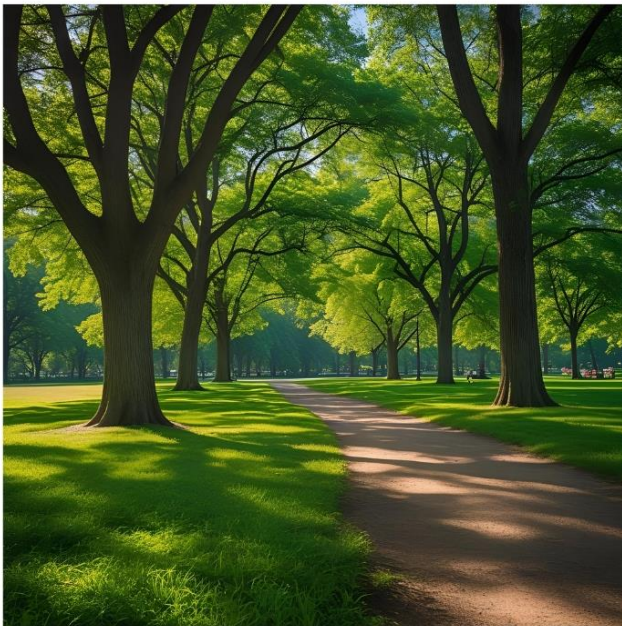




2025

Spring/Summer Newsletter

Greetings! See inside for the latest news and updates from ACER!



Recent ACER Events

- Apr.1 RTO Measures UP! Trees R Us Webinar 3
"Tree Identification & Measurement"
- Apr. 30 Planting For Change Day
Brian W. Fleming Public School, North York
- May 10 TDSB Ward 2 Eco Fair
Dixon Grove Junior Middle School, Etobicoke
- May 10 Guelph Humber Science Rendezvous 2025
University of Guelph-Humber, Etobicoke
- May 15 Spruce Labs Earth Tending Training Program
Tree ID & Assessment Workshop, Humber Arboretum
- May 20 RTOERO Measures UP! Field Event 2
Centennial Park, Etobicoke
- Jun. 12 Planting For Change Day
James Grieve Public School, Caledon

Another successful AGM for ACER! Check out the opening presentations below!



It's Full Speed Ahead with our Planting for Change (P4C) Program!

For 17 years and counting, ACER's Planting for Change (P4C) program has helped schools across Southern Ontario establish mini climate change labs in their schoolyards. The P4C program not only teaches students how to plant, care for and monitor trees, it also increases local biodiversity and helps build climate awareness. In addition the tree monitoring data collected at our P4C sites can be analyzed to assess the long-term impacts of climate change on urban micro-forests.

Although no new P4C schools were added in 2024, we are **full speed ahead** in 2025, with two schoolyard plantings completed this past spring—Brian W Fleming PS in Mississauga and James Grieve PS in Caledon,

both funded by [Tree Canada](#) with support from IPSOS. One more 2025 planting is planned for the fall—Fred C. Cooke PS in Bradford.

