

2009 Annual Report

ACER
Association for Canadian Educational Resources

President's Report

ACER was born 23 years ago, when president Alice Casselman identified the lack of Canadian resources available for schools. ACER responded by adapting Smithsonian research protocols for forest biodiversity studies. ACER created a variety of programs to involve teachers and community leaders. Research data from monitoring projects is shared with Environment Canada.



The 2009 Summer Youth Stewardship program enjoyed a very successful second year. With funding from the City of Toronto and HRSDC, along with hands-on support from several sources, we were able to have two skilled post-secondary students to supervise a crew of 6 local youth to restore areas near at Humber Arboretum.

HRSDC also subsidized a summer assistant to provide program and office support. We are working to establish a similar project for 2010.

Six schools in the Peel-Halton area continued their monitoring projects as part of the "Planting for Change". Looking ahead to 2010, schools will begin their long term commitment to maintain and measure annually in their own experimental climate change plot. We plan to prepare the data from our experimental plot at Humber Arboretum for publication 2010.

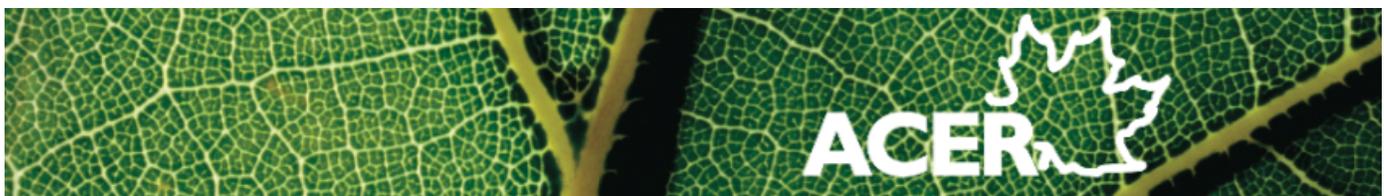
ACER is volunteer driven. Funding comes through charitable donations from ISA, the Rotary Club, HRDC and FEF. They all renewed support for 2009. We thank all of our funders for their continuing support.

A special mention to The Ontario Trillium Foundation for their vision in supporting an 18 month Capacity Building Project to support ACER's infrastructure development. A major step is the transition to establish our new business name "Climate's Sake". We began a rebranding and transition process this year. Our vision is to take our programs province-wide.



www.measureup.ca

www.acer-acre.org



Message from the Chair

A few words about ACER's achievements over 2009. Throughout the year, we have executed our research projects and school programs. We are proud of our internship program which has resulted in original research papers.

On governance, we have reviewed our bylaws and will ask for approval for changes at our AGM. We have also refreshed and clarified our policy manuals.

We continue work on the recommendation of the Ontario Trillium Provincial program manager to focus on organizational development and strategic planning. We hired Madelyn Webb to work on policy development and Tunde Otto-Harris for organizational tasks.

In an effort to create clarity, gain a greater awareness and attract fundraisers, a new name, logo and promotional material as been developed by Pigeon Branding and Design. Our new logo below communicates at many levels what we do. And our new name says why we do it.

I would also like to thank our committed board of directors for their work during the year. We are delighted to welcome two new board members, Vi Bielski and Diana Lang.

Your board is committed to working in the best interests of our membership. We look forward to serving you in 2010.

Chair Tom Smith



p

www.climatesake.ca

Annual Report 2009

Lets Plant, Measure and Mulch!

2009 marked the seventh year of monitoring trees at the Humber Arboretum. 13 schools sent classes to ACER's Climate Change Outdoor Laboratory. They gained awareness of the difficulties that an urban forest faces and the importance of monitoring trees to track their success. The scientific poster Case #13 is based on this data and is posted on www.canada-biodiversity.ca

Go Global

Four of ACER's one-hectare forest biodiversity research plots, Scanlon Creek, Albion Hills, Humber Arboretum and Mono Cliffs, were revisited and remeasured in the fall of 2009. Phillip Mederios our Waterloo student led the crew who were generously hosted by each site staff. The original benchmark inventories were completed 12 years ago. The results are published in "Lake to Lake" Forest Biodiversity 2009. The executive summary is posted on www.measureup.ca



Planting for Change

October 2009 was the first year of growth for the trees planted in six "Planting for Change" plots at schools across the Peel and Halton regions.

A "Birthday Celebration" was held to commemorate the first year's growth for the trees involved. The schools were presented with a commemorative "ACER 2008" plaque. Data and photos are on www.measureup.ca



Humber Youth Stewardship

ACER led a second successful 2009 collaborative summer project with several community organizations and Toronto Councillor Suzan Hall. The project is designed to involve youth while maintaining and enhancing the West Humber Community Forest.

