



Toronto
Green
Community

2013

ANNUAL REPORT

Our Mission is to engage Torontonians in environmental initiatives where we live, work and play.

Our Vision is for people to live in sustainable communities with:

- Clean Air and Water
- Access to Local, Organic Food
- Abundant Green Spaces
- Minimal Waste

Programs

Garden & Naturalization Site

Our garden-related programs educate, engage and build communities while enhancing biodiversity and green spaces in the city.

Eglinton Park Community Garden

Our community garden continued to be a hub of activity from the early spring to late fall and gained a place as one of the most prized assets in the North Toronto neighbourhood. In 2013, our workbee program provided the opportunity for 79 Toronto residents to volunteer their time twice weekly and harvest 125 lbs of food which was donated to the Anne Johnston Health Station in support of our community's dietary needs. We also held workshops with community members on topics including Edible Weeds, Herbal Skincare, Worm Composting and Cold Framing.

Urban Worm Compost Project

The vermi-composting bin at our community garden has allowed us to emphasize the importance of composting, and the specific benefits of vermi-composting. As a partner in the Worm Share Hub (in partnership with FoodShare through the Toronto Compost Leaders), TGC is linked to organizations and individuals increasing access to composting worms while sharing information and educational resources.

Great Garden Adventure

Since 2004, the GGA has provided children from diverse communities with the opportunity to gain vital knowledge about ecosystems and to learn how to grow their own food within their communities, helping address food security issues. TGC believes it is critical to raise awareness of environmental issues with today's youth to encourage them to build a more sustainable future for our city and to serve as educators in their homes.

In the summer of 2013, we engaged children ranging in ages from 3 to 15 at the following locations:

- Eglinton Park Community Garden in partnership with People & Organizations in North Toronto
- Ellen Giles Garden in partnership with University of Toronto Family Residence Buildings downtown
- Emmett Park Community Garden in partnership with Community Action Resource Centre at Eglinton Flats
- Oriole Community Garden in partnership with Working Women's Centre in Don Valley Village
- Winchester Square Community Garden in partnership with Central Neighbourhood House in St. Jamestown

ESL in the Garden

Our community garden also played host to 21 participants of an English Conversation Circle from Woodgreen Community Services. Guided by our *ESL in the Garden* Manual, participants learned new vocabulary and more about their new community while managing their own garden plot that produced a variety of vegetables. Knowledge connected to gardening and our ecosystem is exchanged between both those delivering the program and the participants who often have insights gained from their home countries.

Lost Rivers

The Lost Rivers program reminds Torontonians of the rich ecological history of the City through heightened awareness of lost river watersheds and efforts to restore the ecosystem that once supported those river watersheds.

Building on the rise in public knowledge of Lost Rivers following the release of the Lost Rivers film and flooding in the City, the Lost Rivers program experienced a growth in awareness and participants. The Lost Rivers team expanded their research and shared this with the public through regular guided walks which remain some of the best in the City. In 2013 we led 55 walks for 2,410 participants. These included 72 youth participants from Pine School, Dallington Park and Outward Bound. A new partnership was also formed with the David Suzuki Foundation's Home Grown National Park and the community along the Garrison Creek area. TGC played an active role in screenings of the Lost Rivers film at WaterDocs, the Bloor Cinema, the Beaches Business Hub and Fort York.

Eco-Gift-Wrapping

The Eco-Gift Wrapping program provides Torontonians with an environmental friendly way to wrap gifts during the holiday season, reducing waste and providing memorable and traditional gift styles for recipients.

In 2013 we marked our eleventh year of eco- gift wrapping at Mountain Equipment Coop. We also returned to Dufferin Mall for a third successful year. We greatly appreciate the support and cooperation of the staff at both locations. We also relied greatly on the energetic assistance of one hundred and nineteen volunteers including high school students, instilling a life-long habit of giving back to the community. We also appreciated the opportunity to partner with corporations such as Veritaaq, Bank of Montreal, LoyaltyOne and Certified General Accountants - University of Toronto. All wrapping materials used were either re-purposed or recycled and are in turn recyclable.



The poster features a green border and a red ribbon graphic on the left side with a large green bow. The title 'ECO GIFT WRAPPING' is written in a green, cursive font at the top. Below it, a red horizontal band contains the text 'Volunteer Opportunity' in white. The main text is in a green, cursive font. There are several green stars of varying sizes scattered throughout the design. A green box on the right contains contact information. At the bottom right is the logo for Toronto Green Community, which includes a stylized 'TGC' and the text 'Toronto Green Community'.

ECO GIFT WRAPPING

Volunteer Opportunity

Join Toronto Green Community for a fun volunteer opportunity during the holiday season!

Every December, hundreds of volunteers help us educate the public about reducing holiday waste by providing eco-gift-wrapping services at various retail locations across Toronto.

This is the perfect volunteer opportunity for students, seniors, newcomers, employee groups and YOU!

Contact us today to find out how you can participate!

For more information contact:
ecowrap@torontogreen.ca
416-781-7663

 Toronto Green Community

Corporate & Community Engagement

Corporate Engagement

We engaged several employee groups in 2013, not only encouraging volunteerism through workplaces but greener living in all aspects of life. We sincerely appreciate the support received by these companies who reported deep satisfaction with their volunteer experience. Our Eco-Presenters helped us increase our ability to engage more companies who are looking for ways to reach their Corporate Social Responsibility goals.

