



Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change

RMCC Letter - Year-End 2025 Edition

Welcome to the year-end 2025 edition of the Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change (RMCC) newsletter. As we close out another remarkable year, we celebrate significant achievements and continued progress in our mission to combat climate change through education and action.

1. News

17th Annual Tree Planting by Students - November 6, 2025

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill's 17th Annual Tree Planting at Oak Ridges Moraine Corridor Park was another outstanding success. Originally scheduled for November 5th, the event was rescheduled to November 6th due to unsettled weather, and all participating schools responded favorably to the change.

This year's event demonstrated continued strong interest in this yearly environmental and educational program:

- 182 students from one public elementary school and two private schools participated
- 12 teachers and parents supervised activities
- Approximately 350 trees and shrubs were planted
- Urban Forest Associates (UFA) provided expert demonstrations, safety protocols, and all necessary planting tools
- Stephan Smith from UFA educated students on tree and shrub varieties
- City of Richmond Hill delivered fresh mulch to support the planting effort

Environment Committee members Kate, Paul, and Mehrzad welcomed teachers, parents, and students at the meeting point and supervised them throughout the day to ensure safe and correct tree planting.



*Rotarians Mehrzad and Kate
at the tree planting site*



*Rotarians Mehrzad and Paul
supervising student planting*

The event began at 9:30 AM with demonstrations from UFA staff on how to plant trees and shrubs and observe safety rules. Students worked enthusiastically, planting trees in teams and learning hands-on environmental stewardship.



Students actively planting across the Oak Ridges Moraine site

At 11:30 AM, Shawna from the Canadian Raptor Conservancy delivered an engaging Birds of Prey presentation featuring eagles, condors, owls, and other magnificent raptors. She explained in detail how the current tree and shrub planting at the site would regenerate natural habitats for these birds of prey and other local wildlife. Students were captivated by the presentation, asking numerous questions and demonstrating genuine interest.



This 17th year of tree planting has been made possible through the generous financial support of TD Bank and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has been a consistent supporter of our tree planting initiatives, demonstrating corporate commitment to environmental stewardship and youth education. Their partnership has enabled us to provide all necessary materials, expert guidance, and hands-on learning experiences for students over the years.

Student and teacher feedback confirmed the event's success and educational impact. Participants expressed enthusiasm for the hands-on environmental experience, with many students highlighting how the day deepened their understanding of nature and environmental stewardship. Selected testimonials include:

Student Testimonials:

"This was my second time planting with them, and it was an incredible experience. It was hard, satisfying work. My friends and I planted 4 trees! We even saw a bald eagle!"

"This trip helped me understand nature better. I'm happy I planted a tree that will grow for years."

Teacher Feedback: *"We love this event and thank you for inviting us to participate!"*

Rotary International Foundation Walk - September 28, 2025

RMCC participated in the Foundation Walk at Nort Johnson Park, Woodbridge, organized by Etobicoke Club under PDG Lynda Ryder. Richmond Hill was represented by Eric, Mehrzad, and Laurie.



The event brought together many Rotarians on a beautiful fall day. Eric's first priority was meeting District Governor Niecy Dillon-Tyrovolas to convey greetings from the Richmond Hill Rotary Club. While Mehrzad and Eric attracted



RMCC members with PDGs promoting environmental protection

attention to global warming issues at the Woodbridge Club tent featuring RMCC information, Laurie promoted Rotary ideals as Public Relations Director. Lynda joined RMCC members for photos in front of the tent, with posters emphasizing the importance of environment and the necessity for quick attention to global warming problems. Four exchange students were also present at this successful event, which included breakfast and lunch service.

Humber River Festival - September 1, 2025

The 29th Annual Humber River Festival hosted by Woodbridge Rotary Club at Nort Johnson Park featured 2,000 toy frogs racing down the Humber River. This family-friendly event, held in partnership with Waves of Changes for Autism, provided an excellent opportunity for RMCC to engage with the community.

RMCC members distributed approximately 100 seedlings as "pet trees" and 120 flyers on mitigating climate change at home. This initiative, met with great appreciation, aimed to foster lasting connections with nature and inspire environmental stewardship in young people and their families.



Richmond Hill Craft Beer Festival - August 16, 2025

The annual Craft Beer Festival at Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts was a tremendous success, with guests enjoying craft beer tasting, food, and entertainment. Funds raised support environmental projects and community programs, demonstrating the community's strong support for Rotary's mission of service.

