

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 2019

ACER at Work

February 15 th , 2019	Eureka Conference
February 20 th , 2019	Ecobuzz Conference
April 24, 2019	UTM Geography Presentation
May 17, 2019	Nelson Mandela Public School Planting Day
June 9, 2019	ACER Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation (TPTF)

Our youngest citizen scientists making change in their schoolyards

ACER is currently working 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). We are working with these organizations to conduct workshops to teach people how to plant and measure trees.

ACER will work with ACCT to organize three plantings. 25 trees and/or shrubs will be planted by community volunteers at each planting.

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 to report an event.





Planting for Change

Our youngest citizens scientists making change in their schoolyards

In spring of 2019 ACER planted at Nelson Mandela Public School. The school received funding from TD FEF to plant 16 trees and 45 shrubs to create a mini-climate change outdoor classroom/lab. We planted five indicator species that will be used to measure the impact of climate change. We tagged, mapped and measured 16 trees.

Students from grades 2 to 5 were involved in planting the trees and shrubs. The school also organized an assembly at the end of the day to celebrate the planting date.

ACER would like to thank the dedicated “green sparks” teachers who made

this project come to life at Nelson Mandela Public School: Wajiha Khan and Vibi Varghese.

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

ACER Interns

This year ACER trained 5 interns from the University of Toronto Mississauga. Tyler Orsulak joined us from the Geography program. He re-measured trees at our Go Global plots to determine what changes they had undergone since they were last measured.

Leesha Birdi joined us from the Biology program. She researched and wrote a report on the soil sampling ACER does as a part of its Riparian Rangers program and what those results mean. Mark Niewiarowski, Jane Uyabeme, and Mohammed Afify joined us from the Sociology program. Mark wrote a

report about Riparian Rangers, Jane wrote about Community Mapping, and Mohammed wrote about Planting for Change.





Riparian Rangers

In early 2019, ACER wrapped up the four Riparian Rangers grants we received from the Great Lake Guardian Community Fund (GLGCF) in 2018. We worked with Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority (MVCA), Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority (CLOCA), and Raisin Region Conservation Authority (RRCA). In total 2,339 volunteers spent 5,176 hours planting 10,920 trees and shrubs and monitoring 400 trees and shrubs.



Toronto Parks and Trees Foundation (TPTF)



On November 19, 2018 ACER and ACCT planted 25 trees and shrubs at Saint Maria Goretti Catholic School and Saint Maria Goretti Parish. Grade 7 and 8 students from the school planted and measured the trees and shrubs. They planted 14 Common Black Elderberry, 14 Nannyberry, and one Hackberry. In spring of 2019, ACER and ACCT will plant at two more sites.

ACER is also working with the Parkdale Intercultural Association to deliver workshops. ACER presented workshops on December 8th, 2018 and April 6th, 2019 to senior citizens about why we

plant and measure trees and how to plant and measure trees. This project involved distributing 420 free plants to the Parkdale community to plant on private property.

ACER has been working with the Working Women Community Centre to deliver workshops. ACER presented workshops on February 7th, February 21st, April 11th, and May 15th. The WWCC is working with ACER, East Toronto Chinese Baptist Church, and Hubsters, a youth group run by the WWCC to distribute 250 free trees to be planted on private property.

Go Global: Glen Bernard Camp

The ACER team went to Glen Bernard Camp to establish a Go Global plot. The team included Alice Casselman (ACER Founding President), Madelyn Webb (ACER Board Member), Stuart Hayward (Surveyor and ACER Member), Nimesha Basnayaka, Becky Bassick, Jeshwin Swaminathan, and Murat Oguzsimsaroglu. The team worked under the supervision of Stuart Hayward to set up the Go Global plot and teach Glen Bernard staff to measure the trees in the plot. The plot will be used to measure the impact of climate change on the forest it is located in. They are also establishing a TreeCaching Trail at Glen Bernard Camp.



Inside ACER

ACER INTERNS

Sheridan College

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

University of Toronto - Geography

- Tyler Orsulak

University of Toronto - Biology

- Leesha Birdi

University of Toronto – Sociology

- Mohammed Affify
- Mark Nierwirowski
- Jane Uyabeme

ACER SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

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- Madelyn Webb

ACER STAFF

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

ACER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Alice Casselman
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