



## 2010 ACER Annual Report

### President's Report

ACER was born 24 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 2011 Summer Youth Stewardship program enjoyed a very successful third year. With funding from the City of Toronto and HRDSC, along with hands-on support from

several sources, we were able to have two skilled post-secondary students supervise a crew of local youth to restore areas at Humber Arboretum.

HRDSC also subsidized a summer assistant to provide program and office support.

ACER's latest project called "The Gateway," funded by Natural Resources Canada and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, will be an access tool for decision-makers to implement adaptation measures to climate change.

Three new schools joined the "Planting for Change" Program. Trees were also re-measured at the remaining Planting for Change schools.



Looking ahead to 2011, schools will begin their long-term commitment to maintain and measure annually in their own experimental climate change plot.

ACER is volunteer-driven. Funding comes through donors such as TD FEF, HRDSC, CTF and Earth Day Canada. We thank all of our funders for their continuing support.

A major step was the transition to establish a new business name "Climate's Sake". We began a rebranding and transition process last year. Our vision is to take our programs province-wide. ACER Inc. remains our legal name.



A few words about ACER's achievements over 2010:

Throughout the year, we have executed a very diverse group of projects. Two of ACER's key programs Let's Plant, Measure and Mulch, and Planting for Change continue to attract and engage schools in the GTA and beyond.

The Humber Youth Stewardship project at the Humber Arboretum was very successful and we are pleased to continue our long-standing relationship with the Arboretum and the Humber College staff and students. It is the venue for our 2011 AGM.

We are as equally proud of our internship program, which resulted in 2 original research papers, published in 2010, dealing with pond aquatic habitat and urban forest regeneration.

Our most recent funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation will enable ACER to take its programmes province-wide.

On a personal note, my 3-year term as Chairman of the Board has ended. I would like to thank our committed Board of Directors for their work during the past year and wish Alice Casselman and her team continued success in the future.

*Chair Tom Smith*

## An Overview of Our Programs

### Let's Plant, Measure and Mulch

2010 marked eight years of monitoring trees at the Humber Arboretum. 10 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](http://www.canada-biodiversity.ca).

### Planting for Change

Three new schools joined the Planting for Change family: John Fisher Junior Public School, Ridgewood Public School and Guido de Brès Christian School planted their trees in the Spring of 2010.

Trees were also re-measured at the remaining Planting for Change schools. 2010 marked the third year of monitoring trees at these schools.

Three new schools in Welland will be part of the Planting for Change family. Stay tuned for more details.

### Humber Youth Stewardship

ACER led a third successful 2010 collaborative summer project with several community organizations and Toronto Councillor Suzan Hall. The project is designed to involve youth restoring the local ecosystem.

The 8-week project involved local youth and two graduate students. The crew removed invasive species, inventoried vegetation and participated in a community-planting day. ACER research data was analyzed and a full report distributed. The executive summary is available on [www.measureup.ca](http://www.measureup.ca). An Ontario Stewardship local crew spent a three-day training period with our crew at Willow Creek.



## The Gateway Project

The Gateway Project is one of the 7 projects funded under the Ontario Regional Adaptation Collaborative. Jointly funded by Natural Resources Canada and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the Gateway Project involves working with community-based decision-makers to address climate change risks, watershed management and adaptation needs. Dr. Quentin Chiotti and Fabio Tonto lead the Gateway ACER team working with five conservation authorities.

ACER is playing a pivotal role in supporting, engaging and working with 5 Local Adaptation Collaboratives (LACS) across Ontario to deal with lower water response, source water protection planning, stormwater management and flooding. The LACS include Sudbury, Ottawa, Peterborough, the Greater Toronto Area, and Nottawasaga.

## Niagara Project



The Niagara Project, primarily funded by Earth Day Canada/Sobey's, has begun. Our partners are Climate Action Niagara, Niagara Parks Commission and Scouts Canada. This project will demonstrate the effectiveness of local monitoring and reporting of environmental change in long-term schoolyard planting and forest monitoring programs.