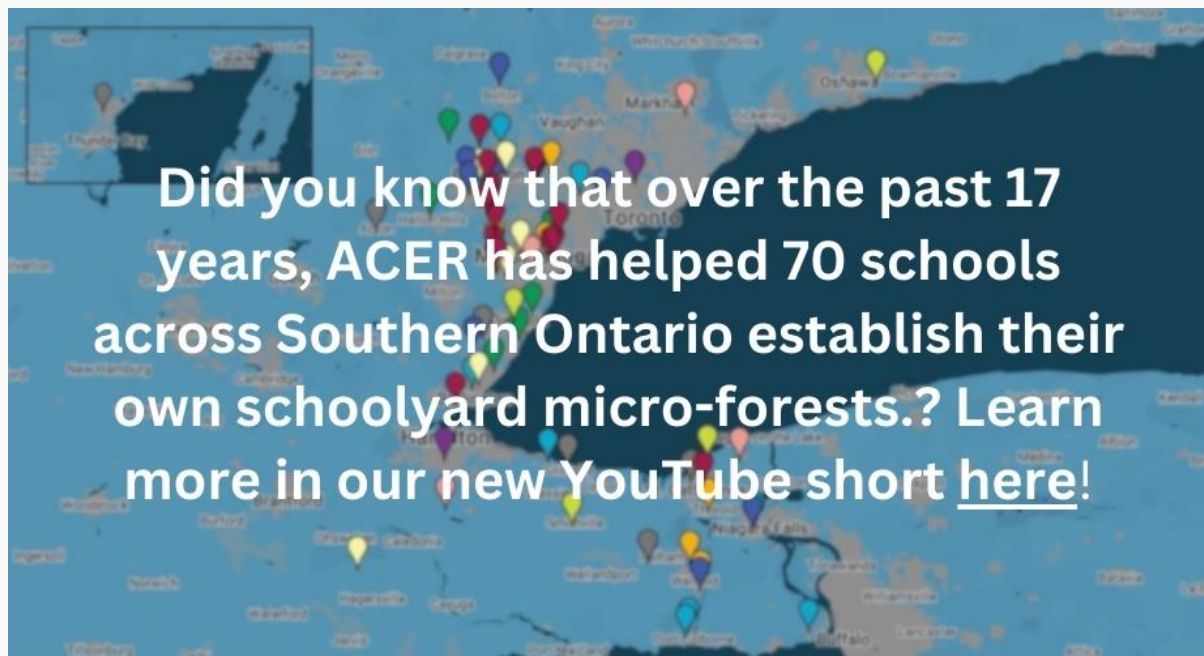
For a glimpse of what a P4C planting day is all about, check out our [YouTube video](#) of Brian W Fleming Public School's planting day and a recent [blog post](#) about that day by ACER Board Director Wendy Bodnoff!



Brian W. Fleming Public School, North York, Ontario—April 30, 2025



James Grieve Public School, Caledon, Ontario—June 12, 2025



Did you know that over the past 17 years, ACER has helped 70 schools across Southern Ontario establish their own schoolyard micro-forests.? Learn more in our new YouTube short [here](#)!

Want to learn more about tree identification, measurement and care, and some interesting facts about trees?

Check out ACER's April 2025 "**Tree ID, Measurement and Care**" webinar, presented by ACER Program Manager Sadia Butt, PhD, now available on ACER's YouTube channel [here](#)! The webinar was the final instalment of a 3-part TREES R US webinar series included in ACER's RTOERO Measures UP! initiative funded by [Retired Teachers of Ontario District 22 Etobicoke and York](#).

A Well-Deserved Award for Alice!

Congratulations to Alice Casselman, ACER Founder and President, on being awarded one of four 2025 **Environmental Awareness Awards** by Credit Valley Conservation. The award was presented at a special celebration event in Caledon, Ontario, on June 19, 2025! This annual honour is awarded to individuals or organizations that connect communities with nature through education and outreach, to promote environmental awareness, appreciation and action—work that Alice and ACER have proudly carried out through ACER's programs for over 35 years! In total, the conservation efforts of 21 individuals and organizations were recognized across seven different award categories.

