



NORTH TORONTO GREEN COMMUNITY

Annual Report 2004

The North Toronto Green Community (NTGC) is an incorporated non-profit organization working together with a cross-section of the community to promote conservation through grassroots action and the development of sustainable, self-supporting, long-term initiatives that are community based. Our mission is to promote local environmental action and awareness through community-based projects and programs.

Since 1995 when NTGC was started, the organization has designed and operated a wide array of projects dealing with environmental issues ranging from climate change to toxic wastes, atmospheric pollution to stream water management. All NTGC's projects are built with four main principles in mind:

1. Results oriented
2. Based on grassroots community planning, input and support
3. Implemented by encouraging and coordinating partnerships between different economic sectors (business, community, government, etc.)
4. Designed to encourage community participation in conservation by providing multiple benefits for people, businesses and the community at large

In 2004, the programs we worked on were;

1. The Eglinton Park Heritage Community Garden
2. Stewardship and Clean ups
3. The Lost River Walks
4. The Green Garden Visit
5. Other Greening Projects:
 - a. The 1000 Tree Project
 - b. The Canadian Film Centre
 - c. Champlain Place
 - d. The Great Garden Adventure

We carried out Outreach and Public Education through:

1. The Speaker Series:

Feb	- Healthy Homes	- Nancy Bradshaw
March	- If Trees Could Speak	- Henry Kock
September	- Youth and the Environment	- Various Speakers
November	- Transportation of the Future, Today	- Various Speakers
2. The Internet through our three websites
3. The 'North Toronto Green Community News', our bi-annual newsletter

In recognition of our contributions in 2004, we received:

1. The North Toronto Post's Perfect Planet Award for our Greening projects

In 2004 we have funding from the following organizations;

1. The Ontario Trillium Foundation - core funding (2nd year of 3 year funding)

2. Environment Canada's Ecoaction program - for the Green Garden Visit Program – funding for 2nd year of the program with more of a climate change focus – cargo bike, hand tools, push mowers
3. Human Resource Development Canada's (HRDC's) Summer Career Placement program – Hired two students, one to coordinate the Green Garden Visit Program and the other to do our marketing.
4. The Institute for Conservation Leadership – subsidized funding for fundraising training
5. Sustainability Network – funding for a fundraising program
6. Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat Network – funding for a fundraising program
7. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation – Greening Projects
8. Starbucks – Volunteer program
9. People and Organizations in North Toronto (POINT) – The Green Garden Adventure
10. Toronto Public Health

NTGC Current Programs

The Eglinton Park Heritage Community Garden

We did not carry out regular summer workshops this year, but instead had a Children's gardening program called "The Great Garden Adventure" (see below).

We also had garden work bees at the garden every Tuesday evenings that everyone is welcome to.

There were also two garden tours of the Eglinton Park Heritage Community Garden and one garden tour that is part of the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA).

Stewardship and Clean Ups

NTGC has six naturalization sites that we work on every year. We do plantings and clean-ups at these sites and invite the community to get involved;

- 1) Eglinton Park - Yonge and Eglinton (Mud Creek) – informally work at this location as it is connected to the Eglinton park garden.
- 2) Sylvan Valleyway Ravine – Avenue Road and Lawrence (Burke Brook) – part of our annual Earth day clean up where we clean up a portion of Burke Brook. Starbucks sent a lot of their volunteers to help with this
- 3) Earl Bales Park – Sheppard and Bathurst (de Havilland Creek, the Heschel Creek) – students from the Heschel school did a clean up and planting
- 4) Champlain Place at 495 Wilson Avenue (Mud Creek north) – We do a Spring and Fall clean up.
- 5) Lytton Park – Lytton Blvd and Avenue Road (Mud Creek)
- 6) Lawrence Park - Lawrence and Yonge (Burke Brook Tributary)

The Lost River Walks

The "Lost River Walks" are guided hikes along buried stream courses, streams and waterways buried by urban development in Toronto. The Lost River walks continue to be held in partnership with the Toronto Field Naturalists & many other local groups. The Lost Rivers website; www.lostrivers.ca is renowned and has a wealth of information. It continues to be an important source of information for the public.

