

# 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 2019

## ACER at Work

- June 10, 11, & 15, 2019 PIA Workshop
- July 11, 2019 ACCT – North Acres Planting
- August 26, 2019 Workshop at Humber College
- October 8, 2019 Alice becomes a voting member of the Mississauga EAC
- October 24, 2019 WWCC Workshop

## Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation

ACER worked with three organizations that received funding from the Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation (TPTF): Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT), Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA), and Working Women Community Centre (WWCC). ACER worked with these organizations to give workshops to teach people how to plant and measure trees. We would like to thank the TPTF for funding these projects.

ACER worked with ACCT to plant at three sites. We worked with community volunteers to plant, tag, map, and measure 25 trees/shrubs at each site. The first planting took place at Saint Maria Goretti Catholic School and Saint Maria Goretti Parish in fall 2018 with grade seven and eight students from the school.

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.





## Rowntree Mills Park

On October 22, 2019 ACER worked with the Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) to plant 75 trees/shrubs with students from two local schools, Humber Summit Middle School and North Kipling Jr. Middle School. Edith George organized the planting in cooperation with the TRCA, who own the land, and the City of Toronto, who manage the land.

TRCA led the planting while ACER led the measuring.

ACER worked with volunteers to tag, map, and measure plants. Students, Mohsin, Dhairya, Sohi, Aizah, Selena, Quincy, Emily, and Maliah, measured the 16 trees and shrubs. ACER also taught some parents and adult volunteers to measure. The species measured were Chokeberry, Purple Flowering Raspberry, Serviceberry, Grey Dogwood, Nannyberry, Red Raspberry, and Bur Oak.

The site is located on a flood plain next to the Humber River. The flood plain is a part of the area that was hit by Hurricane Hazel in 1954. The damage done by Hurricane Hazel led to houses not being built on flood plains and the creation of conservation authorities including TRCA.

This planting is a part of an effort to increase plant cover in the flood plains along the Humber River to decrease erosion.

## ACER Interns and Associates

This summer ACER interns from Sheridan College were Ashpinder Kaur, Manpreet, Ravneet Kaur, Rupinderjit Kaur, Sarvi Sayal, and Baghel Singh.

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

measured trees that had been inventoried previously at the Sheridan College Davis and Trafalgar campuses.

Our Canada Summer Jobs student was Syeda Ratal Zehra. We thank all our summer interns for



their hard work.

This year our intern from the University of Toronto Mississauga is Julia Bilas who is working on updating a campus inventory and helping with ACER programs.

## Parkdale Intercultural Association

The Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA) focuses on settling immigrants and refugees into the Parkdale community. Their mission is to “provide settlement programs and services to new immigrants and refugees and engage in community development to nurture a healthy, equitable and sustainable community that builds on the rich diversity of Parkdale.”

## Arab Community Centre of Toronto

The Arab Community Centre of Toronto (ACCT) is a charity and a not-for-profit that serves newcomers to Canada from many different ethnic and religious backgrounds. Their mission is to “enable and empower individuals, families, and communities to lead informed, productive and culturally sensitive lives”.

## Working Women Community Centre

The Working Women Community Centre is a charity that provides settlement counseling and programs to engage residents. Their mission is to “provide women with opportunities to improve their quality of life through self-development and community action”.

## Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation Continued



Figure 1: Planting day at Northacres.

The second site was the Scarborough Muslim Association (SMA). On June 20, 2019 volunteer students from the mosque planted 25 Eastern White Cedar trees.

The third site was Northacres, which is public housing owned by Toronto Community Housing. Volunteer students planted 12 Canada Yew and 13 Red Osier Dogwood. They were planted in four clusters in front of some houses.

We worked with the Parkdale Intercultural Association (PIA)

to give eight workshops on how and why we plant and measure trees and shrubs. The PIA distributed 420 trees and shrubs of 16 species to the community in 2019, and participants measured some of the trees.

We also worked with Working Women Community Centre (WWCC) to give five workshops on how and why we plant and measure trees. The WWCC distributed 250 trees and shrubs to the community 2019.



# ACER Education Committee

ACER has created an Education Committee to review and update ACER programs for schools and group leaders, to ensure programs evolve to meet the needs of citizen scientists and envision and develop new program so meet new emerging needs. There are currently five members of the Education Committee. Jonathan Brown is a retired teacher and worked for the Ministry of Education. He now works with communities and youth. Jane Forbes is a retired science teacher and was an OISE instructor for many years. Helen Larrucia is currently teaching with the Toronto District School Board (TDSB). Donna Starr is a retired educator, administrator, and innovator for student programs and community connections. Sheila Tait is a retired French teacher, a Continuing Educational superintendent, and a past president of RTO district 22.

## Inside ACER

### ACER INTERNS

#### University of Toronto Mississauga

- Julia Bilas

#### Sheridan College

- Ashpinder Kaur
- Baghel Singh
- Manpreet Kaur
- Raveneet Kaur
- Rupinderjit Kaur
- Sarvi Sayal

#### Canada Summer Jobs

- Syeda Ratal Zehra

### ACER STAFF

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

### ACER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

### ACER SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

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

### 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 | [aceracre91@gmail.com](mailto:aceracre91@gmail.com) | [www.acer-acre.ca](http://www.acer-acre.ca)