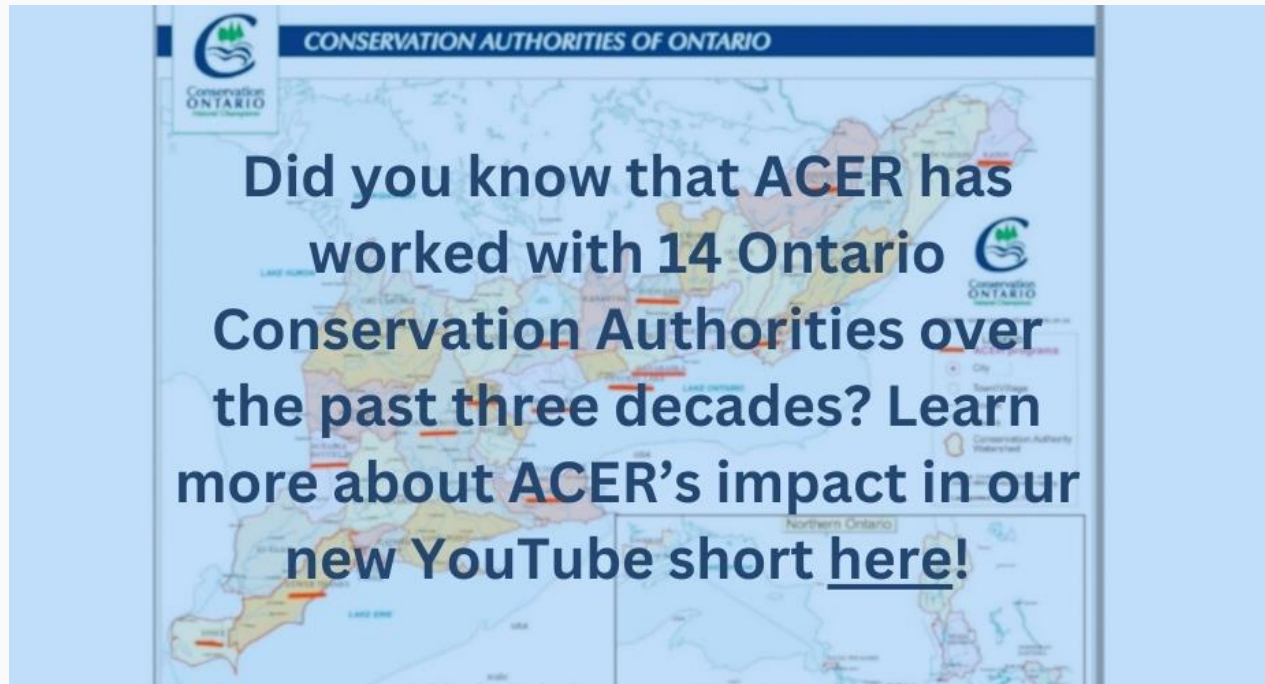
This award is a testament to Alice's tireless leadership in the community. Through environmental education, tree planting and monitoring, and other community engagement initiatives, Alice and ACER have directly contributed to protecting and enhancing biodiversity across the Credit Valley Watershed—and inspired thousands along the way. "On behalf of the CVC Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate our award recipients for their outstanding work and thank our supporters for their dedication to the environment. Collectively, your efforts have made a significant impact on the environment. This work is inspiring all of us to take action in our communities to ensure a healthy environment for future generations."—Michael Palleschi, CVC Chair.

Click [here](#) to read more about the Credit Valley Conservation (CVC) Conservation Awards!



Social Media Update—ACER is now on TIKTOK!

[Check out our latest posts!](#)



Introducing Our New SPOTLIGHT Series!

ACER is excited to announce the launch of our new "**In the Spotlight**" website blog series in the spring of 2025. So far, there are 5 installments with more to follow! The full spotlight series can be found [here](#). And, if you want to be notified of a new post, [subscribe to ACER's email list](#) today, if you haven't already!

In the Spotlight—Wetlands: Hidden Heroes in the Fight Against Climate Change

Did you know?

Wetlands support 40% of the world's biodiversity and are essential for both mitigating and adapting to climate change—yet they're disappearing three times faster than forests. Canada holds 25% of the Earth's remaining wetlands, underscoring the critical importance of their protection and conservation for long-term survival.

[Read more here >>](#)



It's a Wrap for our 2025 Canada Summer Jobs Students!

This past summer, ACER once again mentored students through the [Canada Summer Jobs Program](#). Four students worked from May through August, either in the field collecting new tree monitoring data from our P4C micro-forest sites and Humber biodiversity plots, or helping to develop new ArcGIS dashboards to showcase our tree monitoring data. Two more students joined ACER in July to support ACER's digital marketing efforts and increase ACER's social media presence.