45 Lost River walks were held in 2004.

The Green Garden Visit

The Green Garden Visit (GGV) is an 1 to 2 hour ecological yard and garden consultation program. The visit introduces homeowners to a variety of techniques to make their gardens more planet friendly.

In 2002, NTGC ran the program as a pilot carrying out about 25 Green garden visits.

In 2003, the demand for organic gardening service from individuals led to implementing changes by providing the organic garden service. We carried out 70 individual visits and 112 follow-up visits.

In 2004, we have concentrated more on providing implementation and setting up regular clients.

We have continued with the community-based visits, providing visits to a group of people in a certain neighbourhoods and also to institutions.

You can find out more at www.greengardenvisit.ca.

The Great Garden Adventure

In partnership with People and Organizations in North Toronto (POINT) and the Central Eglinton Children's center, we held a weekly gardening camp for 25 six-year old children. The children over the course of eight weeks (once a week) learned about all aspects of gardening in the setting of our Eglinton Park Heritage Community Garden.

The Canadian Film Centre

The Canadian Film Centre is 21 acres of the former estate of the famous horse breeder, E.P. Taylor that was donated to the City in the 1980s. NTGC partnered with the Canadian Film Centre. In exchange for greenhouse space, we helped them start a butterfly garden and tend a rose garden as well as maintain some of their other property. We are looking at a long term goal of restoring the property to embody the landscaping style of pre-war Toronto.

Champlain Place

Champlain Place is a Toronto Community Housing Corporation building at Wilson Avenue and the Allen Expressway. In 2003, we grew a butterfly garden and are tending the vegetable patch as well as cleaning up the nearby Mud Creek. In 2004, we planted a Peace Garden at the entrance that represents the coming together of the youth in the building, seniors in the nearby Downsview Seniors Centre and the community at large. We also started a youth program with the youth in the building.

1000 Tree Program

The 1000 tree program was started to promote the work of the Green Garden Visit program as well as educate the public about the state of maturing trees in North Toronto. The goal of the program is to grow 1000 trees in Toronto by the end of Jan 2005.

The Smog Summit

NTGC hosted a community Smog Summit. This year's focus was on greening projects or gardening projects. NTGC hosted a greening workshop.

The Green Garden Pesticide Tours on Woburn and Winona

Through a Toronto Public Health grant, NTGC carried out pesticide awareness garden tours in two distinct neighbourhoods; Woburn and Winona Avenues. We knocked at almost 500 doors and spoke with 250 people.

Don Valley West One Tonne Challenge

The One Tonne Challenge is the Federal Government's commitment to Kyoto to have every individual Canadian reduce their carbon dioxide emissions from an average of five to one. With the help of John Godfrey, MP for Don Valley West, an organization was created that received funding from the Federal government to carry out the one tonne challenge in Don Valley West. NTGC became the fiscal sponsor of Don Valley West.

Outreach and Public Education

Here are just a few of the ways in which NTGC reaches out to the community and provides opportunities to get involved:

Speaker Series

This program is the key initiative in response to the need for public education and outreach. Lectures and discussions are held bimonthly on a variety of local, national and international environmental issues. The emphasis is on how we can act locally to effect change. The speaker sessions we have held so far in 2004 are:

February 16, 2004	Healthy Homes Making your home healthier for you and your family - find out about the impacts that everyday cleaning products, personal products, and furnishings have on your health and what you can do about it!	Nancy Bradshaw - Environmental Educator and Community Outreach Coordinator, Environmental Health Clinic, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre
March 29, 2004	If Trees Could Speak How Trees Adapt to Threats; Our Ability to Preserve and Rebuild Urban and Rural Forest Ecosystems; Sanctuaries we can Create in our Backyards for our own Individual Well-being	Henry Kock - A leading environmentalist, arborist and native plant expert at The University of Guelph
September 27, 2004 (AGM)	Youth and the Environment Calling Youth! Come and be inspired by your peers who are making a difference Find out how you can get involved in the environmental movement Part 1 - Eco-Bingo and Speakers Part 2 - Group Work: What can YOU do in your School and in your Community	Josh Matlow – St. Paul's School Board Trustee - The importance of being involved at school and in your community Michele Martin – Regional Coordinator, Roots & Shoots - How to start your own environmental group and earn volunteer hours! Richard Christie - TDSB District-wide Coordinator of Environmental Education - Ecoschools - getting involved in your school Mike Manulak – Greenpower – University of Toronto Student - The story of a student's journey from environmental action at High School to the foundation of an international organization

		Stephanie Foster – Executive Director, Centre for Environment & Sustainability, Upper Canada College - The Greening of UCC Jane Veit – Parents Environmental Network
November 29, 2004	Transportation of the Future, Today Learn about future fuels that are being created today as alternatives to the oil based energy currently in use.	Mike Divell , Kenwood Recycling on biofuel Mr. W. Pattee , Ford Motor Company on hybrid technology Kevin McLaughlin , AutoShare on reducing auto use Ry Smith , Hydrogen Village on fuel cell technology Camillo Ponziani , The Don Valley West One Tonne Challenge

The Internet

NTGC has three websites;

www.ntgc.ca - NTGC main website

www.greengardenvisit.ca - Green Garden Visit website

www.lostrivers.ca - Lost Rivers Website

The North Toronto Green Community Newsletter

The NTGC Newsletter, ‘North Toronto Green Community News’ is published twice a year and is based on an environmental theme. An NTGC newsletter was not published in 2004 due to the extra time it took for us operate all the additional programs and the time it took to move to and establish ourselves in new office.

Eco Gift Wrapping

For the second year, NTGC was invited by Mountain Equipment Coop to wrap gift for their clientele. The wrapping was done ecologically. We engaged about 50 volunteers and increased our days wrapping from three to ten. It is a great way to outreach.

Partnerships

Don Valley West One Tonne Challenge
Fairlawn United Church
Fairlawn Community Centre
Heschel School
Toronto Community Housing’s Champlain Place
Downsview Services for Seniors
People and Organizations in North Toronto
Central Eglinton Children’s Centre
Toronto Public Health
Rockcliffe Gardens
African Food Basket
Canadian Film Centre
Forest Hill Collegiate
Upper Canada College

Volunteers

NTGC has from its very beginning relied very heavily on volunteers. Our most important work over the years has been carried out by volunteers and we will continue to rely on volunteers for all our programs and activities. We have had volunteers for all our programs and started looking at new areas to recruit volunteers; through the volunteer website, more concentrated efforts through the High schools and through TEV

Staff

NTGC's staff for 2004;

Full-Time Positions:

Executive Director	- Minaz Asani-Kanji
Green Garden Visit Advisor	- Andrew Roy
Green Garden Visit Coordinator	- Anahita Belanger (Onsite position ended June 2004)
Green Garden Visit Advisor	- Zora Ignjatovic (Onsite position starting Sept 2004)

Summer Positions:

Green Garden Visit Assistant	- Calvin Lo
Marketing Coordinator	- Whelena Sainsbury

2004 Board of Directors

Chair:

Cheryl Shour, B.S., M.B.A.

Vice-Chair:

Harold Smith; B.Arch., MBA

Secretary-Treasurer:

Cheryl Shour, B.S., M.B.A.

Board Members:

Yvan Champagne
Sarah Climenhaga
Sheila Harrison
Dorothy Herberg
Mary MacNutt
Michele Martin
Josh Matlow
Bill Pettigrew
Elaine Ramsay
Valerie Palda, M.D., M.Sc.
Jaye Robinson
Marc Rose