Rotarians with Mayor and supporters holding "Global Warming ACT NOW" sign



District Environmental Award - July 19, 2025

RMCC Board Members Eric Nejat, Ph.D., P.Eng. and Fabrizio Burroni, P.Eng. received the District 7070 Environmental Award 2024-2025 from District Governor Virginia O'Reilly on July 19, 2025, at the Woodbridge Rotary Club's 70th anniversary celebration. The award recognizes their leadership and the collaborative environmental efforts between clubs. As RMCC founding members, Eric and Fabrizio established the group in early 2023 with founding clubs Woodbridge, Richmond Hill, and York.



Mini Forest Project Partnership - July 5, 2025

RMCC joined the Rotary Club of Uxbridge and eight other clubs in a collaborative mini forest project at the Fields of Uxbridge. The project received \$14,900 in total funding from nine Rotary Clubs, District Grant matching, and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. Site preparation was completed on July 5, 2025, with tree planting scheduled for fall 2025. This project demonstrates powerful inter-club collaboration in creating fast-growing forests that sequester carbon dioxide up to 30 times more effectively than conventional forests.

World Environment Day - June 7, 2025

RMCC participated in World Environment Day celebrations at Christie Pits Park in Toronto on June 7, 2025. The theme #BeatPlasticPollution aligned with our recent symposium focus. RMCC members connected with city officials and environmental organizations including Seniors for Climate Action Now, with discussions focusing on emergency preparedness during power outages. The event provided valuable networking opportunities to promote RMCC's mission to a broader Toronto audience.

Earth Week Activities - April 22-27, 2025

RMCC participated in three Earth Week activities:

April 22nd - Annual Rotary Park cleanup with Richmond Hill, York, and Danforth clubs, followed by fellowship dinner at Markham Station Restaurant.

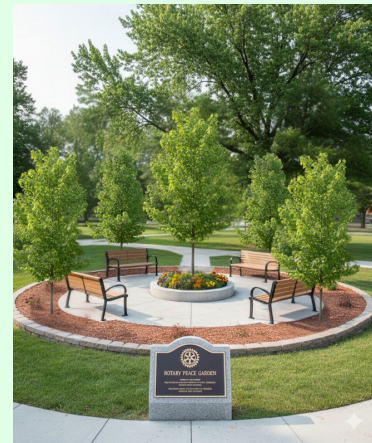
April 24th - District Environmental Symposium on Plastic Pollution via Zoom, featuring Dr. Chelsea Rochman (U of T) and Karen Wisrig (Environmental Defence).

April 27th - Information tent at David Dunlap Observatory for the City's Clean Up Green Up program, visited by Mayor David West, Deputy Mayor Godwin, and sister club members.

Peace Garden Project Development

The Rotary Peace Garden project at Rotary Park represents an exciting new initiative in partnership with the City of Richmond Hill. This garden will serve as a living symbol of Rotary International's dedication to promoting peace, resolving conflict, and fostering international understanding. With a compact 16-foot diameter footprint, the design centers around a universally accessible Reflection Circle featuring four benches for contemplation, five shade trees, and a central planting bed with maintenance-free native flowers. A commemorative plaque will honor the Rotary-City partnership.

Mehrzad created a 3D visualization that has garnered strong support from club members, while Adam Socha provided valuable guidance on minimal-maintenance native plants. The project offers multiple community benefits: a sanctuary for mental wellness and stress reduction, an outdoor classroom for schools teaching environmental stewardship and peace, and a neutral space for community gatherings.



City of Richmond Hill Recognition

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill received a Certificate of Appreciation from Mayor David West and the City of Richmond Hill for participation in the 2025 Clean Up, Green Up Weeks, acknowledging the club's hard work and care for the environment. The recognition highlighted the club's active involvement in multiple environmental activities during Earth Week 2025. This official acknowledgment from municipal leadership validates the importance of the club's environmental initiatives and strengthens the partnership between Rotary and the City. The certificate serves as a testament to years of dedicated environmental work by club members.



2. Acknowledgments

Environmental Partners:

- Urban Forest Associates (Stephan) - expert guidance and tools
- Canadian Raptor Conservancy (Shawna) - wildlife education
- City of Richmond Hill - mulch delivery and support
- TD Friends of the Environment Foundation

Rotary Collaboration:

- Founding clubs: Woodbridge, Richmond Hill, York
- Supporting clubs: Newmarket, Etobicoke, Whitby, Willowdale, Uxbridge, Danforth
- District 7070

Special Thanks:

- 182 students and 12 teachers from participating schools
- Environment Committee: Kate, Paul, Mehrzad, Adam, Morgan, Donita, Laurie
- All volunteers supporting our 2025 activities

RMCC (Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change) is a group of dedicated Rotarians working together to combat climate change. We collaborate with community leaders, raise public awareness, and implement effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability.

Join us in our mission to create a greener, more resilient future. Together, we can drive significant, lasting change and build a better world for generations to come.

For any questions or inquiries, please contact:

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