The students not only gained hands-on experience in tree measurement, monitoring, and environmental stewardship, but also strengthened their time management, communication, and teamwork skills, skills essential for all change-makers! They were also required to apply their civics knowledge to reach out to the Member of Parliament who supported their term.

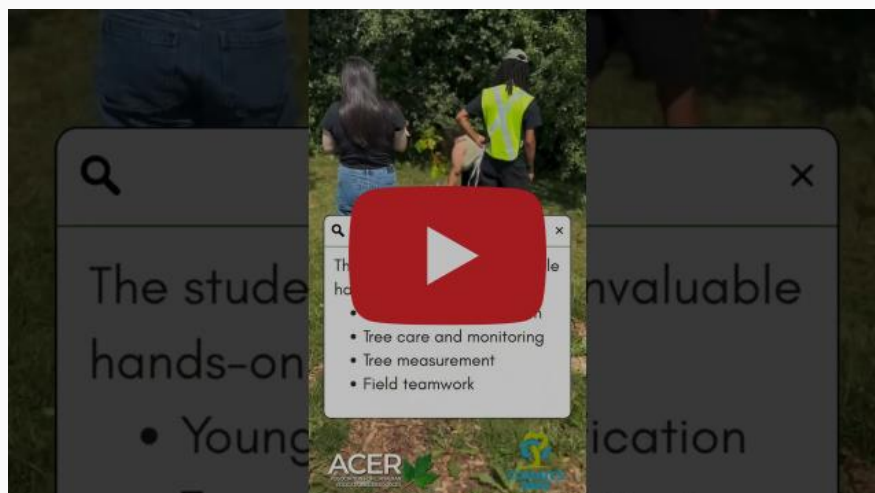
Providing this experience to secondary and post-secondary students is a core part of ACER's commitment to youth development, environmental education, and promoting hands-on community science.

What our CSJ digital marketing team students had to say:

"Working with ACER as a Digital Marketing Specialist has been an incredible learning experience. I've developed new skills in content creation and outreach, while contributing to a cause that truly matters - protecting our environment for future generations."

"I had so much fun! I learned a lot from my peers and built up so many new skills. I am forever thankful for this opportunity!"

Thank you, Kyla, Ayesha, Athena, Nabeel, Gale and Julie for your hard work this summer supporting ACER's mission and vision. We hope your time with ACER inspires you to pursue a career that helps protect our planet!



Highlights from our 2025 CSJ students' visit to James Grieve Public School in Caledon, Ontario, to re-measure the trees planted in June 2025 as part of ACER's Planting for Change program.

Growing Forward— ACER set to launch “Are You Ready” (RUR)!

ACER is excited to announce a NEW program launching this fall, inspired by our 3-year HIRA/Community Mapping initiative completed in the Niagara Region in 2016—**Are You Ready** (RUR). This program will engage municipalities, community organizations and individuals concerned about being prepared for extreme weather events. Through in-person workshops, online webinars and other events, participants will learn strategies for both shelter-in-place and evacuation scenarios; help to identify community priorities and top issues related to extreme weather; and assess the resources and tools needed to support implementation of local solutions for both mitigation and response. Together, we can build and strengthen resilience and readiness for the challenges of our changing climate.

Special thanks to our funders and supporters

Tree Canada/Arbres Canada

IPSOS

TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Retired Teachers of Ontario District 22 Etobicoke and York

RTOERO Retired Teachers of Ontario

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Toronto District School Board

Spruce Labs

Humber Arboretum

University of Guelph Humber

ACER P4C teachers and students

ACER collaborators and volunteers

ACER donors (as always, thank you for your generous support!)



Want to support ACER's work in the community AND have a say in the direction of ACER? Become a member! Annual memberships are \$30 (adult), \$20 (senior) and \$10 (youth/student) and are completely tax deductible!

[Click here to become a member today!](#)



ACER's Vision
Healthy, climate-resilient
communities working together
to enhance, restore and
protect biodiversity and build
a better, greener world.

Association for Canadian Educational Resources

Alice Casselman, Founder and President

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