The 8 week project involved 6 local youth and two post-secondary students. The crew removed invasive species, inventoried vegetation and participated in a community planting day.

An Ontario Stewardship local crew spent a three day training period with our crew. ACER research data was analyzed and a full report distributed. The executive summary is available on www.measureup.ca



ACER Research Partnership with Carolinian Canada and University of Waterloo

This research partnership is 50% funded jointly through Carolinian Canada Coalition and the University of Waterloo (UW) with matching funding from ACER. Successful applications have allowed ACER to have co-op students for 4 month internships.

The third co-op student from UW, Phillip Mederios, joined the ACER team for the fall season. Phillip was responsible for the Planting for Change program and general support.



Phillip's research project, "Lake to Lake", is a transect of one hectare plots with ACER partners from Lake Ontario to Lake Simcoe. The executive summary is on www.measureup.ca

The first 3 internship reports will be further analyzed by Sadia Butt, M.Sc.F. for overall trends.



Kaley Fitzsimmons is our fourth co-op student working for the winter semester. Kaley Fitzsimmons, a second year undergraduate student in Environment and Resource Studies, will develop a Riparian Zone Protocol so that organizations and agencies may share data as they undertake restoration of stream banks.

Youth Eco-Intern

ACER is pleased to have Jason Noronha as an intern through the YMCA Sept. 2009 to Sept. 2010. The YMCA's Eco-Internship Program is the Government of Canada's Economic Action Plan to fund internships. The interns are placed with non-profit organizations by the YMCA of Greater Toronto.

Jason supports the co-op student projects and ACER office. His project documents the response of Let's Plant, Measure and Mulch trees planted in 2002-3. The experiments, designed by research forester Marianne Karsh, M.Sc.F., combine forest species to determine those that will be more suitable to our future forests.



ACER recognized for the Humber Youth Stewardship Program (HYS)

ACER was chosen by the YMCA of Great Toronto as an employer "success story" for 2009. Toronto Councillor Suzan Hall facilitated the involvement of local youth and community members. ACER developed and led the HYS eight week project with the YMCA, City of Toronto, Toronto Region Conservation Authority and Humber Arboretum.

Youth recruited through the YMCA Rexdale have an opportunity to be employed and gain valuable experience in safety, identification of trees, invasive species and build a strong foundation for a good work ethic and develop teamwork skills. ACER plans to continue with the YMCA and other partners in 2010.



CONDENSED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

January 1 – December 31, 2009

Condensed Balance Sheet

	2009 (12 months)	2008 (13 months)
ASSETS		
Cash	\$1,581	\$1,860
Short Term Investments	137,922	66,469
Accounts Receivable	3,910	16,430
Office Furniture	1,391	1,944
TOTAL ASSETS	\$144,804	\$ 86,703
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 2,645	\$ 6,012
Deferred Revenue	78,556	26,787
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 81,201	32,799
OPERATING SURPLUS	\$ 63,603	\$ 53,904
TOTAL	\$ 144,804	\$ 86,703

The condensed financial statements are extracted from the financial statements examined by our auditor Mike Holloway, Chartered Accountant. A complete set of financial is available on request from the President at ACER, Unit 44, 3665 Flamewood Drive, Mississauga, ON L4Y 3P5.

Acknowledgments: Thank you to all the volunteers, associates, students, teachers and site partners who have donated time and energy to our programs in schoolyards, in forest biodiversity studies and forest plots. ACER wishes to acknowledge the generous corporate, community and government supporters that continue to provide funding and resources:



Environment
Canada



THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION



LA FONDATION
TRILLIUM
DE L'ONTARIO



Canadian
TREE Fund
TREE RESEARCH & EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

Contact Information:
Unit #44, 3665 Flamewood Dr.
Mississauga, ON L4Y 3P5



www.acer-acre.org

www.measureup.ca

acerinfo@rogers.com

Condensed Statement of Operations

January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

	2009 (12 months)	2008 (13 months)
REVENUE		
Grants	\$ 105,138	\$ 117,493
Product & Service Sales	18,940	9,194
Sponsorships	9,500	7,133
Donations	2,202	51,722
Interest Income	1,935	117
Other income	3,106	4,559
TOTAL	\$ 140,821	\$ 190,218
EXPENSES		
Amortization	553	552
Contract services	57,750	34,559
Insurance	810	810
Interest and Bank charges	518	65
Office and General	6,192	3,765
Professional fees	2,000	1,600
Program Costs	30,649	69,681
Travel	4,587	4,169
Rent		1,047
Salaries and Benefits	25,539	28,304
Telephone & Internet	1,477	1,048
TOTAL	\$ 131,122	\$ 144,553
Excess of Revenue over Expenditure	\$ 9,699	\$ 45,665