**Creating a
Path Towards
Sustainability**



Community Engagement

Throughout the year, TGC information booths could be spotted at several fairs and festivals including the Live Green Toronto Festival, Jack Johnson's *All At Once* concert at Massey Hall, the YIMBY Festival, Earth Day at Dufferin Mall, Green Month at Eglinton Square, Culinarium events, the Volunteer Fair at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, the TELUS Charity Fair, the Ecofair at Wychwood Artscape Barns, the University of Toronto Resource Fair, Seedy Saturday at Bonar Parkdale Church, Get Going, and Councillor Karen Stintz' Environment Days. In addition, we provided many engaging eco-presentations for groups at libraries and community centres. We continued our collaboration with Dufferin Mall, Eglinton Square and Apple Tree Markets at their location in June Rowlands Park. TGC also worked as a key stakeholder contributor in the Midtown in Focus initiative launched by City Councillors Josh Matlow, Karen Stintz and Jaye Robinson.

Fundraising

Laugh For the Environment Annual Comedy Fundraising Event

For a fourth year we held a successful fundraiser at a new venue – Grace O'Malley's Irish Pub and Restaurant. The event, which was *BullFrog Powered* with 100% green electricity, was a memorable one with talent donated by comics Jordan Markowski, Rob Baker, Natasha Boomer, Chris Leveille, Lisa Merchant and Mark Bond. Our fundraising efforts were augmented with our first ever silent auction.

Government Support

- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Human Resource Skills Development Canada Summer Jobs
- City of Toronto – Investing in Neighbourhoods
- City of Toronto in partnership with People & Organizations in North Toronto

Corporate & Community Support

- Agincourt Garden Club
- Central Neighbourhood House
- The Culinarium
- Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg
- Eglinton Square
- Google
- Karma Coop
- Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Jack Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation
- Junior League of Toronto
- Second Harvest
- Stonegate Community Health Centre
- Summerhill Group
- Sustainalytics
- TD Friends of the Environment
- TELUS
- Toronto Public Library
- Toronto Region Conservation Authority
- Working Women Community Centre

Individual

A special thanks to the generous and ongoing support of all individuals who made donations to TGC online, through various programs, workshops, and events.

***We gratefully acknowledge the generous support
of everyone mentioned above!***

Financials at a Glance

Revenue	2013	2012
Grant Revenue	86,515.00	111,880.00
Donation Income	7,725.00	18,590.00
Program Revenue	25,662.00	14,948.00
In-Kind Donation (office equipment)	-	1,500.00
Interest and Other Income	1,439.00	1,110.00
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	121,342.00	148,028.00
 Expenses		
Salaries and Contracts	90,408.00	98,543.00
General and Administration	19,381.00	25,851.00
Program Expenses	5,025.00	13,565.00
Professional Fees	2,000.00	1,871.00
Insurance	545.00	12.00
Advertising and Promotion	439.00	-
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	117,797.00	139,842.00
 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	3,545.00	8,186.00
Fund Balance (Beginning of the Year)	29,395.00	21,209.00
Fund Balance (End of the Year)	32,940.00	29,395.00

Our Team

Much of what we accomplish is at least in part thanks to the support of dedicated board members and volunteers. TGC attracts many gifted and passionate individuals who help us meet our objectives. Our increased use of interns also helps us accomplish more and establish some continuity in our work.

2013 Board of Directors

- John Ballantine, Chair
- Mercedes Markowski, Vice Chair
- Sandra Hill, Corporate Secretary
- Andrea Coyne, Treasurer
- Abe Dyck
- Alina Racoviceanu
- Imran Noorani
- Helen Mills (Ex-Officio)

Thanks to Michele Cauch, Ramesh Lilwah and Indra Maharajah who were unable to complete their terms with TGC.

TGC recruits board members through Maytree Foundation's *Diverse City on Board* and Altruvest's *BoardMatch*.

The Board would like to acknowledge the support provided by Chris Govern of Management Advisory Services and David Street of Lerner's LLP.

Staff & Interns

- Paula Messina, *Executive Director*
- Colette Slone, *Garden & Eco-Programs Manager*
- Ketan Chaudhary, *Great Garden Adventure Coordinator*
- Maryam Mahdavi
- Esmé van Herwijnen
- Olufunke Ajiboye
- Aijia He
- Christiane Salgueiro
- Nanae Yamagishi
- Tomomi Fukuda
- Yuki Abe
- Yeji Lee
- Eco-Presenters: Jenise Lee, Leslie Luxemburger, Maureen Lynch, John Onita, Jessica Pang, Anice Wong

Lost Rivers Team

- Helen Mills
- John Wilson
- Richard Anderson
- Michael Cook
- Marguerite des Trois Maisons
- Rodney Hoinkes
- Wai Yee Chou
- Ian Wheal
- Lacey Williams
- Georgia Ydreos

Volunteers

TGC relies on the commitment and skill of many volunteers without whom the organization would not thrive. Our volunteers play key roles in many areas including: Lost Rivers, our Community Garden, Eco-Gift Wrapping, graphic design, website maintenance, research, writing, editing, fundraising, event planning, outreach, administration, and much more. A special thank you to Volunteer Toronto for their support and their key role in the Volunteer Sector. We sincerely appreciate the dedication of so many individuals who share our vision of a sustainable Toronto.

Toronto Green Community

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