The Niagara Project extends ACER's Ontario "Measuring our Resources and Planting for Change" will be established at 3 school sites and one-hectare forest biodiversity research plots near Niagara On The Lake. Paradise Woods presents a unique opportunity to compare the effects of a controlled burn on biodiversity in black-oak savanna forest one-hectare plots.

## Our Partnerships

### Carolinian Canada and University of Waterloo

The fourth co-op student from the University of Waterloo who joined the ACER team last winter was Kaley Fitzsimmons.



Kaley is an undergraduate student in the Environmental and Resources Studies program at the University of Waterloo.

She researched current Riparian Zone Protocols so that organizations and agencies can share data as they undertake restoration of stream banks.

The report was published in May 2010.

### University of Toronto Master students

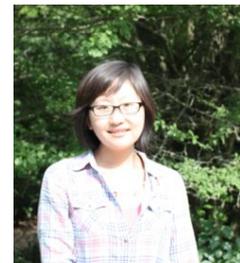
ACER was pleased to have two Master students as interns from University of Toronto last summer.



Maria Ma focused her research on evaluating aquatic habitats of ponds in Humber Arboretum using benthic macro-

invertebrates. She established a baseline of benthic macro-invertebrates pond communities within Humber Arboretum, so that future monitoring programs will be ecologically and statistically comparable.

The report was published in September 2010.



Sophie Lu focused her research on regeneration in an urban Maple Beech Forest.

Sophie documented species diversity on a sample site and predicted the forest future. She proposed a common protocol to survey regeneration.

The report was published in September 2010.

### Administrative Assistant

ACER was pleased to have Nauras Jabari as a summer Administrative Assistant. He worked in our office over the summer designing the new website and assisting with fieldwork.

## Condensed Financial Statements

## Condensed Statement of Operations

January 1 – December 31, 2010

### Condensed Balance Sheet

ASSETS	2010	2009
Cash	\$1,336.00	\$1,581.00
Short Term Investments	\$141,529.00	\$137,922.00
Accounts Receivable	\$5,767.00	\$3,910.00
Capital Assets	\$2,194.00	\$1,391.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$150,826.00</b>	<b>\$144,804.00</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$5,169.00	\$2,645.00
Deferred Revenue	\$59,174.00	\$78,556.00
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$64,343.00</b>	<b>\$81,201.00</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$86,483.00</b>	<b>\$63,603.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$150,826.00</b>	<b>\$144,804.00</b>

The condensed financial statements are extracted from the financial statements examined by our auditor Mike Holloway, Chartered Accountant.

A complete set of the financials is available on request from the President of ACER at Unit 44, 3665 Flamewood Drive, Mississauga, ON, L4Y 3P5

January 1 – December 31, 2010

REVENUE	2010	2009
Grants	\$190,993.00	\$105,138.00
Product & Service Sales	\$5,788.00	\$18,940.00
Sponsorships	\$5,368.00	\$9,500.00
Donations	\$1,590.00	\$2,202.00
Interest Income	\$3,442.00	\$1,935.00
Other income	\$2,295.00	\$3,106.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$209,476.00</b>	<b>\$140,821.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Amortization	\$604.00	\$553.00
Contract services	\$98,552.00	\$57,750.00
Insurance	\$810.00	\$810.00
Interest and Bank charges	\$586.00	\$518.00
Office and General	\$6,384.00	\$6,192.00
Professional fees	\$3,812.00	\$2,000.00
Program Costs	\$33,022.00	\$30,649.00
Travel	\$4,502.00	\$4,587.00
Rent	\$3,967.00	\$1,047.00
Salaries and Benefits	\$31,826.00	\$25,539.00
Telephone & Internet	\$2,531.00	\$1,477.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$186,596.00</b>	<b>\$131,122.00</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenditure</b>	<b>\$ 22,880.00</b>	<b>\$9,669.00</b>

## Acknowledgements

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



Contact Information:

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