Bahy Salah

##### Canada Summer Jobs

- Anudakshi Basnayaka

#### ACER STAFF

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

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